

October 26, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon.**

Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
James T. Oyama Jr.
Naalehu, 96772

Kat Brady
katbrady@hotmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, October 28, 2013

10:30 a.m.

Room 016

STRONG SUPPORT – SB 1 MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

My name is Kat Brady and I am testifying as the Vice President of Citizens for Equal Rights (CFER) in strong support of marriage equality. CFER believes in equal rights for all. In Hawaii, those who came before us took bold steps towards passing on a legacy of equal rights and opportunity for all.

SB 1 recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Allowing committed couples to share equally in federal benefits is the right thing to do.

Equality is defined as *“the state of being equal, esp. in status, rights, and opportunities.”*

I urge everyone to step back and think about the words of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whose consistent message is that **people are created to do good**. At the American Psychiatric Association meeting held in Honolulu in 2011 Archbishop Tutu said, *“We need each other, and anger and hatred and resentment are corrosive. And our world is waiting for such as you – reminding each one of us we are made for goodness, for gentleness, for compassion, for caring. That is when we are at our best.”*

CFER and I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB 1 to continue Hawai`i’s proud legacy of standing strong for equality and justice for all.

*Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened.
Happiness never decreases by being shared.*

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

From: [Jason Suemoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:04:28 PM

The right to marry should be afforded to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender.
Anything less is discrimination.

Thank you
Jason suemoto

October 17, 2013

Aloha kākou. My name is Jeremy White and I would like to share my personal story with you and explain how my life, and the lives of others like me, would be affected by the proposed Marriage Equality Bill that will be voted on in the Special Session later this month.

I was born and raised in Michigan in a very conservative, Baptist family and community. As a child, I was bright, outgoing and musically precocious. I enjoyed attending school during the week and looked forward to attending Sunday School every weekend. I had a pretty good life. However, as I grew older and began attending middle school, all of this changed.

As early as 4th grade, I realized I was attracted to other boys. When my friends were all gossiping about which girls they liked and who their “girlfriends” were, I realized I was the “odd man out” because I did not find myself attracted to girls, but instead found myself attracted to other boys my age. It was a very confusing time for me because I did not understand the concept of being “gay” until I entered junior high.

I could recall hearing, during church sermons, that “gay” people were “evil” and would “burn in hell.” I was certain that I must be something other than “gay” because I knew I was a good person and knew I would go to Heaven when I died because I had accepted Christ as my personal Savior at a young age. So when some of the kids in junior high began teasing me and bullying me because I was “gay,” I was very confused. I began to search for answers.

I learned to act more “straight” and to not behave or say things that would be construed as “gay.” I went to school dances with girls. I tried to dress the way the other boys dressed. I made crude jokes about girls and did all the things I saw other boys doing in order to fit in and not be labeled as being “gay.” I prayed every night that God would make me straight and that I could just be “normal.” Eventually, I resigned myself to the fact that I was gay and that I would never be “normal.”

I was extremely depressed as a teenager and grew tired of having to live “in the closet” and pretend to be someone I knew I wasn’t. I attempted suicide twice and felt like even more of a failure when I wasn’t able to be successful at that. Fortunately, no one ever knew about my suicide attempts and I was able to continue to disguise my depression and self-loathing and maintain my façade of being a happy, outgoing and successful young man.

As I entered college, I was determined to find others like me, where I could find the support and acceptance I so desperately desired. I found no one. I attended classes full-time and worked at a residential group home for troubled youth that was run by a Christian agency. I worked as a youth counselor in one of the group homes for boys and became like a “substitute father” to many of these boys who had never felt loved. I continued to live “in the closet” because I knew I would not be welcome to continue working at this agency if I was openly gay. I told no one. Not my family and not even my best friends. I continued to feel depressed and continued to question if life was really worthwhile.

After working for this agency for several years, I decided to become licensed as a Therapeutic Foster Parent and open my home to some of these boys who had no families to return to after completing our residential program.

I made the conscious decision to remain “in the closet” because I knew foster care agencies in my area were not willing to license gay people/couples as foster parents. In 1999, I became licensed as a therapeutic foster parent and opened my home to my first of eight foster sons. I was honored in 2002 as the Foster Parent of the Year for my work as a Therapeutic Foster Parent.

Being a single foster parent, while working full-time, was very challenging and had its share of ups and downs. However, I knew I was making a difference in the lives of these young men and that made it worth it. It also provided a strong alibi for why I didn’t have time to date, when friends and family would inquire about my love life. While I felt satisfied that I was making a difference in lives of others, I continued to feel empty inside and had become exhausted from living my life “in the closet.”

In late 2006, my 8th foster son moved out of my home and my family and friends encouraged me to take a vacation to relax and unwind. My mother suggested that I consider Hawaii because she had been there several times and found it to be a beautiful place to relax. I came to Hawaii in November 2006 and instantly fell in love with the people, the culture, and the Aloha spirit. Hawaii felt so welcoming and accepting of other cultures and I couldn’t help but feel like I wasn’t such an “odd man out” here.

During my vacation, I realized that there was a wonderful gay community in Hawaii and quickly made friends. It was a strange but wonderful feeling. The thought of being able to be 100% myself and still be accepted was a unique concept for me. Living life “outside of the closet” seemed feasible here. I returned home to Michigan and decided to take a leap of faith and move to Hawaii.

Prior to moving to Hawaii in April 2007, I decided to “come out” to my mom and my sister and to several of my closest friends, most of whom worked at the Christian agency I worked at. I was very nervous about coming out to them, but I knew it was something I needed to do. They had so many questions about why I was moving to Hawaii and it was impossible to explain to them without telling them the whole truth.

My sister and most of my friends seemed to take the news rather well. And while they were all supportive of my decision to move to Hawaii and to finally live my life “outside the closet,” it was difficult for some of them to reconcile how this person who had always been such a caring and committed Christian could be gay. Most of them had never known anyone who was gay and it truly made them stop and reflect on their own beliefs about gay people.

Today, I’m glad to report, many of them have become strong allies for the gay community. Many of them have spoken to others in their church about being more accepting and welcoming of gays in their community and also about sharing Christ’s love with them without condemnation or judgment. I am very proud to be able to say that my “coming out” to my friends played a key role in helping them gain more understanding about the gay community and about treating us as equals. Hopefully, this will have a positive effect on future generations of young, gay people who grow up in religious families and communities.

My mother had a much more difficult time accepting the news when I explained to her that I was gay. She had a lot of questions, shared a lot of concerns (mostly based on her strict Baptist views), and cried a lot. She was convinced that if she prayed hard enough and long enough, that God could change me. I assured her that she could not possibly pray any harder or any longer for this than I had already done as a teenager and young adult.

It has taken time, honest conversations and a willingness to be patient, but my mom has finally accepted the fact that I am gay and that there is nothing anyone can do to change that fact. She now understands that I did not choose to be gay and she has finally gotten to know me for who I am and not for who I had been pretending to be. I'm sure she still wishes things could be different, but I am content in knowing she understands and loves me for who I am.

That brings me to present day. I have now lived in Hawaii for 6 ½ years and have loved and embraced every moment. Not only have I been able to be myself and live life "outside the closet," but I have been able to advocate for other LGBT men, women and youth to have that same freedom. I have been active in several organizations such as C.R.E.A.T.E. One `Ohana, Equality Hawaii, and Life Foundation, all of whom advocate for and provide much-needed services to people in the LGBT community. My life-goal is to help create a community where LGBT youth do not have to grow up feeling like they are not "normal" and be able to live in a community where they are valued and embraced for who they are and for what they can contribute to our community. This seems like a pretty basic freedom, but I can assure you, we are not there yet.

In April 2009, I met my partner, Jason. I knew instantly that he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. He was the missing piece I had been searching for my entire life. We have lived together for the past 4 years and we purchased our first home together in 2012. We are exact opposites in many ways but we complement each other in such an amazing way. We are both contributing members of society and are active in our community. We both love Hawaii and the beautiful aloha shared by the people of these islands.

We know that we were meant to be together forever. We are also keenly aware that Hawaii does not recognize marriage between same-sex couples and in that sense, we feel like second-class citizens. While we have been afforded the opportunity to enter into a civil union, to us, it is not the same. If the tables were turned and Hawaii began telling straight couples they could no longer get married **BUT** they could enter into civil union if they wanted to, they would feel slighted, just like we do. I want the opportunity to be married to the man I love, to be able to introduce him as my husband, and to be equal in the eyes of the law. To me, anything short of that is not equality.

I sincerely urge you to consider voting **YES** on the Marriage Equality bill that is being presented in the Special Session later this month. I know many of you face opposition on this bill from some of your constituents, many of whom are from the religious community. I ask you to do what is right and to vote for marriage equality. **We are not asking for extra rights, we are simply asking for EQUAL rights.**

Mahalo Nui for your time and consideration,

Jeremy White
(808) 927-9977

From: [CURT GINTHER](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: PLEASE Recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:53:09 PM

Some germane quotes for you to consider:

“At some point in our lifetime, gay marriage won't be an issue, and everyone who stood against this civil right will look as outdated as George Wallace standing on the school steps keeping James Hood from entering the University of Alabama because he was black.”

– [George Clooney](#)

“Let's make a law that gay people can have birthdays, but straight people get more cake--you know, to send the right message to kids.”

– [Bill Maher](#), *New Rules*

“The scriptures present a God who delights in genocide, rape, slavery, and the execution of nonconformists, and for millennia those writings were used to rationalize the massacre of infidels, the ownership of women, the beating of children, dominion over animals, and the persecution of heretics and homosexuals. Humanitarian reforms such as the elimination of cruel punishment, the dissemination of empathy-inducing novels, and the abolition of slavery were met with fierce opposition in their time by ecclesiastical authorities and their apologists. The elevation of parochial values to the realm of the sacred is a license to dismiss other people's interests, and an imperative to reject the possibility of compromise.”

– [Steven Pinker](#), *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*

“It takes no compromise to give people their rights...it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression.”

– [Harvey Milk](#)

“I'm a supporter of gay rights. And not a closet supporter either. From the time I was a kid, I have never been able to understand attacks upon the gay community. There are so many qualities that make up a human being... by the time I get through with all the things that I really admire about people, what they do with their private parts is probably so low on the list that it is irrelevant.”

– [Paul Newman](#)

“Still it is true that many same-sex couples want nothing more than to join society as fully integrated socially responsible family-centered taxpaying Little League-coaching nation-serving respectably married citizens. So why not welcome them in? Why not recruit them by the vanload to sweep in on heroic wings and save the flagging and battered old institution of matrimony from a bunch of apathetic ne'er-do-well heterosexual deadbeats like me”

– [Elizabeth Gilbert](#), *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage*

“If a couple of gay guys want to throw the gayest, most fabulous wedding of all time, the only way it should offend you is if you weren't invited.”

– [Orlando Winters](#), *Stop Being a F***ing Idiot*

“We, gays, can get married in Canada. We let heterosexuals too, but that was a huge thing, we had to have a referendum and a vote, it's crazy! But then we were like, if they want to get married.. that's cool. That's gonna destroy their relationships, but.. Heterosexuals deserve the same rights as homosexuals.”

– Tegan Quin

Zach Wahls – Speaks About Family. But in my 19 years, not once have I ever been confronted by an individual who realized independently that I was raised by a gay couple. And you know why? Because the sexual orientation of my parents has had zero effect on the content of my character.

Bill Clinton said, “People who oppose equal rights for gays in the marriage sphere are basically acting out of concerns for their own identity not out of respect for anyone else.”

Pope Francis warned, regarding the Religious Right:

Francis said, "ideologies are “rigid.” When a Christian becomes a disciple of the ideology, he has lost the faith: he is no longer a disciple of Jesus, he is a disciple of this attitude of thought...The faith becomes ideology and ideology frightens, ideology chases away the people, distances, distances the people..." I hope Wayne Cordeiro is listening.

Paul Katami contend the state is discriminating against them because of their sexuality. "This is about our freedom and our liberty," Katami said. "We are not trying to topple marriage. We are not trying to redefine marriage. What we are trying to say is that equality is the backbone of our country."

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL SO WE CAN ALL MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES...AND HEAL THE ALOHA STATE.

Curt Ginther
Mo`ili`ili
808.344.1336

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: lrnr@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:41:19 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/22/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Laura Reichhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Galuteria and fellow senators, I thank you for hearing this bill and strongly encourage your full support in favor SB1 to recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. and to extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. As a health care professional, I hope that my LGBTQ patients may have the same rights to see loves ones in critical and acute care settings as my hetero patients. As a professional artist, I hope my LGBTQ colleagues may have the same rights afforded to me. And as a community member, I look forward to improved equality for my neighbors, co-workers, and peers. It will be a great honor to be in a state that recognizes marriage for same- and opposite-sex couples.

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

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Dear Senators,

Mahalo for this special session. It is indeed a special day. The times are a-changing, and Hawai'i has the opportunity to stand on the side of equal rights, of human rights. We have the opportunity to make our children proud of us.

There hasn't always been tolerance in our state. There hasn't always been justice. And we are not always the peaceful melting pot we claim to be. But because so many in our islands have faced injustices (from native Hawaiians to dockworkers to imprisoned Japanese Americans), we have a high tolerance for tolerance. The majority of people in Hawai'i wholeheartedly embrace this country's constitutional ideals of equality. We know in our hearts, maybe more than any other state, that we don't all have to be alike or act alike or look alike or worship alike.

It's time to do the right thing with regards to the gay and lesbian citizens of our state. Do the right thing for our gay and lesbian neighbors and friends. My eleven-year-old daughter asked me tonight, "Mommy, who do we know who's gay?" I listed men and women from their school, from our work, from the public sphere on our island. I listed couples. I listed single people. I listed parents. I listed so many that it became very clear to her that gay and lesbian people are all around her every day.

For my daughter's generation, the idea that same-sex couples can't marry is *incomprehensible*. Eleven-year-old indignation is something to see, believe me. It is thrilling

to me that she and her sister will witness Hawai'i make this transformation. To transform means to "change one's shape." Please support Senate Bill 1. Please change the shape of our islands for the better, so that we may become more open, and more strong.

Thank you,

Lurana D. O'Malley

From: [Maile Boggeln](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:26:23 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for you hearing our testimony today and taking up the issue of marriage equality.

This issue not only speaks to the core values of what we hold dear here in the islands (ALOHA) but is also of great importance because it restricts the rights of citizens of our state. As an ally to the LGBTQ community and a voting person in the state of Hawaii I urge you all to make a decision today that is not only ethically and morally correct but one that you shouldn't have the right to make in the first place.

PLEASE EXTEND EQUAL RIGHTS IF MARRIAGE TO ALL HAWAII'S CITIZENS!

Mahalo,

Maile Boggeln

October 23, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 –10:30 a.m.

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor

State Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members:

My family and I strongly support marriage equality in Hawaii. Since 1993, my same gender life partner, Louise Esselstyn, and I have been in a loving and committed relationship. We are hardworking taxpayers who contribute to our community. We are true American patriots who uphold the values of truth, respectfulness, liberty and justice for all, without exception.

Through the years, like everyone else, we've had many health challenges. Together, we have held each other's hands, prayed together, and persevered thru spine surgery (2000), cervical surgery (2005), brain surgery (2006), and the devastating diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 2008.

Our love and commitment for each other is strong and resilient, just as it is for any other loving Ohana. However, we are both beyond the age of patience for enduring anything less than full marriage equality and legal recognition of our sacred long term relationship, as we are ages 60 and 69.

The passage of Marriage Equality in our home state of Hawaii is extremely meaningful and important to our families. It legally validates and confirms that our family is as valued as any other family in Hawaii...not better, but equal.

As Americans we value equality and civil rights and know that Marriage Equality in Hawaii is the morally and legally right decision for all of us. Civil rights can never be delegated to a popular vote of the people...our American history of oppression and discrimination proves this point. Religious freedom only exists when there is solid separation of church and state. We can look at the condition of Civil Rights in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, and Africa as proof of this.

The rights, responsibilities, and protections afforded us via Marriage, will infinitely improve our financial stability in Hawaii. The indignation of unfairly having to pay a "penalty tax" for the legal right to provide medical coverage for my spouse will dissolve with the passage of Marriage Equality. Our home and our future remaining years together in Hawaii will be brighter and more equitable with the legal passage of Marriage Equality.

For the past 20 years, we have worked tirelessly together ... waiting for the day when we have bonafide Marriage Equality in Hawaii. Yes, the institution of marriage is a sacred one. It is a tradition we were raised in and which we value. And we want to fully and legally participate in it, without exceptions. I don't know if I agree that marriage per se is the bedrock of civilization. However, I do believe that respectfulness, integrity, honesty and equality within marriage are pillars of democracy.

We were among the first couples in the Nation to become Reciprocal Beneficiaries when that law was enacted in Hawaii in 1997. We have patiently waited and waited and waited for legal recognition of our sacred relationship. In 2012, we consciously decided to bypass the new Civil Unions law in Hawaii, because we were unwilling to give up any legal rights which the marriage laws provide to our married opposite sex family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. We are unwilling to endure the treatment of 2nd class citizenship.

Fortunately, we have long lives in our Ohana. Both of our Moms eagerly await our celebration of Marriage Equality in Hawaii. At ages 95 and 83, they do not have time to waste on political posturing. Our combined siblings (10) and their families similarly await our legal opportunity to celebrate our Marriage, as they have each done in the past.

Another very important point...Marriage equality promotes respectfulness and builds social justice. We have worked hard to achieve marriage equality in Hawaii...not only for ourselves but for the vulnerable LGBT youth of Hawaii. They must be reassured that they too will be able to fall in love, have marital bliss and hold their heads higher, knowing the State of Hawaii and the United States Supreme Court believe in legal equality and justice for them, too.

We are confident that this will have a positive and lasting influence on the tragic rate of bullying and the alarming and unacceptable rates of suicide in our islands among our LGBT youth. Suicide exists when people are without hope of a better future.

As elders in our community, our vision is for a brighter future for our LGBT youth...A future of respect, legal civil rights, choices, and options for full participation as an American citizen. And the legal right to enjoy a life filled with equality for every individual, regardless of social class, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you for your support of Marriage Equality with the passage of SB1.

Mahalo.

Robie Lovinger &

Louise Esselstyn

92-1085 Kakoo Place, Kapolei, HI 96707

Phone: 808-722-0746

Email: rezumes@hotmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: terrilanichong@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:00:04 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/22/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Terrilan Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Love is stronger than hate. Please pass this bill.

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From: [Sue Haglund](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1-Testimony in Support
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:50:08 AM

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony In Strong Support of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1)

I am submitting my testimony for SB 1 (Senate Bill 1) relating to equal rights. I am in STRONG SUPPORT for the passage of SB 1.

Thank you for your time.

many thanks,

Sue Haglund

From: [Kat Priem](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:02:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kat Priem
4700 n capital of tx hwy
Unit 1223
Austin, TX 78746

From: [Gabriel Peckham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:05:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabriel Peckham
1460 C Pukele
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Samantha Smith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:07:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Samantha Smith
4-1467 kuhio hwy
Kapa'a, HI 96746

From: [Todd Sligar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:08:21 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

One more thing, it is also the right thing to do.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Todd Sligar
907 gulick ave apt c
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Gregory Hodel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:11:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gregory Hodel
76-897 Hualalai Road
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Molly Alvarado](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:10:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Molly Alvarado
4-1467 Kuhio Highway
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Nicole Schubert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:10:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nicole Schubert
2916 Date St.
Apt 24K
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB-1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:10:31 AM

I support equality and the right to marry regardless of gender. Patricia Blair, Kailua, 888-6393
Sent from my iPad

From: [troy abraham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:13:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

troy abraham
485 waianuenue ave apt b114
k248
hilo, HI 96720

From: [John and Lucy Witeck](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:15:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My brother Bob has been in a loving relationship with a great person also named Bob. The Bobs have shown my wife and me that gays can also be faithful, steadfast, loving and supportive--and so good to their siblings and the children of their siblings. It is wrong that they would be denied the right to marry in Hawaii or in their home state if they chose -- but that is the nature of the law today in too many states.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Hawaii should be a leader in broadening civil rights--and not a reactionary holdover. No member of anyone's ohana in Hawaii or anywhere – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John and Lucy Witeck
2252 Puna Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Suzette Gavin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:15:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suzette Gavin
1371 Kukana Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Rachel Donahue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:16:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rachel Donahue
44-709 Alakai St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Carol Best](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:18:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carol Best
777 Kolani Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Christopher Richardson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I support SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:19:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my support for SB 1.

I am very much in favor of allowing people to marry regardless of sexual orientation.

Thank you!

Christopher Richardson
150 Hamakua Drive #408
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Kristina Shugars](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:18:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Shugars
5110 Hana hwy
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Scott Dean](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:18:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My partner and I have been together almost 37 years and have experienced every imaginary discrimination possible. We live in such a wonderful place and feel strongly SB1 should pass and allow the world to see that Hawaii is an embracing place to all. The impact on allowing gay marriages to take place in Hawaii would be huge,you must agree.

We are so pleased that we can now file ONE tax form and get federal benefits because of the Supreme Courts ruling against DOMA. Let's make our state match the federal acceptance levels.

Thank you.

Scott Dean
63 Poailani Place
Wailea, HI 96753

From: [Co Pegg](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:21:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Co Pegg
656 Meakanu Ln
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [james heermans](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:21:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

james heermans
1084 kinau st #5
honolulu, HI 96814

From: [jessica palomino](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:20:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My mom met her partner, Michelle, when I was 10 years old. If Hawaii legalizes gay marriage, on my mom and Michelle's 10th anniversary, February 14, 2014, my entire family will travel to Hawaii to see them finally marry each other.

This would mean so much to our family. Not only because it symbolizes our family finally is being treated equally, but also because of all the legal rights it would guarantee my moms. It would truly prove that Hawai'i, a state I have so much love for, is making an effort to show that it loves its people too.

Not to mention all of the tourism Hawaii would receive from gay couples, like my mom and Michelle.

Please take our story and the thousands of others into consideration when you vote.

Thank you,
Jessica Palomino

jessica palomino
871 e gregson ave
salt lake city, UT 84106

From: [Susan Cook](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:21:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

With members of my own family being gay, it saddens me to think that they won't be able to celebrate being in love and sharing a commitment the way that I (being just married myself) can. No member of anyone's family – gay or straight – should have to face shame and prejudice because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Cook
3009 ala Makahala Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Paul Reeser](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:26:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary a
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am a Christian and gay. I know that nothing will be done by the church to give equality in this situation. Only the unbiased state can make this decision. Please give equality in marriage rights to gays as well.

I believe if blacks had waited for the church and other religious orgaqnizations to give them equality, they would still be without vote and what measure of equality that they enjoy today. The state had to intervene.

A state wide vote does not represent the populace feeling either. In Hawaii there is a very poor voting percentage, however, the majority of the people favor equality in marriage rights.

Please stand the what is ethically just and correct. Vote to pass equal marriage rights as issued by the state.

Paul Reeser
2085 Ala Wai Blvd. Apt. 142
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Paul Reeser
2085 ala wai blvd Apt 14-2
Apt. 142
Honolulu,, HI 96815

From: [Jane Fee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:28:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. They should be given the same right to a family as everyone else. I have many gay and lesbian friends and have been honored to be invited to commitment ceremonies, and I would be delighted if they were allowed all the same benefits of marriage that I enjoy.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The government should be involved in the legal side of marriage and allow all loving couples to marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. This is only fair. As for the people that are against same sex marriage, please tell them what I tell anyone that wants to ban a victimless activity: "if you are against same sex marriage, don't marry someone of the same sex. But please, stop butting into the lives of others."

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

"What the world needs now, is love , sweet love. Its the only thing that there's JUST TOO LITTLE OF."

Jane Fee
532 Pepeekeo Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: ["gemma Grott](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:29:05 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

'gemma Grott
Opihi
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [William Brattain](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:29:05 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Brattain
PO BOX 790481
Paia, HI 96779

From: [Stephen Sussman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:29:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support SB 1.

This should be passed to promote equal rights for minorities in Hawaii. It does not threaten other marriages, nor does it threaten religious freedom. Every letter I read against it in the Maui News uses religious issues, yet this is not a religious marriage but a civil one. Religions are not being forced to marry those they don't want to.

I also see arguments that same sex marriage harms children. Yet the American Pediatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychology Association, and the American Sociological Association(ASA)have all examined this issue and have all concluded children are not harmed and have all come out in favor of same sex marriage. For example, the ASA wrote: "Scholarly consensus is clear: children of same sex-parents fare just as well as children of opposite-sex parents."

Another argument against it I see is that marriage is about procreation, and same sex couples can't procreate. If that is the case, why do we let postmenopausal women marry? Why do we let someone who had a hysterectomy, tubes tied, or a vasectomy get married? Why don't we forcibly dissolve marriages that don't produce children within a certain period of time? Why doesn't someone need to pass a fertility test before marriage?

The last argument against it is that the people should vote. But putting minority rights up for popular vote is the wrong solution. If the USA did that, women likely still couldn't vote and African-Americans in the South would still have separate schools, separate water fountains, and would still sit in the back of the bus.

The bottom line is that opposition to this bill is based on either religious reasons or dislike of same sex couples (homophobia). We should not let these reasons sway us. Nobody should be forced to sit in the back of the bus.

Yours truly,

Stephen Sussman, MD
Haiku, HI.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephen Sussman
1500 W Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Michael Waddell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:31:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My life partner and I have been together in a committed relationship for over 39 years. We love each other just like any other committed couple, gay or straight. The primary reason we moved to Hawaii and Maui in particular was due to the accepting environment we had always experienced for 20 years when we would visit on holiday. We only want the same equal rights afforded in marriage. It is only fair.

As the General Manager of the Maui Sunseeker LGBT Resort on Maui, our guests are very excited about the pending legislation and are already making plans to be married and honeymoon in our great state. For us as a business, it will be a huge influx of tourism dollars to our state. For us as individuals in a gay owned and operated business, we are looking forward to helping couples, gay or straight, experience the joy and recognition they rightfully deserve.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Waddell
33 Maka Hou Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Michelle Mares](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:32:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to urge you to support marriage equality in Hawaii. Marriage equality is an important human rights issue. Denying any American citizen of legal age the right to marry the person they love because of their sexual orientation is unconstitutional. The Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution states, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." All American citizens have the same rights, and that includes those in the LGBTQIA community.

I understand and respect that you represent a community with opposing views, but our personal views cannot stand in the way of the Constitution nor of fundamental human rights. I urge you to take a stance for equality based on the Constitution and the rights of all American citizens and not merely on a set of personal values and beliefs. We have an opportunity to show the nation that Hawai'i respects the rights of all American citizens. I implore you to take a stand for all your constituents regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

There was a time when many states in our country upheld anti-miscegenation laws, but Hawai'i was not one of those states. Hawai'i is known for its diversity and aloha. Let's continue to show the world how much aloha our beautiful state has. It is time to move the United States forward once again, and we can take a monumental step towards equality here in Hawai'i.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Mares
92-783 Paakai St
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Angus Whyte](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:32:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angus Whyte
12-86 Anuenue Wawae
RR2 Box 4853
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Justin Hashimoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:33:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I remember the day Governor Lingle vetoed the civil unions bill. Even though a small minority celebrated that decision, it was incredibly difficult to watch. Seeing people I have gone to school with, helped through difficult times, worked with, and lived with, look me in the eye and celebrate the fact that I would be denied the same freedom offered to them...it went against everything I was taught as a boy. The true values of Aloha, of inclusion, kindness and equality for all...they were betrayed that day. Now, we have the opportunity to make it right.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justin Hashimoto

Justin Hashimoto
96-230 Waiawa Road
#31
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Peter Flick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:33:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

May I also add that my partner and I have been together for over 13 years and we so want the same civic rights as other Residents of Hawaii, the ability to get married by a justice of the peace. I pay my taxes to the county of Hawaii, the State of Hawaii, I should be afforded the same rights and responsibilities of very other citizen of this great state.

Thank you

Peter Flick
15-2719 Popaa Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Sylvia Thompson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:32:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Freedom, Liberty, Justice are only words unless applied in our daily lives. If there's freedom of religion, this should also be applied to the protected classes use by the fair housing laws, etc.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love,commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sylvia Thompson
1015 Wilder Avenued
#702
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Allen Hanaike](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:34:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I'm writing in support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry should not be denied to anyone; regardless of whether someone is straight, gay, bisexual, or uncertain of his or her sexual identity.

Marriage, and the government related privileges, services and benefits should be available to any committed couple of any gender who choose to enter into that arrangement.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Allen Hanaike
1505 Kealia Dr
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Rocio Escobar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:34:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rocio Escobar
3702 L Honoapiilani Rd #23
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: [Martin Diamond](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:36:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Martin Diamond
13160 Kula Hwy.
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Anne Lorenzo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:39:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anne Lorenzo
91-1201 Keone'ula Blvd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Laura Manis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:40:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Manis
1350 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Brian Lesh](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:40:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brian Lesh
2178 wilson st
honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Hylie Santos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:41:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

IT IS TIME!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

MAHALO!

Hylie Santos
PO Box 226
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [kalea oleson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:41:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I support love and equality and thats all this has ever been about!, even if you dont like gays wouldn't it be better if they are going to be living together then they should be married! Gays adopt children, so why not have a proper union with documentation, if they build a house together its only right that the partner doesnt get tossed out on their butt if one dies they have no legal rights to their own property? Its only fair.. not to mention all the extra tourism it will boost for hawaii !! Hello gays want a hawaiian wedding just as much as a female and male couple!! Its a win win.. plus population control, and maybe monson to wont be so hell bent on killing off all us poor people?? The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kalea oleson
64-444 leleaka lp
kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Scott Sutherland](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Sutherland
2047 Nuuanu Ave. Apt. 1402
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Tondalaya Gillespie](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tondalaya Gillespie
73-4398B Hawaii Belt Road
Kailua-Kon, HI 96740

From: [Annie Hollis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Annie Hollis
1610 Liholiho
#305
Honolulu, HI 96822

Aloha and thank you for your time! I am writing to testify on behalf of gay marriage rights. I am a heterosexual female and have been married to the same man for 17 years. We have 3 wonderful children together. I am also a wedding coordinator and planner.

I have seen many heterosexual couples get married over the last few years and it is not always a joyous occasion for everyone. There is always someone on the sidelines not happy about the union for their own personal reasons: too young, too quick, not enough money, etc.

I support gay marriage for many reasons but most importantly, because it is the right thing to do. If consenting adults choose to begin their lives together as a married couple, we are doing something right as a society. They are making a conscious decision to share their lives together and all that entails. It is not an easy thing to do and it takes time, commitment, patience and love. If we allow 18 year olds who may not even have graduated from high school to marry, why can't people who happen to be the same sex marry?

For those naysayers who speak of moral degradation I say that there are worse things that your children are already exposed to. As a mother, I am responsible for my children's morality and decisions. The kind of person they are and will be has to do with what I teach them with my actions and my words and not what others are doing. It is time we take responsibility for our children and teach them to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. If you don't agree with a gay couple getting married, don't come to the wedding.

Financially, approving gay marriage would be a boost to our local economy. With so many couples choosing Hawaii to have their "Dream Weddings" or vow renewals, imagine the amount of people we would have coming here eating in our restaurants, sleeping in our hotels, shopping in our stores. The potential is staggering for us. Not only for the couples, but the friends and families who would also be coming to celebrate with them.

Married couples have an easier time adopting and/or qualifying to be foster parents. Children who need the love, time and attention will benefit from having an abundance of homes where they can be treated well and brought up in a stable family environment. This is the 21st century and as our world evolves, so must our thinking.

We have only so much time on this earth and it is not common for people to find someone they want to commit to, so we should allow happiness in any form. I have always felt that we as a society need to promote happiness and positivity.

Please vote for our gay couples to have the right to be married in Hawaii. There is so much good that can come from it.

Mahalo,

Adina Comilla

From: [Gil Mendez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:46:47 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gil Mendez
15-2719 Popaa Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Teri Skillman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:47:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a divorced, single mother, I have friends who are gay with children. Their marriage outlasted mine and they have children that they have raised. They are loving, caring, productive members of our community. I strongly feel that their children deserve the same benefits as my daughter and as a spouse, they deserve the same rights that I have had.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teri Skillman
2833 Nihi St
Honolulu, HI 96813

SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR
SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE-CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TESTIMONY RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1
RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Auditorium

Good morning Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the committee:

My name is David Lane Henkin, and I am testifying as a father of two wonderful children. I strongly support Senate Bill No. 1. If the State is to confer rights and impose obligations on its citizens based on their participation in a committed relationship, it should not discriminate based on whether the individuals forming that couple are of opposite sex or the same sex. Senate Bill 1, which removes the discriminatory ban on same-sex marriage, is vital to confer on all the people of Hawai'i equal protection under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

My daughter is thirteen years old, and my son is ten. As a parent, my hope is that, some day, they will find happiness in a committed relationship with someone they love. When they do, I want to ensure that they will enjoy the same legal rights – both state and federal – as any other citizen of Hawai'i, regardless of the sex of their partner. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

From: [Whitney Bacon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:50:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

I studied at University of Hawaii at Manoa. I lived on Oahu for 6 years and it become my home. Whilst at university I met my partner Megan when I studied abroad for a semester in London in 2008. We went on to do long distance for 4 years and my partner visited Hawaii 5 times, she even joined me out here for 3 months (length of visitor visa) & we have so many special and fond memories of Hawaii. In fact, we even got engaged in Hawaii as Megan proposed to me at Waimanola beach. In order for us to live a life finally together I sadly had to leave Hawaii and join Megan in the UK. We had a small Civil Partnership in 2012 & it would the world to us if we could get married in Hawaii, the place I call home and means so much to us but where we could no longer belong due to immigration & the lack of gay rights & marriage.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

We want to come home.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Whitney Bacon
520 lunalilo home road
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Rich Roberts](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:51:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rich Roberts
640 Iliaina St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: gary@islandindoor.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:51:57 AM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Gary Bradley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support Marriage Equality for all and not just some. It's important to me and my husband. We want to be married in our HOME state and not have to fly to the West Coast to get this recognition. We also don't want to proceed with the Lawsuit (IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII NATASHA N. JACKSON, JANIN KLEID, and GARY BRADLEY, Plaintiffs,) that I'm in with the State over this issue, but we will if needed. It is our rights that are at stake. We own property here and we're proud to be voting residents. Thank you for your support of not must my rights, but for every ones rights to be treated equally. Respectfully submitted, Gary Bradley-Honolulu

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

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

From: [Amy Cook](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Recently, I have seen people advocating that this issue should be resolved by a statewide ballot. All of these people are opposed to marriage equality and they may even be the majority of people at the polls should the legislature pass the decision to voters. This would be a tragedy.

In a democracy one of the duties of elected representatives is to defend the rights of minorities. Every adult has the right to choose a life partner and have that decision's responsibilities and benefits honored by the society they live in. I find the idea of limiting a person's civil and human rights with a popular vote to be morally reprehensible and I hope you do as well.

My husband and I were married in a courtroom in Wailuku in 2011, it was a very simple ceremony but it was our right. No one would have thought to stop us from paying for and signing a marriage license. But that's not true for many of your constituents. It saddens me that so many of my friends and colleagues are still denied the right to walk into a courthouse, speak with a judge, and walk out married. They all deserve the rights and protections provided by Hawaii and the United States governments as much as I and my husband do.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Cook
PO Box 10889
Hilo, HI 96721

From: [Cortney Silva](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cortney Silva
Hio Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Judith Cremarosa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:57:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judith Cremarosa
POB 61933
Honolulu, HI 96839

From: [Marsha Cavin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I firmly believe that we are all human beings first -- everything else is incidental. That includes what sex we are, what color we are, who we love. And as human beings, we should all have the same rights. Please do the right thing -- the pono thing -- and grant equal rights to all of us. I have gay friends who have raised children, and are now grandparents -- some have spent over 40 years together in committed, strong relationships. Please recognize them -- and all of us -- as equal human beings under the law.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marsha Cavin
620 Laie Drive
A
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Mike Hough](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:00:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Although I agree with everything in the text below I also want to make a personal statement in my own words.

There are always times in history where we look at an issue and make a judgement based upon facts and feelings rather than dogma, I believe on this occasion it's time we make the right decision and make all people equal irrespective of race, sex or ethnicity.

Future citizens of Hawaii and the US as awhile will look back on this day with pride or with shame, let's make sure they see the true values we aspire to in Hawaii.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mike Hough
6440 Olohena Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Dwayne Wood](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:01:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support for SB 1.

My personal story is a prime example of our attempts at equity in our state showing inequity in Reciprocal Beneficiary Partnerships, and then Civil Unions. While these amendments to our laws did much to recognize all citizens and their relationships, it also left a glaring distinction that as a society, we are unwilling to treat each other as equals.

While Hawaii was at the forefront of the equality movement, we took baby steps towards equality.

My partner of 25 years died nine years ago, we had become the first couple in Hawaii under the Reciprocal Beneficiary Partnership to use the law in legal proceedings after his death. While the State of Hawaii recognized my relationship, which was helpful, I was painfully aware of all Federal rights and benefits that a surviving spouse would have had automatically. This was nine years before the landmark rulings of the United States Supreme Court.

Yet now, as far as we have come, If I were in a loving and committed relationship, Federal recognition would still be denied and will continue to be until my own State of Hawaii allows for a marriage that the Federal government would recognize.

As of this year, the only way to treat all citizens fairly is allow marriage for all. To deny it is not only inequitable, but it will then have been Hawaii's choice to deny Federal benefits to Hawaii's same sex couples. There can no longer be any reasonable justification for that.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Dwayne Wood

Dwayne Wood
7199 Hawaii Kai Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [David Findley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:01:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in STRONG support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Findley
13-6510 Kalapana Kapoho Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Dane Findley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:03:05 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dane Findley
13-6510 Kalapana Kapoho Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Soul Dancer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:03:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As an out, gay social worker (masters level), I write to you in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Soul Dancer
General Delivery
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Westley Smith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:03:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Westley Smith
140 Uwapo Road
#31-103
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Dan Lindsay](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:14:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The arguments against marriage equality are specious. Some assert that somehow, gay marriage will harm heterosexual marriage. But every marriage is individual; no marriage affects the nature of any other. Marriage between people of different races was once said to harm the institution; that was false. Some assert marriage is for procreation only; that too is false, as there are very successful marriages between people without children.

Some cite the Christian Bible in their claim that marriage should be limited to heterosexuals, but religion-based arguments have basis in a multi-cultural society. Christians are perfectly free to themselves marry only heterosexuals; they have no right to impose their religious preference on the rest of us.

I am straight, but I'm not narrow! I want my gay and lesbian friends to have the same rights I do.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Dan Lindsay
2390 Kaiwiki Rd.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Amanda Paterson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:18:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a lesbian who is in a committed civil union partnership with my wife; we had our ceremony on January 7 last year. I am also not a US citizen but have been studying and now working in the state of Hawaii since I arrived in 1996. I call Hawaii home even though I am an Australian citizen. I have never been in the US illegally, I have always had a student or work visa. This Christmas I will be taking my wife and our 8 year old son to Australia to visit my family, although DOMA has been struck down as unconstitutional, I still need to visit the US Embassy in Sydney to renew my visa so that I can come back to Hawaii with my family. By passing SB 1 I could obtain my greencard, I could change my job if I really wanted to, our family could live with the benefits that heterosexual couples enjoy.

My relationship is not second rate, it's not below the relationship of a heterosexual couple nor should it be counted as one. My wife and I are loving parents to our son, who is proud of his two mamas and isn't afraid to say so at school. Please validate our relationship as it deserves to be validated.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amanda Paterson
3517 Kilauea Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Laura Grote](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:19:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Aside from all that, I just don't understand how someone else's marriage effects anyone - at all!! It is no one's business.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Grote
68-3831 Lua Kula Street
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: [Justin Southern](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:30 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justin Southern
3065 Mapu Place
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Tristan Naranjo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Myself and my partner Joseph met 16 years ago and have been together since. We got our civil union license 2 years ago but that is not enough. Why do him and I, who have loved each other for 16 years not have the right to marry? We are tax-paying law abiding citizens of society and should be treated with the equality and fairness as any other citizen, not based on who we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tristan Naranjo
91-1017 Kanela Street
Ewa beach, HI 96706

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: moorjon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:30 AM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jonathan Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge all in our State Legislature to stand on the right side of history, and vote to pass this measure. This will ensure all in Hawaii are treated equal under the law. Please stand on the right side of history!

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

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

From: [Bradford Lum](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:23:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bradford Lum
1611 Keeaumoku #202
1611 Keeaumoku Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Jonathan Moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:24:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jonathan Moore
140 Uwapo Rd 7-103
Kihei, HI 96753

On October 19, 2013, I had the privilege of legally marrying the couple below in the state of Minnesota. As a resident of the state of Hawai'i, I urge you to vote "yes" for marriage equality. The love of this couple began 11 years ago, with an engagement of 10 years while the patiently waited and found for their right to marry. When Minnesota welcomed equality in May, my friend and her partner began planning their wedding. Finally. This couple epitomizes love and values. They are deeply committed to building their lives together and living with a sense of purpose, love, and compassion. They exemplify communication, respect, and happiness- all characteristics that should exist in a marriage. After bearing witness to this love and legally joining this couple, it is without question and with deepest conviction that I affirm my belief that all committed couples should be given the right to marry. We live in a country that proudly shouts "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." For this to truly occur, all people must have the same rights, just as my friend and her partner now enjoy in the state of Minnesota. Please, vote "yes."



From: [Heather Metzler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:27:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Heather Metzler
91-1186 Kuano'o Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Caryl Burns](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:31:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Caryl Burns
73-1014 Ahulani St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Brian Asbjornson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I support SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:32:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I support marriage equality as a father and a business owner in Hawaii.

I often ask myself what kind of world I want my daughter to live in. As a human, I want respect, dignity and fairness. These values are elemental to my being. They are also the values I want my young daughter to experience and develop. It seems quite self-evident that to live these values, we must live in a society where we afford respect, dignity and fairness to all. This includes everyone, from those who share my lifestyle, faith and sexual preference and those who do not. We cannot apply these values selectively.

Marriage equality--the ability to commit to love and be with something and be legally and socially recognized--must be a core tenet of a fair and just society.

As an owner of a marketing business in Hawaii who has numerous clients in the tourism and hospitality sectors, supporting marriage equality is a wise business decision. More tourism and weddings create more commerce. I have spoken with many of my clients about the new opportunities marriage equality will bring to Hawaii. The Hawaii business community overwhelmingly looks forward to the new opportunities.

Brian Asbjornson
74-4325 Pia Place
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Michele Nagamine](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:32:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This is about equality. It is simply not fair to discriminate against nor single out any person for who they love. Take all the religious banter and moral pleas out of this equation and ask yourself "What is fair?". It doesn't matter if you approve of a homosexual lifestyle or not. No one is asking you to LIVE a lifestyle that you don't approve of; we are asking you to treat everyone EQUALLY, regardless of who they love. There is a big difference there!

Fair is being able to love whoever you choose to love. Fair is being able to share this love with your partner in a committed and caring manner. Fair is being able to share your life with your partner and to be able to have your family unit reap the medical and financial benefits that all other married couples are afforded.

In Hawaii, we take great pride in our Aloha Spirit. It's something we have that no other place has. It's ours and our alone. We need to live with Aloha now. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. It's the right thing to do!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michele Nagamine
7012 Hawaii Kai Drive
Unit #101
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Kelly Kim](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:40:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I feel that we will look back on these times and shake our heads over the absurdity of the fact that we even hesitated to deprive two consenting adults in love the right to all of the security and benefits that legal marriage provides. It wasn't that long ago that mixed-race marriages weren't allowed in some places and now it seems unconscionable that there were laws against it.

On a practical note, the State of Hawaii coffers and Hawaii's citizens could also benefit financially from the revenue generated by the passing of SB 1.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelly Kim
1411 Hoolako Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Libby Kelson-Fulcher](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:41:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. In this day and age, more enlightened than any other time in our history, laws are becoming more and more humane and attuned to and supportive of the State's constituents.

The freedom to marry whom you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied anyone let alone by government. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reason as all other human beings. No member of anyone's family irrespective of sexual orientation should have to face shame because of who they are and whom they love. And especially in Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on our ohana.

The government should not be in the business of dictating whom people can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass SB 1to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's people.

Mahalo.

Libby Kelson-Fulcher
P.O. Box 4965
75 -5770 Makelina Pl
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

From: [Raul Sanchez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:46:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

It's simply the right thing to do.

You will hear from religious and non-religious groups telling you why this bill should not pass. But the truth of the matter is that they're arguments are based on lies.

I've seen a commercial aired these last couple of days testifying that same-sex marriage will destroy the sanctity of marriage in our state. That is a lie.

The sanctity of marriage has been systematically broken for as long as marriage has existed. If it isn't through infidelity, it's through divorce.

I supervise a program for our great state where I we deal with parents and their children. I guesstimate that at the minimum, 95% of our participants are single parent households. What does that say for the sanctity of FAMILY, much less marriage.

Some of these participants have several children from several fathers. That's what's destroying any and all sanctities.

But I'd would be illegal to tell someone that they are no longer allowed to have children out of wedlock, so why deny a loving couple the right to legalization?

Others will state that marriage for the purpose of procreation. Another false statement. How do you answer to married couples who can't have children? Will ask them get a divorce because they can't procreate? No. What about couples that are married and have chosen not to have children? Would you annul their marriage? No, you wouldn't.

I have been with my partner for 10 years. We live here alone without family. Should I end up in a hospital bed not being able to make decisions for myself, my partner would be denied. And if my family can't come here to make decisions for me, and worse case scenario, I die. I died because my person of choose wasn't allowed to make medical decisions for me.

What then? Who will take responsibility for my passing? You? I doubt that. The groups of people begging you not to allow me the basic right to live my life as I please? Absolutely not.

How will the state the respond to lawsuits for situations like this?

In conclusion Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I sit here asking you, not just as a tax paying citizen, or a homosexual man, but as a human being, to the simple thing, the right thing and pass the SB1 bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raul Sanchez
1426 Keeaumoku St
C23
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Dr. Robert A. Baysa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: rlzbaysa@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:52:21 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Please count my testimony in favor for MARRIAGE: Man & Woman ... Please be reminded what the initial ballot vote was for the legislature to ensure in regards to marriage ...

Aloha,

Robert A. Baysa, DDS

Dental Arts, LLC

95-1099 Ainamakua Drive, Suite 1

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

O 808.625.6300

C 808.389.2416



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From: [Joleen Nactor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote in favor of Marriage Equality
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:52:54 AM

This is addressed to those who would oppose marriage equality for same-sex couples. Whatever your beliefs may be, the right to marry some one, regardless of gender, is a civil matter, not a religious one. Do you remember why our ancestors came to America in the first place? It was to escape religious persecution. No one wanted their lives ruled by religion. That is why when our founding fathers first began to assemble our government we know today, they decided to separate church and state, so that later generations would not have to face such persecution again. And look where we are now. People are using religious beliefs to deny certain people the same right that others have. Same sex couples do not ask for special rights, we ask for the same rights. It is time that Christian people in this country actually follow what Jesus said to do and that's to love one another as you would him. Everyone deserves to be happy in this world.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Cathy Levinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:53:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Thank you very much for your continuing work on behalf of marriage equality.

It is time to stop the discrimination against a segment of our community and the resulting pain and inequality it causes.

Hawaii is the land of aloha where people's differences are embraced and honored by the whole community.

Please pass marriage equality so couples and families can receive federal benefits as soon as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cathy Levinson
3430-F Keahi Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Traci Yoshiyama](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:54:08 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Traci Yoshiyama
1711 East West Road
#559
Honolulu, HI 96848

From: [Jeff Demma](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:55:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I have been with my partner for 15+ years and we work, volunteer, pay taxes, purchased property, own a small business, have built a life on Kauai, and do all of the other things our straight friends do except we currently are not recognized the same for State and Federal tax and legal purposes as we are not able to marry. We are simply living our lives and expressing our love for each other in a long-term, committed relationship just like our straight counterparts. We know this is the right thing for Hawaii and the right thing for us a human beings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeff Demma
1742 Ahina Road
PO Box 662024
Lihue, HI 96766

From: [Rocio Escobar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:34:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I would like you to know how critically important the passing of SB 1. is to me. My partner and I met in Greeley Colorado, at the University of Northern Colorado in the fall of 1999. My partner was a Spanish and Education major from the beautiful island of Hawaii. I knew instantly that she was the one for me. I was just 23 when I met her, I was a first generation Mexican American girl with big dreams, teaming with idealisms about what it meant to be a good citizen, giving back to my community and doing my part to make the world better.

I joined the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps/ Americorps. I completed 2 years of national service to my country and my community. I was proud to have been a part of a program that helped in neighborhood beautification, conflict resolution training and tutoring in the public schools, tree planting, trail construction at Rocky Mountain National Park.

That was almost 13 years ago, since 07 we have called Maui our home. My partner is now an outstanding teacher here in Lahaina. I was working for Head Start in Lahaina also, unfortunately I injured my back on September 19, 2011, and I have been out of work since then. I've had a lot of medical issues since and it was my experience with the healthcare system that has pushed me and motivated me since. Upon one visit to the ER, my partner was not allowed in to see me. This frightened me to the core. The legal rights of married couples is so important to me. I will be having a major surgery to fuse my spine in the following months, and it scares me that my partner will have no say in such matters.

Our 14 year anniversary lands on October 28th, and it would mean the world to me to be able to marry my partner of 14 years. As we navigate forward we want to have a family, and do so with the certainty that our rights as Americans and as citizens of Hawaii are protected. That our children can grow up in a place where equality and freedom is protected.

I think it's time to head our amazing Constitution that guarantees equal rights under the law. Nothing would make me more proud.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rocio Escobar
3702 L Honoapiilani Rd #23
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: [Lana Kisner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:59:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Also, by denying marriage between gay and lesbian couples, it is denying the legal rights and benefits which come with a legal marriage, and it is discriminatory to deny certain citizens these legal rights because they happen to be homosexual. As citizens of this country, we should all be equal, in our legal rights as well as our right to achieve happiness.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lana Kisner
916 Queen St.
#12
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Jonathan Rehm](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:03:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I have been together with my partner for 11 years. I love him and will until we are no longer. I am just wanting the equal civil rights as an adult to marry and have all the benefits awarded to a married same sex couple. Not long ago interracial marriages were illegal. Since overturned there has only been enrichment to the world for it. I believe in Love and Acceptance. This is a new Era and that should be reflected in Hawaiian Culture. Gay People are a part of Hawaiian Past and Culture since the beginning of time. Act with fairness to all people.

Thank You
Jonathan Rehm~

Jonathan Rehm
250 Haouli St #419
wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Tracy Mullen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:04:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

There is no good reason why couples, gay or straight, should have any restriction. The biggest reason to hold back is fear of those who are so closed minded. Look at the other states that have passed this law. They are going on the same, even better, now that everyone can happily be joined in marriage and equally love one another as they should.

The greatest gift in life is to find love, to share love, and to value that love forever. So why not let everyone share that level of happiness?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tracy Mullen
2012 pacific heights RD
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Phillip Arnold](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:09:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The precious freedom to be treated equal under the U.S. Constitution includes the right to marry the person you love. It is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. After being in a committed relationship for the past 35 years,extending equality to us is way over due. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii or any other place in the United States of America, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to be relegated to the status of a second class citizen. It is now time to redress this inequality issue by passing SB1.

The government's role is here to guarantee that there is equality for all citizens. Citizens' rights should never be put to a public vote. I urge you to do what is "pono"!!!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phillip Arnold
2825 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Lisa Hamilton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:10:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Love is the human condition. Adults love one another every day and it is no one's business but their own... how could it be anyone else's? It is private, intimate, wonderful. Absurdly beautiful.

Marriage not only tells the world that this beautiful love is here, it also seals in legal rights that all couples are entitled to; rights that are inherent simply because the two are citizens. The government no longer has the power to withhold other than the legal one... and we are all aware that sometimes legality is not morality.

Please vote yes on this bill. Vote for love, marriage and stability for all Hawaiians who desire them.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Hamilton
146 Ehilani
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Anna Meyer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:11:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The fact that this issue even needs to be voted on is ridiculous to me. Every person, no matter their race, gender, religion, background or sexual orientation deserves the same love as anyone else and the right to commit their lives to their one special person. There is no freedom until we are all equal.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Meyer
1249 W. Kawaihani St
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Jim Cooper](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:15:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Love between two individuals should not be classified as "correct" or "wrong" based on gender.

Marriage creates legal benefits. Those benefits should not be denied anyone because of gender.

Gender discrimination is just wrong. Laws already exist that make this point. It is time to add Marriage to the list where gender discrimination is not allowed.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim Cooper
1435 9th ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Deborah Hillman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:17:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Deborah Hillman
PO Box 4484
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [David Paulson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:22:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Paulson
3254 Hoolulu Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Fred Wells](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:22:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fred Wells
6163 Waipouli Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Todd Simmons](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:21:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I'm pleased today to join hundreds of thousands of other Hawai'i residents in supporting SB 1. The promise of this legislation was a great draw for my husband, our sons and me as we considered a move to Hawai'i early in 2012. As a family very personally affected by this issue, we are grateful that the Legislature and Gov. Abercrombie stand ready to make good on that promise.

My husband and I have been married now for 16 years, having wed in a Florida ceremony that wasn't recognized by law, but continues to be one of the most precious experiences in our lives. When we adopted our sons 5 1/2 years ago, it was with the hope that as their parents, we might one day hold equal status with all of those other married couples that benefit from the protections, rights and responsibilities of legal marriage. Our sons are excited that this major point of progress is very nearly here, as they've never been able to understand why the relationship between the parents who love, care and provide for them isn't recognized by law.

It's been painful these past few weeks to drive by individuals clamoring on street corners for the right to decide whether my relationship is recognized. This is not an easy thing to explain to our kids. Change is easier for some than others, but I believe our opponents will fade away on this issue as they have in the 14 other states that recognize marriage equality -- quietly, and with none of the dire consequences they predicted of marriage equality coming to pass.

I encourage you and your colleagues to act with all due haste to pass this bill and open the door to equal and fair treatment for my marriage, my family and for all of Hawai'i's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Todd Simmons
520 Lunalilo Home Road 209
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [David Deges](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:28:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Deges
15-1616 21st Ave.
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [charisse Estrera](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:33:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

charisse Estrera
86370 kuwale rd
waianae, HI 96792

From: [Kanuji Parmar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:34:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kanuji Parmar
1650 Ala Moana Blvd.
#2001
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Mari Vermeer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:35:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mari Vermeer
1185 Akipola Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Aaron Gorospe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:39:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

October 23rd, 2013

Dear Committee,

My name is Aaron. I was born and raised here in Hawai'i, and I happen to be one of the 'opihi – a local boy who loves and does not want to leave the islands. I was a Catholic school student from K-8, and then attended and graduated from a local private school. I recently attained my Master's degree, and I am currently working with Student Services at the University of Hawai'i, providing valuable social and academic support to the students. I enjoy contributing to the community by helping others learn, a drive that has brought me grow in the field of education. Overall, I'm just an average local boy who loves his community and wants to do his best in life.

I am also gay. And apparently, parts of society feel that trait overshadows all my positive qualities.

Growing up as a gay teen was quite difficult. I was given all kinds of negative messages that damaged my self-perceptions – that homosexuals were “dirty,” “hedonistic,” and “unChristian,” which volunteered them for and made them deserving of prejudice and discrimination. As an adult now, I am more socially aware, and I now understand that the problem is with society as a whole, not myself and those like me.

The issue at hand is that of rights to marriage. For some reason, many people do not seem to realize that gays and lesbians are normal people – normal people who want and deserve to experience the same happiness as others. Refusing to provide these kinds of rights sends the message that homosexuals are “less” than heterosexuals – that they are less deserving of access to certain institutions because of their sexual orientation. This kind of social and legal subjugation has very real effects on the lives of many homosexual Americans, from the gay teenager who is struggling with his sexual identity and the teasing of classmates to the unwed lesbian who cannot see her partner in the hospital because she does not have the right.

In the coming month, I will be making 8 happy years with my boyfriend, and I would love to be able to express our commitment and love for each other through marriage, should we decide to do so. I do not feel that he and I should be told by anyone that we are not able to celebrate our commitment in the same way as my heterosexual family and friends.

I am asking you to please vote to allow people like me to marry here in our state. Our request to be allowed to marry carries no malice, no ill intent. We simply want to be able to exist as good people, and to share in the same joys and responsibilities of marriage as our heterosexual counterparts.

As an everyday local boy who contributes to this community just as much as anyone else, I feel that I and those like me deserve to have this bill passed.

Aaron Gorospe
95-1062 Puulu Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: georgepbarbour@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [George Barbour](#); [Rep. Mele Carroll](#); [Senator English](#)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony in Strong Support of Marriage Equality
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:40:37 AM

Here is my testimony in favor of marriage equality. Mahalo for the opportunity to make my views known.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: georgepbarbour@gmail.com
Date: October 14, 2013 at 7:40:38 AM HST
To: Mele Carrol <repcarrol@hawaii.gov>, Senator English
<kalani@kalanienglish.com>
Cc: George Barbour <georgepbarbour@gmail.com>
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of Marriage Equality

Dear Representative Carrol and Senator English,
I have attached a copy of my testimony to the relevant committees. I once again urge you both to support marriage equality. Mahalo for your support.
Testimony for the House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony for the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Aloha Committee Members,
My husband and I were married last year in New York City after 34 years together as a committed gay couple. It was a wonderful occasion, but sadly our own state did not offer us the opportunity to marry in our own community. We have lived and owned our home on Molokai for over 10 years. We have always been accepted by our neighbors and co-workers as a committed couple. My husband teaches in the community and I'm involved in volunteer work and I am a member of the Molokai veterans center.
While we have taken the legal steps to protect our interests we still continue to be discriminated against by insurance companies who refuse to allow us the benefits of family/couple insurance rates. While we can file joint tax returns at the federal level we can't at the state. That is why marriage equality at the state level is important now.
What is even sadder is that the members of the US armed forces stationed and living here in our state must go elsewhere to marry. Otherwise they can not receive full marriage rights at the federal level. These men and women protect us, live in our neighborhoods, shop in our stores And are our friends and yet our state denies them this basic right. That is not the Hawaiian way.
Finally I want you to know that I have reviewed the draft legislation and believe that the provisions protect members of the clergy from coercion in the performance of marriages between same sex couples.
Thank you for supporting marriage equality in Hawaii.
Mahalo Nui Loa
George P Barbour, Jr.

100 Lio Place A3
PO Box 319
Maunaloa, HI 96770
808-552-2429
Sent from my iPad

From: [Cynthia Fritts](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:44:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cynthia Fritts
626 West Hind Dr
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Catherine Ulep](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:45:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Ulep
P.O. BOX 6369
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Valery Atkinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1!!!!
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:46:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I feel truly blessed to live in this amazing state, but it won't truly be home until I have the freedom to marry the person I love. This is the aloha state. We should have been the first to pass this law and we should definitely not be the last!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Valery Atkinson
Leihua
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [Kristina Basso](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:47:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Basso
45609 Apapane St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Eleanor Kleiber](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:50:25 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eleanor Kleiber
738 Palani Ave. 302
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Ross Martineau](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:51:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have been in a committed same-sex relationship for over 15 years. We eat, sleep, go to work, bicker, worry about bills and pay taxes like every other citizen of the US. To deny us basic rights that are allowed to other citizens is unconstitutional. Period.

I wish the ghost of George Wallis could whisper in the ears of the few who wish to deny all citizens equal rights. It was not that long ago that minorities were also denied basic rights.

Many of the naysayers are people want to deny us rights based on moral and/or religious beliefs. However, **MUST** separate church and state.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ross Martineau
PO Box 662021
Lihue, HI 96766

From: [Robert Fox](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:57:39 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Fox
2022 University Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Daniel Pacheco](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:00:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Pacheco
47-392 Ahuimanu Pl.
Suite A-1
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Malin Klawonn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:03:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Malin Klawonn
1040 Kinau St #707
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: lj Arlington@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:03:38 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Linda Arlington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have no objections to same sex marriage. I believe that persons who wish to marry should be able to do so regardless of their race, religion and or sexual preference with another human. I would hope that in Hawaii, as in other states that are creating laws which will enable same sex couples to marry, Hawaii will bravely follow their lead. Thank you, Linda Arlington

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

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

From: lynne.matusow
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Unfortunately, I will not be present to testify.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. This is a civil rights issue, not a religious issue.

The government should not let the people take a popular vote on this issue. If that were the case miscegenation would still be outlawed in many states. Times change. Society evolves. This is one of the changes that are occurring nationally and internationally. Even anti same sex marriage Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey has dropped his opposition since the N.J. Supreme Court said it was likely his arguments would not prevail. New Jersey is the 14th State where same sex marriage is legal. Hawaii should be number 15.

More important, those in same sex marriages are eligible for the 1,138 federal benefits, including social security survivor benefits, filing joint federal returns, transferring an unlimited amount to a spouse upon death without federal estate tax.

It is estimated that more than \$200 million will be received by the state by allowing same sex marriage.

Please pass this bill now to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

lynne matusow
60 n.beretania, #1804
honolulu, hi 96817
531-4260

lynne matusow
60 N. Beretania, #1804
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Paul Spear](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 and my story from last year
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Last year as I was in the midst of my move to Hawaii I encountered one of the many reasons that the right to marriage is so important to me. My partner of 19 years became ill and died in Hawaii in the midst of our move. We did not have the protection of marriage in our previous state so we had done our due diligence and had health care directives and wills under the laws of our previous state of residence. We were in the midst of our move so we had not established residency in Hawaii yet and had not revised our documents for Hawaii or had time to establish a civil union here. Fortunately the hospital accepted the health care directive because Cory was still awake to acknowledge that he wanted me to make the health decisions for him if he could not make them and I was forced to make decisions ten days later.

However, after he died the funeral home refused to accept Oregon documents giving me the power to authorize the disposition of his remains and instead they involved my partner's estranged mother to make all decisions regarding his body after his death. A widower would not have been forced to the sidelines with the protection of marriage and my partner would not have had to have his remains become a matter of dispute and had his wishes ignored.

This is a small example of the many fundamental rights that come with true marriage and Hawaii's civil unions law couldn't have helped me or others from out of state while traveling here.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Spear
PO BOX 30902
Anahola, HI 96703

From: [michael moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:06:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

michael moore
77-447 ho'omaluhia place
kailua kona, HI 96740

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jbsestak@prodigy.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:12:15 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Betty Sestak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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

From: georgepbarbour@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [George Barbour](#); [Holly Berlin](#)
Subject: Strongly Support Marriage Equality for All in Hawaii
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:15:07 PM

Aloha Committee Members,
Below is my testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

Testimony for the House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony for the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Aloha Committee Members,

My husband and I were married last year in New York City after 34 years together as a committed gay couple. It was a wonderful occasion, but sadly our own state did not offer us the opportunity to marry in our own community. We have lived and owned our home on Molokai for over 10 years. We have always been accepted by our neighbors and co-workers as a committed couple. My husband teaches in the community and I'm involved in volunteer work and I am a member of the Molokai veterans center.

While we have taken the legal steps to protect our interests we still continue to be discriminated against by insurance companies who refuse to allow us the benefits of family/couple insurance rates. While we can file joint tax returns at the federal level we can't at the state. That is why marriage equality at the state level is important now.

What is even sadder is that the members of the US armed forces stationed and living here in our state must go elsewhere to marry. Otherwise they can not receive full marriage rights at the federal level. These men and women protect us, live in our neighborhoods, shop in our stores And are our friends and yet our state denies them this basic right. That is not the Hawaiian way.

Finally I want you to know that I have reviewed the draft legislation and believe that the provisions protect members of the clergy from coercion in the performance of marriages between same sex couples.

Thank you for supporting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui Loa

George P Barbour, Jr.
100 Lio Place A3
[PO Box 319](#)
[Maunaloa, HI 96770](#)

[808-552-2429](tel:808-552-2429)

Sent from my iPad

From: [Lyle Roe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Law Alvin Ty](#)
Subject: sb1, marriage equality, civil rights, special session
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:14:59 PM

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong, passionate, and hopefully reasoned support of SB 1.

I moved to these Islands a year and a half ago. I moved with my partner and boyfriend because his family needed him to come back from the mainland and help manage their farm. As I have a background in agriculture, the move seemed ideal for us. We were exhilarated when HB 1109 was introduced in January, and we had moderate hopes for its passage. We followed the bills lack of progress through the entire session -- *disappointment* doesn't really begin to touch the emotions we experienced.

We were ecstatic when the Supreme Court handed down its landmark pair of decisions in June, and we joined our brothers, sisters, and allies in urging the Governor to call this special session to deal with this issue. It is my hope that this committee and this chamber will honor the spirit of equality and civil rights for gay men and women.

The arguments are all out there, but there is one that I feel deserves some attention: the question of why civil unions aren't enough. For the same reason that separate drinking fountains were not enough for African-American men and women in the Deep South, civil unions, while a blessing a reprieve, do not represent full equality under the law. We honor the idea that *separate is inherently unequal*, as noted by Justice Earl Warren in *Brown v. Board* (1954). In the same way that a separate water fountains, even if fancy and gleaming new, are designed to maintain separation and distinction between the majority and minority groups, so civil unions, while helpful in alleviating some of the challenges and legal issues that my gay brothers and sisters endure, it, *STILL*, is not equal. I am mindful and appreciative of the effort that many in the legislature made to pass civil unions. Truly, it has been a blessing and a lifesaver for many. But it was still a patch; an interim effort to mitigate the rampant disadvantages and discrimination that we faced, and still face, while we waited for the opportunity to pass full marriage equality.

That day is here. Civil Beats, Star Advertiser, and an entire host of Mainland news and polling organizations corroborate each other in the showing that the majority of Americans now support marriage equality. 2012 was a landmark year for marriage equality -- it passed in every statewide contest to which it was submitted. The President supports marriage equality. The Supreme Court has upheld the concept of marriage equality. Democrats and many Republicans support marriage equality. The Governor supports marriage equality. And I believe a strong majority of your chamber supports marriage equality.

Marriage for gay men and women means full equality under the law, and the opportunity to express our love for each other in the same way that you can. *I respectfully ask you to vote YES on SB 1.*

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony.

LYLE ROE

Operations Manager
FAT Law's Farm, Inc.

<http://fatlawfarm.com>

lyle@fatlawfarm.com

[facebook](#)

C 269 277 6778

F 808 681 6889

This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the addressee, you may not use, copy, or disclose this message. If you received this message in error, please delete it and advise the sender listed above.

From: [Kevin Rebelo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:20:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kevin Rebelo
3525 Lanihou Place
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Craig Tennant](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:21:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha anyone who cares,

We've been together in Hawaii for 24 years now. In February of 2012 we got "civilly unionized". I was able to get on the family businesses health plan. In January of 2013 we learned that my benefit was taxable and that our income would drop by 70.00 a week! We're feeling ripped off to say the least! Penalized by our union! And of course this is just one example of the unfairness we face because of laws created and enforced by lawmakers and unsupportive citizens who I believe really still have no idea what it means to be born gay, and how dare they think they have the right to persecute us and to control our freedoms. We are truly offended and angry at the notion that these issues should go to the ballot box. Anyone who would vote against us comes from a place of ignorance and for that reason alone, they should not get to voice an opinion.

Equality for all, Thankyou for standing with us.

C&R

Craig Tennant
P.O.Box 382
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

From: [Jamie Louis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:23:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jamie Louis
PO Box 269
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Rev Dr Mele Welte](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:26:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This issue is not a religious issue. This is about the US Constitution and equal rights life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens. That means that this equal rights issue like slavery was, cannot be decided by what the people would or would not support. This is not something that is up for discussion and debate. This simply means equal rights for adult citizens of this nation and this state means the equal right to chose to love and to marry another adult no matter male or female.

Our aloha state is sadly so out of aloha in regard to this equal right that it is beyond tragic that we have not yet passed this bill for the equal right of legal marriage between two consenting adults here. We should have been the first state to pass this law! Now we are dragging behind not just many other states, but the US Supreme Court. When will the religious leaders who are trying to keep this from being passed not being told that this is not about religion, but about the constitution and equal rights under the law? Those who are elected here are elected to hold up the constitution of our state and of our nation. Do it now!

Rev Dr Mele Welte
291 Kipukai Place
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: JamesJimjim35@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Fwd: MY TESTIMONY - MY STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:28:14 PM

October 23, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Fellow Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you SUPPORT Senate Bill 1 for Marriage Equality.

In our world today - and particularly in our amazing Aloha State - we should help lead the nation and the world recognizing every person's right to love and marry their partner.

Supporting Senate Bill 1 is the right thing to do.
History will judge us by the actions we take on Senate Bill 1.
Please be on the right side of History.

I thank you, in advance, for your support.

Mahalo and very best wishes to you all,

James Doran
1133 Hihimanu Street
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Julia Gomes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:28:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Julia Gomes
46-359 Haiku Rd. Apt. B9
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Dawna Gomes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:30:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dawna Gomes
46-359 Haiku Rd. Apt. B9
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Jim-Michael Cardenas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:31:36 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim-Michael Cardenas
931 Self Lane
Honolulu, HI 96819

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place:Capitol Auditorium

Re: Insistent Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am sure that today you will be hearing and witnessing many stories in support and against this bill, but I'd like to share with you how real the implications of your decision are for my family.

I am a local girl - born and raised in Kailua. I left home for seven years only to return as a single mother because I wanted to raise my child in a culture and place that respected diversity and demonstrated aloha. As a student affairs professional, I have worked at three local higher education institutions; in every role that I have served, I have strive to demonstrate and cultivate an atmosphere of respect and inclusion for my campus communities and student populations.

Several years ago, I met the woman who has become my partner in this life and my wife. Amanda currently serves as the Director of Compliance at UH Manoa. Originally from Australia, she has been in Hawaii since 1996; recruited as a student-athlete and pursuing her bachelors and masters studies, she has made a home and a life for herself in our state. She has served in some capacity in the Athletics Department since her arrival to Hawaii, but has not yet been able to get a green card. Australia has a lottery system for green cards and, despite regularly entering the lottery, she hasn't had the "luck of the draw".

Since meeting Amanda, she and I have built a life together in this place that we call home. Our daily life is filled with the daily reality of raising our 8-year-old son, Kaleo, who attends Liholiho Elementary where I serve on the School Community Council; going to soccer practices and games which Amanda serves as coach and referee and any other role that needs to be filled on any given day; both Amanda and I go to our offices and serve our college students to the best of our abilities - doing what we can to foster their growth and development and belief in the "anything can be accomplished" philosophy because we know that our students are capable; we pay our bills; we go to the library; we cook our meals; we connect with our friends and our families; we advocate and educate; we do what we can to ensure that we leave our little corner of the world a better place than it was when we arrived here. We don't ask or care what happens in the bedroom - or any other intimate space - of our neighbor ... much less any other stranger that we encounter in our daily lives. And we expect that same respect to be reciprocated.

We are responsible and capable adults who are able to make decisions for our life. We hold our own beliefs and morals and we don't require anyone else to buy into them. We respect that others have differing opinions on life and how to live it. But the opinions of others should not have the power to determine the legitimacy of our family. The spiritual or religious beliefs of others do not have the power to do so either. I was raised in a Baptist school and the Catholic church; I know many faces of God. But I also know that the foundational tenet of Christianity of FREE WILL. The very nature of disputing the freedom to marry is in contradiction to the fundamental beliefs of the religious argument that so many are putting forth against marriage equality.

All of that aside, marriage equality is a civil right - not a privilege of the majority. Had the opinion and the right of the majority determined the rights of the minority, I might never have been born. You see, I'm the product of an interracial marriage. It wasn't that long ago when it was determined that the mixing of races was detrimental to society and religion and the foundation of this world as we know it. None of that was true. And it isn't pertinent now to same-sex marriage either. At the end of the day, who I lie down to, who I've committed my life and myself to, who I fight the daily battles of life and raise my child with doesn't affect the choices made by any other family. But the choice of passing this bill DOES affect our rights and ability to continue life as equal citizens. Most immediately, without the passing of this bill, I will STILL NOT be able to sponsor my wife for a green card because we will not be the federal rights and responsibilities to a heterosexual couple.

Seriously, is the most persuasive argument put forth against my marriage to my wife that one of us doesn't have a penis? Yes - that is a ridiculous and stupid argument. But, when you whittle away the pretty language and the religious justifications that the opposition of SB1 is putting forth, that is the crux of their argument.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: [Elizabeth Seiffert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:36:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Seiffert
636 University Ave
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Alisa Vongsy-Banouvong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:38:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alisa Vongsy-Banouvong
Ilima Hall 637B 2975 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Thuy Nguyen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:39:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thuy Nguyen
1634 Leilehua Ln
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Anthony De Jesus](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:46:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anthony De Jesus
491A Kamalu Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Heidi Cramer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:52:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Heidi Cramer
1200 Kauhikoa Rd
Paia, HI 96708

From: [Audrey Litke](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:58:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Audrey Litke
968 Waiono Place
Kihei, HI 9673

From: [james clawson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:05:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

james clawson
2463 kuhio ave
201
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Marti Townsend](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:05:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marti Townsend
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Katie](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay marriage
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:35:23 PM

I am a 51 year old professional female who lives and works in the kau district on big island- I am in favor of marriage rights to gay/lesbians- we care for your health, we teach your children, we worship under the same God- I would not deny your family the right to access health care, education- please allow me the same right as I afford you- I am fully capable and able to choose who I love- and who I choose to share my life with. Marriage between a man and a woman solely is a thing of the past- like it or not- I am marrying my girlfriend- I have been married and divorced, and I am the healthcare professional that may someday save your life- accept this or not- this is the reality of our times-

Thank you

Katie louise

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jaushlyn Mansinon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:36:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have been with my partner for 5+ years and we are expecting our first son. Without the recognition of marriage equality, if something happens to myself or my partner, no rights are guaranteed legally to either of us to take care of our son.

Those of us in same sex relationships know where we're welcomed and where we're not. We're not asking for marriage equality so we can sue Church's for not allowing us to have our ceremonies in their church. It's Hawaii...we have no problem getting married under the beautiful blue sky at a park or on the beach. The place of where we get married isn't the #1 priority on our list. Our #1 priority is our family and our loved ones.

Could you imagine not being able to marry the person you love and have devoted your life to because the Government, YOUR Government, says you can't. "You're lucky you live in the United States of America" is an expression we often hear. Yet, when I think of OUR America, I unfortunately do not see the freedom they see. I see the restrictions set by our Government when it comes to the one thing that us as humans always want - to love someone wholeheartedly and join them in a journey of forever together.

We are not asking for preferential treatment. We're only asking for equality...to be treated and afforded the same rights that everyone else receives.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality. My family and other families in the same situation, are depending on it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jaushlyn Mansinon
876 Curtis St
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Marion Poirier](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:38:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marion Poirier
95-584 Naholoholo Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Judy Schmidt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:44:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judy Schmidt
100 Hau'oli st
310
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Bernard Nunies](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:46:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bernard Nunies
725 Kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Norallynn Schubert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:45:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am the mother of four children, one of whom is a proud, out, and active member of the LGBT community. My children are all equal to me and they should be equal under the laws of our state. My three daughters have protections and benefits under the law but not my son because he is gay. I am equally proud of all of my children and expect that that the laws of our state and nation to afford each of them equal protections, opportunities, benefits, and support. My son should not have to live in another state in order to have equal protections under the law.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, my daughters can enter into marriage but my son cannot. A civil union is not equal to marriage.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. In my family, my son's coming out publicly in a national forum has given strength to others in our family to be true to themselves and come out with the support, acceptance and understanding of family. My son's coming out has also enhanced the dialogue in our family for openness and acceptance which has not been an easy task. My maternal and paternal family have very strong ties to the Catholic Church. My mother, aunts, and cousins are alumni of Sacred Hearts Academy and my father, uncles, and cousins alumni of Saint Louis High School.

Religion is a personal choice. Marriage equality is a civil right. While many of the churches here in our state and nation do not support marriage equality, Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church has acknowledged that "We have learned much about homosexuality in recent years. We now know that being gay isn't a choice, but something one is born with. If our Lord decides that someone should come into this world a certain way, who are we to judge his choice?" The churches do not represent or speak for the law but they do speak for a vocal minority in our nation, many of whom strongly believe that one group is more deserving of protections under the law than another. These churches speak for themselves and their beliefs. Civil rights are not beliefs. Marriage equality is not a belief. Marriage equality is a Civil Right.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Many of the marriages here in Hawaii would have been illegal prior to the Loving v Virginia decision, including many in my own family and possibly your own. Marriage, as acknowledged by our government, comes with legal protections, benefits, responsibilities and opportunities. The government should not have two tiers of consenting adults where one group is afforded legal protections and the other not. The government does have a responsibility to ensure equal protections under the law to all of its citizens. Denying marriage equality to our gay community is the government denying equal protections and keeping our gay community in a second-class tier. That is not acceptable, it is not pono, and it is not just.

I have grandchildren and hope to see the day when I also have great-grandchildren and they are each equal to me

and I expect they will have equal protections under our laws. It is time for Hawaii to ensure that our generations of today and tomorrow are treated with equality under the law regardless of whether they are "straight" or gay. For Hawaii to not legalize marriage equality is to say that we in Hawaii have our family and communities in first-class and second-class tiers. That is not acceptable in any ohana and is not acceptable in our state.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noralynn Schubert
1722 Makiki St. Apt. 504
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: allen.yamashita
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:48:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The upcoming marriage equality bill is an important opportunity to demonstrate leadership in social equality here in Hawaii. As the US Supreme Court has already debated and determined, the institution of marriage is an important covenant to be shared -- regardless of race, gender, religious persuasion, political affiliation, or yes, sexual orientation. Bigotry, in any shape or form, should not and cannot be condoned or practiced in a great society such as ours; one striving to evolve into a more competitive, progressive and enlightened state.

Help continue to promote tolerance, inclusion and diversity. Please, cast your vote on the right side of history.

allen.yamashita
66-1434 Puu Hulululu Rd
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Patty Gorski](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:52:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patty Gorski
165 Fraser
11c
L?na'i city, HI 96763

From: [Rev. Kerry Grogan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:00:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a clergy person, I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.
The law allows for religious freedom and extending equal rights to all does not take away anyone's religious freedom.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Kerry Grogan
610 Uluoa St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Richard Taylor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:06:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Richard Taylor
922 Kaahue Street
United States, Commonwealths and Territo
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Matthew Yoshida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:13:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

When West Virginia's long serving senator Robert Byrd died in 2010, his obituary stated, "Of the record-setting 18,500-plus Senate votes Byrd cast, he said his biggest regret was opposing the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a landmark law that brought down barriers for black Americans." Today our country is unquestionably moving toward achieving marriage equality in the near future. As our society moves beyond its prejudice against our LGBTQ community, any justification for opposing this move toward equality will fade and be replaced by the same regret that haunted Senator Byrd for half of his life.

Please do what is right and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Matthew Yoshida
2950 Ala Ilima St. apt 702
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Phillip Timmons](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:29:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phillip Timmons
Evelyn In
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Neil Vonhof](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:42:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Neil Vonhof
1209 W Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Ralph L Heidenreich](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:48:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ralph L Heidenreich
1234A Saint Louis Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Dane Anderson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:52:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as any legally married heterosexual couple – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. The right to marriage should not be denied simply because it is a gay couple instead of a straight couple seeking to be married. Furthermore, allowing gay couples to marry positively supports the many families and friends of those who are gay as well as the children in those loving families. Marriage equality will also boost Hawaii's economy.

Opponents argue that this issue should be left to a vote by the people. But advancements in civil rights would have never been achieved for any minority group if those rights were left to a popular vote.

As an elected leader who has the power to stand up for what is right and protect minorities, please do the right thing and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dane Anderson
2029 Nuuanu Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96817

October 23, 2013
Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

I urge you to support marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Like all people, gay and lesbian couples want to marry because of love, commitment, and the desire to build a strong `ohana. It is only right that they be given the opportunity to share in the freedom to marry. The government should not be in the business of telling anyone -- gay or straight -- that they can't marry the person they love.

Please, stand on the right side of history.

Mahalo!

Joseph Savino
PO Box 390
Kaumakani, Hawaii 96747
Kauaiboy4200@aol.com

From: [Beth Anderson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:56:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

It is time to stop discriminating and to treat everyone as equal under the law.

Beth Anderson
234 Pauahilani Pl.
Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha Mai Kākou,

My name is Kedan Frank and I write to you today to show my strong support of SB1. I also would like to give my warmest mahalo to the committee for their consideration of this bill.

I personally believe that I am an honest and true person that does my best to better myself and my community. Not only am I a tax paying citizen that works full time but I also spend a tremendous amount of time volunteering as both a Board Member and Camp Leader for C.R.E.A.T.E One 'Ohana (a Non-Profit Organization that helps LGBTQI and allied youth right here in Hawai'i)! As an active member of the community I feel that it is only fair that I be given the same rights as my heterosexual neighbors, co-workers, friends and family.

SB1 represents more than just a piece of paper to me. As a Native Hawaiian I have been taught that my culture accepts me for who I am. To have the same recognition and rights on the State's level would be absolutely amazing. I have been in a committed relationship with my partner for almost nine years. Everyone knows us as loving couple that would be willing to do whatever is necessary to help a person in need. That is why I ask you today to take a deep look into your hearts and show us compassion and kindness. What does our love have to do with anyone else but us? We live together, have a car together, pay bills together and one day hope to raise children together. With all that being said, I only feel that it is right to recognize us as one unit together.

I personally hope that you will take my testimony into account and the many others that I am sure you will be receiving. It's 2013 and it is definitely a time for a change, a time for progress and a time to show acceptance for all of Hawai'i's people.

Mahalo for your time,

Kedan Frank

From: [Terea Macomber](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:57:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Being from Las Vegas where marriage ceremonies are overseen by terrible Elvis impersonators, conducted in drive-thrus, or even held at a strip club; I am aware of what damage can be done to the institution of marriage. One's sexuality is not one of them.

I've always seen Hawaii as a place of unity, generosity, and 'ohana. Nature's forces came together and created these beautiful islands; the generous rainfall and tropical temperatures allowed for a beautiful array of plants and animals which should all be reflected in society.

Inhibiting couples to get married because of their sexual orientation is just as an offense if the government was still keeping different races from marrying. If this was still true, my Mom(black) and My Dad(white) would never have married and we all know where I would be...non existent.

I look forward to being witness to your history changing decision supporting Equal Marriage. Thank You.

Terea Macomber
PO Box 22651
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: [David Schlicher](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:14:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is David Schlicher, and I serve as the pastor of Makawao Union Church on Maui. I am writing in strong support of SB 1, though this letter reflects my views, and not those of the congregation I serve. Thank you for the chance to provide this testimony.

Before moving to Maui, I had the honor of officiating at five same-sex weddings in California during 2008. One was between two men who had been together for 26 years. I remember how moved they were to receive legal recognition for their long-standing commitment to each other. Another was between two women who were raising their infant daughter. It was a delight to marry her two mommies, and by doing so make available the protections that the state provides for families.

All families face the same challenges in our day, no matter the gender or sexual orientation of the parents. The tax advantages, parental rights, and inheritance rights support our families in the difficulties of these times.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. The Supreme Court has ruled that it so fundamental that even incarcerated individuals cannot be denied it. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I have heard some state representatives say that we should “let the people decide.” It sounds so very reasonable, and isn’t that the way democracy works? And yet, history shows time and again that the majority does not reliably defend minority rights. As Americans, we are bound by law and a constitution and it is inappropriate put fundamental rights up for a vote. I would urge you therefore to oppose any constitutional amendment on this issue.

I also urge caution in modifying the exemption for churches and religious institutions lest we codify discrimination. The current provisions in the civil unions law, to me, strike a delicate, but necessary balance. While no religious leader should ever be required to officiate at any wedding, churches that make money from hosting weddings should continue to be treated as public accommodations. Some further clarification of what it means to be in the “business” of performing weddings, however, would be warranted.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Schlicher
1465 Baldwin Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [James Kuloloio](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:13:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Passions run high on both sides of this very important issue. Religion aside, the way I see it is that it is both the state and federal governments and not any religious institution that is the issuer of government benefits. The federal government does not recognize Hawaii's civil unions nor any domestic partnerships thus it specifically affords married heterosexual couples only with exclusive access to those benefits. This is discriminatory towards same-gender couples who wish to be treated with equal respect according to the U.S. Constitution. The time is now. Let us all live with Aloha and embrace our LGBT community, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and truly welcome everyone who wish to be married in Hawaii.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality/equity for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Kuloloio
35 Iliau way, 15C
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Gary Passon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:32:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gary Passon
1390 S. Kihei Rd
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Rev. Elizabeth Anderson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:32:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Elizabeth Anderson
114 North Kuakini #208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, HI 96817

From: [Kevin Cochran](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:36:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a licensed mental health professional in the State of Hawaii, as well as the son of a gay father, this is a topic that is close to me. I've witnessed the pain of my father who has not been able to marry his partner of 29 years, and I can not think of one good reason why these two loving men should not be able to enjoy the same benefits that are afforded to me because I am straight. Furthermore as a professional I have seen first hand the negative impact that not having the right to marry has on gay and lesbian couples. It's senseless and cruel, and needs to be rectified. I'm requesting that you pass SB1 and add Hawaii to the list of states that are standing up for equality and decency. It is time to show ALL of Hawaii's residents our aloha.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Cochran, MS, LMHC

Kevin Cochran
P.O. Box 551723
Kapaa, HI 96755

From: [Hayley K. Ham Young-Giorgio](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:09:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am a married mother-to-be from Kauai - "straight" if it matters - writing in support of SB 1.

I see relationships and connections as natural occurrences in life and believe each person is entitled to surround themselves by the people they establish those strong connections with. I don't see marriage being a violent act and find it unreasonable to not allow two people, regardless of sex, to be united by marriage.

I don't believe I am any better than any other person based on sexual preference and don't see the purpose in condemning same-sex marriage from society. Homosexuality naturally occurs in many species; and religious insecurities should not be the basis of government. Why not be humble to accept that homosexuality is natural for the human race as well? Why continue trying to hide it?

I believe you are all evolved enough to make this logical decision. Lets pass this bill and move on to real issues like improving education and sustainability within our islands...

Hayley K. Ham Young-Giorgio
PO box 1669
Hanalei, HI 96714

October 18, 2013

State of Hawaii Legislature,

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of Hawaii's Marriage Equality Act of 2013. This is the time we as humans must rise above individual bias and notions of right and wrong. This act is not about proving any group of individuals right or wrong. This special legislative session is about coming together to respect and protect the rights of all people.

Arguments gay marriage will harm the family, is not God's will, is not nature's law, or condones a particular life-style are possibly the most grotesque misinterpretations of the human culture. A cursory review of the historical and culture presence of homosexuality easily disproves any of these points. In truly accepting and supporting cultures homosexual individuals have been respected, supported, and contributed to the overall health and wellbeing of the culture.

It is unfortunate that a group of individuals is not provided the same civil rights of the majority. Today's meeting is a natural progression and recovery from the harm created by those that found it necessary to deprive minority rights. People thought it was crazy when women were allowed to vote. Well things seem just fine and 2016 may bring us our first woman President of the United States.

Today is not about making a decision. It is about correcting the misnavigation of our past political ancestors. The world is allowing us the opportunity to do what is required of us legally assure civil rights begin and continue for all people.

Today I ask you to put away your personal bias. Put away your ego. Put away your prejudice. Bring your compassion. Bring your ethics. Bring your gumption to do what is right. Assure the world and the State of Hawaii become a better place.

Mahalo,

Beau Laughlin, M.S., BCBA
56 Lauamewa Lp
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Thomas Tizard](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:13:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First, let me state that I am straight but not narrow, and I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love, AND, I know of none who have broken those promises and divorced!

Heterosexual marriages, however, are in deep trouble -less than 50% of cohabiting couples ever marry, and more than 50% of those who do, subsequently divorce! These 'traditional" marriages need to be saved, and should be the focus of the groups that are wasting their time trying to deny marriage to others.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. It's good for our people, good for our economy, and good for the possible children (who, incidentally, are better-adjusted than children of heterosexual marriages!).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Tizard
564 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Beth Evesong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: 32 year same sex relationship for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:15:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are in support of SB 1.

I am in a relationship of 32 years with my partner. Because we are both women we could not get married legally in our home state of Hawaii. We got legally married in California. It is time for Hawaii to show aloha to all. Don't make same sex couples leave their home to get legally married. We live aloha here in Hawaii. We are an accepting state. Let's bring marriage equality to all Hawaii's citizens.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Beth Evesong
PO Box 4484
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [William Musick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support for SB1 - Justice Delayed is Justice Denied
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:19:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of SB 1.

"Justice delayed is justice denied"...This concept of traces its roots from the ethical and moral principles of the rabbinic literature of the first century BCE, reappears in the Magna Carta in 1215, and in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail", smuggled out of jail in 1963. Legislators wishing to further delay a decision on this question using smoke screens related to concerns about the validity of a special session or wanting to submit the issue to a vote of the people are simply attempting to delay the inevitable, which effectively prohibits Hawaiian citizens and their families from accessing rights provided to them in the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year in *United States v. Windsor*. We've seen far too many occasions in recent years of legislatures "kicking the can down the road." Please do the right thing and make a decision now, and then move on in the upcoming legislative session with all of the other important issues facing our StatePono kaulike!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Musick
2130 Haena Dr
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [JOSEPH FONDEUR](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:31:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JOSEPH FONDEUR
84-740 KILI DRIVE
APT. 630
WAIANAE, HI 96792

From: [William Schmidt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:36:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Schmidt
Kukui St
202
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Henry Horton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:29:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

As a 77 year old gay man, 15 year resident of Hawaii island I want to live in a state that recognizes marriage equality. No religion grants marriage licences or divorces. These are civil contracts and dissolutions of same. Since legal marriage is therefore a civil NOT a religious issue the whole thing boils down to equal rights under the law. Please bring Hawaii into the 21st century. Doma is dead. Na mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Henry Horton
PO box 1802
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Bradford Lum](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:42:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bradford Lum
1611 Keeaumoku #202
1611 Keeaumoku Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96822

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Testimony of Marilyn B. Lee in favor of SB1

October 23, 2013

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee,

I speak in strong support of SB 1, which will allow same sex marriage in the State of Hawaii. This action is more than long overdue, and the findings of the Hawaii Supreme Court over 20 years ago that there was no reason to deny marriage to same sex couples, have been validated by subsequent studies.

It is unfortunate that our State has taken so long to recognize such marriages, but when the Supreme Court struck down DOMA earlier this year, it became imperative that the Legislature act.

I am confused by the objection of some churches to this change in our law. We should not let certain churches dictate to the government the legal meaning of marriage, and I do not believe there needs to be any expansion of the public accommodations law, as it was written in the Civil Unions Law.

As for a constitutional amendment, I believe Civil Rights should never be put to a vote, and congratulate the Senate on their strong stand on this issue.

Lets allow Hawaii to join the worldwide movement towards recognition of marriage equality, and show we are truly the Aloha State. I understand that some of you have been severely criticized for your intention to vote yes, but please be aware there are many out there that will think of you as Heros and Heroines when SB 1 becomes law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Much Aloha,
Marilyn B. Lee
95-170 Newe Place
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: sunshinetopping@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:48:47 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sunshine Topping	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I absolutely agree with marriage equality. I think if two consenting adults love each other, they should be able to enjoy life as a married couple. It is sad that in this day and age we are able to legally sanction prejudice against a basic civil right.

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

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From: [June Dillinger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:01:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

June Dillinger
3150 Charles Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: blythecsk@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:03:27 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Blythe Stephens	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My life, and the lives of countless friends, is directly affected by this measure. My partner and I currently have a Civil Union, which has been a good step in the right direction, but this puts us in a strange grey area in terms of the law, and allows us to slip through the cracks in odd and discriminatory ways. Our Civil Union affords us all the same rights at the state level (making arguments against equal marriage particularly nonsensical, since virtually nothing will change in this state when marriage is extended to all couples), but none at the Federal level. Thus, last year I filed my taxes as "married" in Hawai'i, but "single" for federal taxes. What a slap in the face! But more than that, now that I am employed by the State of Hawai'i, I completed my new tax forms (W-2, etc) to reflect my different statuses, but the "system" (computer system?) can only recognize one marital status, so I had to choose one. I chose "single" since taxes will be withheld at a higher rate and I can then expect a return, rather than having to pay at tax time, but it really hurt me to claim to be single when in fact I am not. I am deeply committed to my partner and once I graduate with my MFA from UH in 2015, we hope to adopt children. It is important to us that we be a legal family by that time, both to celebrate our love and to give protections to our family. We deserve the same rights as loving couples who happen to be straight! Hawai'i is the Aloha State and we should be leaders in recognizing love between people and affording equal rights! Let's stand on the right side of history and pass SB 1! Mahalo nui loa, Blythe Blythe Stephens

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

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

From: [ROBERT KAKALIA](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:08:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My civil union partner and I are writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

We have been blessed with families that support us and embrace our lifestyle because we live productive and committed lives together maintaining close family ties.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

We should share in the same benefits and responsibilities that heterosexual married couples are entitled to. We have been blessed by our employers who recognize our relationship and extend those same benefits awarded to heterosexual employees. Our government should do the same.

We were blessed with being able to celebrate our civil union at an Oahu Shinto Shrine where the clergy were extremely supportive of us and our families. We respect the religious right's beliefs but only to the extent that those beliefs NOT cause fellow human beings any harm. Denying my partner and I this right to marry and the benefits that would be made available to us as a result causes us reprehensible harm and shames the very beliefs for which they stand for.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's ohana.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.
Robert Kakalia
Jeron Sambrano

ROBERT KAKALIA
94272 Kahuawai St
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: [Doc Wilson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:08:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Doc Wilson
pob 659
POB 659
Kaaawa, HI 96730

From: [Virginia Cantorna](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:11:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am in strong support of Marriage Equality. I am a licensed psychologist, registered nurse, Christian church board president, and have gay clients, friends and family members.

I had two gay friends who were long-time partners. One was admitted to the intensive care unit fighting for his life. The other was forbidden to visit and disallowed to make medical decisions for his partner because he was "not family." Imagine someone else, such as a parent who disowned you, making plans for your critical treatment! Stories such as this compel me to support same-sex marriage. I believe in the highest quality of life for ALL people.

Civil marriage will give same-sex couples the same economic security, protections and peace of mind that are enjoyed by heterosexual married couples.

The state and federal benefits include:

- Ability to visit or make medical decisions for an ill or incapacitated partner.
- Access to employer-provided health and retirement benefits.
- Bereavement or sick leave to care for a partner or child.
- Children's access to health benefits and inheritance from both parents.
- Children's right to maintain a relationship with the nonbiological/adoptive parent in the event of the death of the other parent.
- Joint insurance policies for home, auto, and health.
- Access to partner's coverage under Medicare and Social Security.
- The ability to sponsor one's partner for immigration.

I want those who now enjoy a legal marriage to imagine not having these rights and benefits. Unthinkable, right?

Please remember that there are many gay and lesbian individuals who are afraid to publicly show favor for this bill because of the stigma attached to coming out as gay. As well, young children of gay couples do not have a voice in this fight for their rights and privileges. Please be the voice for those who are silenced.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Cantorna
509 Komo Ohia St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Michelle Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:23:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Please vote yes on this bill. It is so important that the state shows its support for equality for all its people and not just those who are heterosexual. Gay and lesbian people deserve to have the same rights in all areas of life, marriage included. It should not be left up to the people to vote on civil rights. Our government has to be a role model for the people and stand for equality as the constitution commands. I truly believe that if we left it to a vote of the people women and people of color wouldn't have been able to vote, our communities and schools would remain segregated, people with disabilities would still be legally kept from working, separated from their communities in institutions and without rules about accommodations and modifications in school and society, and on and on and on. You represent us and we need you to stand up and represent what we stand for. This is the time to pass this bill and I want to personally thank you for voting yes and bringing equality to more citizens of the United States.

Sincerely,

Michelle C. Jones, MA Education
Case Coordinator Easter Seals Hawaii

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Jones
168 elilani street
pukalani, HI 96768

From: [wendy kim messier](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: marriage equality
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:22:52 PM

I am writing on behalf of Charles Hill and Frank Lee.

Charles and Frank are the solid citizens; kind and compassionate people who love Hawaii and work to keep it a place we are proud to live in.

I believe equal rights should extend to marriage for all members of the GLBTQ community in Hawaii.

Wendy Kim Messier

From: [Jim Henry](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:30:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My life partner of many years is 69 years old; I am 61, currently working as an educator who puts in 50-60 hours a week educating the sons and daughters of Hawaii. I don't make a ton of money doing this, but I feel it is part of my "giving back" to a place that has given so much to me. Please treat me as you would treat any heterosexual citizen who similarly gives back.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim Henry
1258A Center Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:58:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a civil right that should not be denied to anyone, nor should it be a ballot issue. Our country is not a theocracy; the separation of church and state must be maintained. I have yet to hear a rational explanation of how permitting same gender couples to marry negatively impacts the lives of others, particularly the lives of those who oppose it.

Please stand for family equality. It is only fair.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg

Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
1721-I Young St
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Keri Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:16:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am making a personal request, that I may be able to legally marry my partner of 17 years. We moved to Hawaii because we believe in Hawaiian values of aloha, ohana, and 'aina. We love Hawaii and plan to live here the rest of our lives. It is very important that we are able to have the state and federal rights of marriage in our elder years, which do not come with domestic partnership.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. This is not about religion, it's about legal rights.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Keri Jones
83-5399 Middle Keei Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: [Kent Hirata](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:20:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB1.

The New Jersey Supreme Court recently remarked that “the state [of New Jersey] has advanced a number of arguments [against same-sex marriages], but none of them overcome this reality: Same-sex couples [in New Jersey] who cannot marry are NOT treated equally under the law today . . . The harm to them is REAL, not abstract or speculative.”

Same-sex couples in Hawaii are likewise being denied a full and equal measure of justice because of Hawaii’s current ban on same-sex marriages.

Of all available options for halting this oppression, SB1 stands out as the one which is supported by the most powerful reasoning and most compelling evidence, is most consistent with the legal protections guaranteed to ALL citizens by the U.S. Constitution, and is arguably the one which is most likely to place its implementers and supporters on the right side of history.

As Thomas Jefferson stated, “No man has a natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another.” He also stated that “the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate [them] would be oppression.”

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kent Hirata
1666-A Lusitana Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ritaryanrdh@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:23:44 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/23/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rita Husted Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support this bill. When Brown vs. Board of Education was passed, as you know, it created an uproar in the Southern states: "Integration is just not right..." "White children and Negro children shouldn't mix; they are separate but equal, and that's how it should be kept..." "I don't want my child going to school with a Negro..." Some people still hold these views. We look at this and think, really? Marriage between same-sex couples, while not an exact parallel to this, is somewhat similar. People are being discriminated against. They are not allowed the same rights and protections as those who are heterosexual. Continuing to deny them creates a hostile environment because it sends the message "Discrimination against you is okay." It's not.

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

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

From: [Carlye Hooten](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:34:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Over the decades, I have had the pleasure of friendship with many gay and lesbian people, including many couples. My experience is: we are all just people!! As recently as twenty years ago, a dear friend (a haole woman), moved here with her African-American husband because it was the most open-minded and least judgemental place she could find. We have long been ahead of the curve in our tolerant and inclusive attitudes. Lets please continue this trend and show the world what REAL democrats are!!

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. There are protections of law that should be extended to all who are willing to commit to a marriage!

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. It's one of the best things about this very special place. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carlye Hooten
Puu Nanea St
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Aaron Gould](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:42:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I were legally married five years ago in Massachusetts. We would love to have our new home recognize our relationship as fully equal to those of our heterosexual friends and family.

I believe that love is one of the defining aspects of humanity and that recognition of marriage is a recognition of one's capacity to love and commit. Therefore, I see equal marriage as a recognition of our shared humanity and wholeness as people.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aaron Gould
700 Richards Street #2304
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY OF MARK J. BENNETT ON SB 1

Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members:

I respectfully write in support of changing the law so as to allow same-gender couples the right to marry in Hawaii.

This would be right, just, fair, and consistent with the ideals and principles upon which our nation was founded.

Some have argued that marriage historically is between men and women. I have no reason to quarrel with that view of history, but that is not a reason to stay with the past. Mores change, as do views of what is just, right, and fair. *History* should not be a bar to fairer marriage laws.

Other reasons advanced for denying same-gender couples the ability to marry are similarly unconvincing to me. And, I believe none counterbalance the interests of justice promoted by allowing same-gender couples the same marriage rights possessed by opposite-gender couples.

Finally, some have suggested that the Legislature should pass the question to the electorate, through a proposed constitutional amendment. Yet, that is exactly what occurred in 1998, when the people approved a constitutional amendment that could have, but did not, ban same-gender marriage. Instead, the people gave the power to the *Legislature* to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, thereby also giving the Legislature the power *not* to do so.

We are a nation and a state committed to justice and equality. Both of those principles would be well-served by changing the law so as to allow same-gender couples the right to marry in Hawaii.

I respectfully urge you to change the law and allow same-gender couples the right to marry.

October 23, 2013

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark J. Bennett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name and date.

From: [Rosalind Cole](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:16:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rosalind Cole
465 N. Kainalu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Shannon Furomoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:17:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Furomoto
12 Waipaa Lane
42-102
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Donald Dole](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:33:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Donald Dole
1109
Kalihiwai place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Alan Cota](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:54:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alan Cota
1825 East West Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Cassandra Matson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:59:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight or any other orientation – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I live in this state currently as a student who identifies as lesbian, and I think it would be a shame for this great state to not extend legal acceptance of same-sex couples. I want to know that if I fall in love, I will have the freedom to marry, and that me and my future partner will have access to all the rights marriage provides.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cassandra Matson
2500 Campus Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Teyah Bair](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:00:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

This personally affects me because I've been in a relationship with a woman for two years and I think it's important for me to have the same option to get married that all of my friends and my siblings have.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teyah Bair
2583 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [ALAN HUIE](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:02:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to urge your support of SB 1. I am the owner of the landmark Crouching Lion restaurant and property in Windward Oahu. I employ over 30 employees. Our restaurant serves thousands of customers each year.

My partner and I have a three year old daughter born in Hawaii. To secure her future and to gain the legal recognition of our family, marriage equality must become law. Our Aloha Spirit and our concept of Ohana are incomplete without passage of SB1.

The constitutional rights of any disenfranchised group should not be subjected to a vote! For those who object to same sex marriages, they are free not to practice it. To those like us who have a real stake in the matter, we will fully embrace marriage equality with the responsibilities and benefits inherent in marriage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ALAN HUIE
2450 Koa Avenue
Penthouse
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Joyce Lam](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:02:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joyce Lam
2123 Puna Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Charlene Vasquez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:11:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I strongly believe that every person should have the right to marry the person they love regardless of gender. No one should be denied the federal and state benefits that come along with marriage. As a lesbian and member of the United States Navy I have lived through Don't Ask Don't Tell and the discrimination that held. When that was lifted myself and fellow military members were overjoyed to be able to serve our country without risk of being discharged. Now with DOMA lifted we have the opportunity to marry the person we love and add them to our benefits. The state of Hawaii has a huge military population and in that there are many lesbian and gay members wishing to get married. This would help our military and civilian residents in Hawaii. As a resident of Hawaii, I hope to someday marry the woman I love. Thank you for your time.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlene Vasquez
1525 Pensacola St
Apt 202
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Noelle Cambeilh](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:16:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noelle Cambeilh
395A Kaholalele Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Marlena Willette](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:43:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marlena Willette
46-259 Kahuhipa Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Arwin De Jesus](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong Support For SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:52:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. My best friend deserves to marry whoever he wants, just like everyone else. His heart is full of love & deserves the right to live his life the way he deems fit.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

P.S.

Arwin De Jesus
4154 Keaka Drive
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Laurence Ramsey](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:01:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Currently, some federal agencies treat some marriages differently, according to what state one lives in. The following agencies use a standard of "you are married if your marriage was performed in a state that recognizes it": the State Department, the Defense Department, the IRS, and more. However, some other federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration will only recognize a marriage if the couple is resident in a state that recognizes the marriage.

I'm hopeful that, eventually, all federal agencies will adopt "recognized where performed" standard. In the meantime, the State of Hawaii is harming some couples by withholding recognition of their marriages. This discrimination should end.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laurence Ramsey
1521 Alexander St Apt 503
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Roberta Kokx](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:06:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to strongly support SB 1.

After a whirlwind three month engagement (and a twenty year courtship!), my partner and I got married in Sacramento, California on October 7, 2013.

Currently, our marriage is not recognized in our home state of Hawaii. We would like this changed.

Please support our civil rights and the rights of other same-sex couples to be legally married in Hawaii.

I believe marriage equality in Hawaii would strengthen families and build a strong community.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Roberta Kokx
21 Hakalani Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Laur Mallett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:09:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laur Mallett
160 keonekai rd
21-202
kihei, HI 96753

From: [Christine Nary](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:11:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christine Nary
91-988 Laaulu st. #A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Karey Kapoi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:12:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Karey Kapoi
1379 Moohele St
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Mark Kadota](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay Marriage
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:33:14 PM

Dear Hawai'i State Legislature,

I am so grateful that you are holding this special session around equality in marriage. I hope you will embrace a just and fair action.

Through out our history there have been different minorities denied equal treatment. Over the course of time we have amended many of these groups rights. Those who have stood up for these rights are the heros of humanity. They have seen through the stereo-typing and prejudices and acted in a brave and heroic manner.

I myself have experienced various forms of discrimination through my life-time. Growing up a Japanese/American on the mainland was challenging. As an adult I have been faced with another prejudice. I have been with my male spouse for 17 years. We have been legally married in the Netherlands for 4 years, as they honor same-sex marriages. He is Dutch and because of our laws we are denied recognition as my husband in our beloved Hawaii.

I hope you will vote in favor of Marriage Equality and keep Hawaii a land of Pono ways and a land of Aloha.

Sincerely,
Mark Kadota

From: [Bernadette Urban](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:38:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

it's not about religion, it's about equality

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bernadette Urban
755711 Lamaoakeola street
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Norman Matsuzaki, jR.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:42:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The Hawaii Bill of Rights should protect the civil rights of all its citizens as well as those of us in the minority who may have a different political, cultural, or religious ideological belief and lifestyle. The legislature's reservation of marriage to opposite-sex couples is fundamentally unconstitutional, because it denies same-sex couples the freedom to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as well as to all the rights and privileges of the institution of marriage.

To reserve those rights and privileges to those individuals or groups different from us subjugates all of us to tyranny and to oppression. It blinds us to our obligations and responsibilities to each other as individuals and members of our community as well as to the common good.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Norman Matsuzaki, jR.
1250 Puu Kipa Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Stephanie Hangai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephanie Hangai
PO Box 235740
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: [KATHERINE AKERBERG](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:59:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

EVEN THE POPE IS ON THE SIDE OF EQUALITY OF PEOPLE.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

KATHERINE AKERBERG
HC2 BOX 6872
KEAAU, HI 96749

From: [Atsumi Haga](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Atsumi Haga
747 Amana St. Apt 804
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Eric Gilliom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:33:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eric Gilliom
30 Ohala Pl
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Shannon Furomoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:06:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Furomoto
12 Waipaa Lane
42-102
Wailuku, HI 96793

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place:Capitol Auditorium

Re: Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to offer testimony in support of efforts to legalize gay marriage in the State of Hawaii.

I have respectfully listened to the arguments stated by opponent to this initiative, and I've found their talking points center around a few basic themes. I'd like to offer my perspective on these arguments for your consideration:

Opponent's Position: Gay Marriage goes against religious beliefs

The statute under consideration specifically states that no church or church official must perform a gay marriage if it goes against the teaching of their religion. Ministers are empowered by the government to perform marriages recognized by the state, but they are not required as agents of the state to perform marriages that go against their conscience. That is how it should be.

The gay marriage issue is not about religious recognition of a relationship, but rather a legal recognition of a relationship. The State of Hawaii does not require couples to marry in a religious context; so likewise, it should not base its decision about gay marriage using a filter centered on specific religious teachings.

Just as legislation should not dictate religious teachings, religious teachings should not dictate legislative efforts.

Opponent's Position: Gay Marriage threatens "traditional marriage"

It's difficult to refute this argument because it's difficult for me to understand its basis. If gay marriage is approved, do opponents expect a wave of straight people to suddenly abandon their inborn sexuality and enter gay unions? Do they expect gays to try to "recruit" straight people into relationships, thereby reducing the number of "traditional" marriages? Again, common sense would indicate that heterosexual individuals who want to marry will tend to seek out a heterosexual partner, and gay individuals will tend to seek out gay partners. The number of "traditional" marriage will remain the same no matter what.

Opponent's Position: Marriage was created to support children and the family

This argument would only hold water if all straight married couples were required to bear children. Yet we recognize the marriages of individuals who are well beyond child-bearing years, and we even celebrate with joy the marriages of senior citizens who find love in their golden years.

However, I consider even childless couples a family – and marriage truly does offer participants support through good times and bad throughout their lives. Married individuals know that there is always someone there to help them through life's challenges, and our legal recognition of their relationship

supports this lifelong bond. When a husband ponders the future, he knows that his Social Security will support his wife after he is gone. A sick wife knows that her husband can legally speak on her behalf if she becomes incapacitated. And both spouses know that they will be able to inherit assets earned over a lifetime together with minimal government interference.

The fact of the matter today, however, is that thousands of children in our country now live in homes headed by same sex couples. Gay couples, and gay families with children of their own (adopted or biological) also deserve these legal rights and protections. If gay marriage opponents are truly concerned about the well-being of children, they should stop worrying about the gender of their parents and focus on ensuring that all families have the support and resources they need.

Opponent's Position: Gay marriage should be decided by a popular vote

Many of those who use this argument would have personally suffered had the same argument been directed at them. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a popular vote may well have inflicted even greater discrimination and persecution than the shameful activities against Japanese Americans that actually took place. A vote to grant equal rights to African Americans in the South would probably not have passed even in many of our lifetimes. And the movement to grant women suffrage faced a long and arduous journey despite what we would today accept as a "no brainer" outcome. While I would hope that a popular vote would, in fact, support gay marriage (as most polls indicate), I am disturbed by the fact that we would even consider the possibility that we would allow mob rule to determine what rights should be afforded to American citizens.

Opponent's Position: Gay Marriage would undermine the sanctity of marriage

There are far bigger threats to the sanctity of marriage than any supposed threat from gay couples. Celebrities like Brittany Spears and Kim Kardashian make a mockery of marriage with their highly publicized marriages and divorces. TV shows like "The Bachelor," "Temptation Island," "Millionaire Matchmaker" and "Trading Spouses" reduce the institution of marriage to game show status. And then there is the internet, which offers sites such as "Ashleymadison.com," a dating site for married people who want to cheat on their spouses.

The biggest threat to the sanctity of marriage is our epidemic of divorces. And if gay marriage were indeed a threat to the sanctity of marriage, one would expect divorce rates to be higher in gay marriage states. In fact, a study by the NBC new affiliate in Chicago found the opposite: divorce rates are actually higher in states that prohibit gay marriage. Massachusetts, the first state to allow gay marriage, has the lowest divorce rate in the country, a divorce rate that has *declined* 21 percent since legalizing gay marriage in 2004.

Opponent's Position: Gay marriage should not be recognized because gay sexual activity is unnatural:

This argument is a red herring and it is just as inappropriate when applied to gay and lesbian citizens today as it was when used to oppose interracial marriage just a few decades ago,. Common sense should dictate that intimate activity between consenting adults should not be a concern of the government, or come into play when discussing the legal recognition of a life-long commitment contract between two adults. As the US Supreme Court noted in *Lawrence v. Texas* "Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code."

Marriage and sex are not mutually, exclusively intertwined (either gay or straight). We assume sexual activity occurs in any marital relationship, but the government doesn't require, supervise or verify it, nor

does it provide prospective spouses a list of approved and forbidden sexual practices. Therefore the sexual aspect of a marital relationship should not be a consideration in this discussion. Indeed, one of the strongest attributes of any good marriage is that it stays intact even after sexual combustibility and/or ability wanes.

The Bottom Line

Hawaii's current recognition of Civil Unions affords gay couples the same rights as married couples in our state. It's a "separate but equal" designation. However, the Federal Government does not recognize this designation, depriving gay individuals of social security benefits, inheritance rights and tax advantages, and numerous other rights that are taken for granted by heterosexual couples. A vote to deny gay marriage in Hawaii is literally a vote to establish a legally acknowledged second class of citizenship because it deny some of our state's citizens the same rights and privileges available if they lived elsewhere in the US.

In state after state, court decision after court decision have all reached the same conclusion that the New Jersey Supreme Court reached just last week (October 18, 2013): The State (of New Jersey) has advanced a number of arguments, but none of them overcome this reality: same-sex couples who cannot marry are not treated equally under the law. The harm to them is real, not abstract or speculative."

I urge you to put Hawaii on the right side of history by approving gay marriage in our state.

Thank You,

Richard Ellis

From: [Montana Rizzuto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:07:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Over the course of my fairly short life, I have met a number of happy homosexual couples that are in love. These relationships are very real and last for a very long time; there is no reason why they should not be treated with the equal amount of respect that heterosexual relationships are given. I have friends who want to have a bright future which can include marriage ahead of them in this state. I have friends that wish to marry, but cannot yet. I have two moms who wish to see their marriage recognized by the state. I wish only to see them happy and treated as equals, as is their inalienable right as people.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for my friends, for my mothers, for those who are in love, and for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Montana Rizzuto
1825 E West Rd
Hale Kahawai rm 413B
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [catherine southern](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:34:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

catherine southern
425 haili street
hilo, HI 96720

From: [Kimberley Haines](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:36:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My personal story is that I was in a committed relationship for 34 years until my partner passed away 3 years ago. We just missed civil unions and legal marriage. I am hoping that for other committed couples legalized same-sex marriage will become a reality very soon. Marriage is a commitment that comes with love and with many responsibilities. Please give us the right to choose who to love and with whom to share those responsibilities. It will make Hawaii richer in many many ways.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kimberley Haines
1060-B Awawamalu St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Tom Piergrossi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 from a married couple who is gay
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:45:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I were married in 2008 in CA, we went through prop 8 and all the hate that stirred up. We are now going through that same hate here in Hawaii. This is a civil rights issue, and is basically a done deal with the supreme court rulings, and the current demographics (younger voters are not as bigoted). The sooner this is decided the soon the hate will go away, my marriage effects no one but me and my husband. It is a non-issue, as doesn't change opposite sex marriage at all. All we want is to be treated with the same respect and have all the same protections any other married couple would have.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tom Piergrossi
PO Box 1868
15-1467 8th Ave
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [Raymond Dallou](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:46:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raymond Dallou
RR2 Box 4529
Pahoa, HI 96778

Testimony from Barbara Polk in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights, for the hearing before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to be held October 28 at 10:30 am in the State Capitol Auditorium.

I regret that I will not be available to testify in person.

October 24, 2013

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM Barbara Polk

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

I was in my teens and living in the South in the mid-1950s. At that time, many states still banned marriage between people of different races. I remember the arguments then—that inter-racial marriage was opposed by God, that inter-racial marriage would destroy marriage, would be the end of civil society, etc., etc. Of course the dire predictions did not happen, and today, as we look at the dynamic mix of people in Hawaii, we know that we are the richer for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to rule those laws unconstitutional. And today we recognize the arguments made against inter-racial marriage as bigotry, pure and simple.

Yet today we hear those bigoted arguments again, opposing marriage for same sex couples, seeking to deny fellow citizens full equality in our society and the right to marry the person they love. Do not bow to these voices—they have not served us well in the past and do not now. Your responsibility as a State Senator is to protect and provide equal rights for all. Please vote Yes on SB 1.

From: [Gail Nishimura](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:52:11 PM

To: The Senate, The Twenty-Seventh Legislature Interim of 2013, Committee on Judiciary & Labor

SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Senators:

I wish to voice my opinion on this subject. My partner and I have been together for 23 years this year. We are committed to each other and love each other very much. In 2006, we applied for Reciprocal Beneficiary status. We even had a Commitment Ceremony with our family and friends to show our commitment and love for each other! We just want equal rights given to us like everyone else. If my partner got sick and is in the hospital, I wouldn't be able to see her or make hard decisions for her and us. We are still people, we bleed blood like everyone else, we work, we play, we even pay taxes. Married couples enjoy the benefit of social security from their spouses when they pass. Why can't we? It is not fair!!

If you believe in reincarnation, and believe in having a soul mate, well it could be that perhaps you were a woman in your past life and your partner was a man, but now in this life, you both are women! Then you meet her and wow, I know I have feelings for that person, and swear that the person is your soul mate. It's the soul and the spirit that matters, not the body, the shell of humans. Tell the churches to mind their own business and stay out of ours! Don't judge us, only God can.

Come on people, this is our life not yours. We just want equal rights!

I appreciate and hope you vote yes for equality! Thank you very much for your time and consideration!

Mahalo!!

Gail Nishimura

From: [Richard Harrison](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#); [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: Protect our Rights!
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:15:35 PM

Senator Clayton Hee,

My name is Richard Harrison. I am not the most eloquent when it comes to writing or speaking but I pray that I will be able to adequately express what needs to be said in this letter today. I represent the thousands of young men and women throughout the country who are concerned for their future, the future of our families and the future of our posterity. I represent all those people who have always wanted to say something and never have, but today we must rise up and let our voices be heard. We are in complete opposition to the current bill being considered in the legislature of Hawaii! We are concerned for the protection of our religious and moral freedom! This bill is not sufficient in protecting our religious freedoms upon which this country was founded! When Columbus discovered the Americas did not thousands of immigrants leave everything they had to travel thousands of miles away to a land that they had never even before seen? To come to a place where crops failed and sickness prevailed? Risking their lives in war to become a separate nation from their previous homelands? And all for what? Freedom! The founding fathers created the government to protect the rights of the people. This bill does not protect our rights and if you think that Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, or any of the great man who help found this wonderful republic would agree with this bill then you are wrong! How could they when they worked so hard to protect our freedoms and this bill simply does not? How is it that when the government decides to separate church and state that now there is question whether or not church leaders of different faiths should have to go against their own morals and solemnize same sex marriages? How is it that you can take the pledge of allegiance out of schools and impose new government policies upon religious sects against their doctrines? Senator Clayton it is your job to protect us as a people and all of the rights that come with being a citizen of this great country. Please help us by not approving of the current bill. This is a democracy and a small activist group should not and cannot override the voices of the rest of the nation. Protect our rights!

Richard Harrison

America's Future

Richwharrison@gmail.com

From: [Lynn Shivers](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony Regarding SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:07 PM

Aloha and thank you for listening to testimony regarding marriage equality. As a voter, and as a human, I am expressing my **full and unequivocal support for marriage equality**. Ours is a government of the people, not of the church.

I feel strongly that those who love should be allowed to marry the person of their choice. A family member in another state married his same sex partner. Friends in other states have married their same sex partners. They love and honor each other, and have more respect for each other than many heterosexual couples I know.

The time has come to face reality. Marriage is not necessarily a bond sanctioned by a particular church. It is a bond sanctioned by the state. This is a civil rights issue, and unless we want to be a backwards-thinking state, we must stand for the rights of all. I am embarrassed that some wonderful people I know must leave the state in order to enjoy the privilege afforded others.

Mahalo,
Lynn Shivers
Hawaii Kai

From: [Byron Gangnes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Please support SB1 for marriage equality in Hawaii
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:25:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Please support SB1 for marriage equality in Hawaii

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to ask you to support SB 1.

All residents of Hawaii deserve the same dignity and respect under the law.

As the parent of a lesbian daughter, I know the particular challenges that gay and lesbian citizens face. My daughter is a bright, capable and loving person who wants to participate fully in the life of her community. She and other gay and lesbian couples cannot do so as long as we deny them the basic right to live in a committed relationship and to share in the same benefits and responsibilities that come with this.

Susannah was thrilled to be able to marry her wife Laura in Minnesota on August 1, when marriage became available to all people of the state. But her right to equal treatment--and the rights of all Hawaii citizens--depends on our state and others also ratifying this fundamental right.

I hope that you will vote in favor of SB1 to ensure that all families have the same critical protections, and I hope that you will talk with all of your colleagues in the legislature to let them know how important this is to us.

Securing equal rights for same sex couples is the defining social justice issue of our time. Please be leaders in the struggle to finally make those rights a reality. With your support for equality for ALL residents of Hawaii, we can make Hawaii an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Byron Gangnes
700 Richards Street #2310
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Cheryl Nelson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 - Same Gender Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:57:57 PM

I fully support SB1 and urge a YES vote and passage of the bill.

I support equal rights for all under the Constitution...and this includes the right to enter into a legally recognized marriage by all...whether Straight or Gay. We are a nation of constitutional laws. I am a Progressive Christian who believes in the separation of church and state and pray for the courage of our elected leaders to do the right thing.

Thank you. Cheryl Nelson, Volcano, HI.

Sent from my iPad

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

October 25, 2013

**TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

For Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m., Auditorium, State Capitol

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

**Senate Bill No. 1
Relating to Equal Rights**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSON HEE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

The purpose of S.B. 1 is to permit same-sex couples to marry in the State of Hawai'i. The measure would also recognize marriages between individuals of the same-sex performed in other jurisdictions as a marriage in the State of Hawai'i.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) administers certain employee benefit programs for State employees. DHRD supports S.B. 1 because it would provide the ability for State employees with same-sex partners to enjoy equal rights to benefits eligibility.

For example, the State offers wage and salary reduction benefit programs that provide the ability for employees to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain benefits (e.g. medical expenses, dependent or child care, health insurance premiums). These benefit programs must be administered in strict compliance with certain rules and regulations, including the Internal Revenue Code provisions governing cafeteria plans. As a result, employees are eligible to apply these benefits to expenses for their spouse and/or spouse's dependents or children, but not for a non-spousal partner and his/her dependents or children.

As another example, married couples enjoy greater rights than civil union or domestic partners with respect to deferred compensation retirement benefits. Spouses have default beneficiary designation rights and more favorable distribution terms than non-spousal partners. In addition, an employee is eligible for hardship withdrawals to pay for a spouse's medical expenses, but not for the medical expenses of a non-spousal partner.

The passing of this measure would standardize the application of benefits for couples in a marriage independent of gender. The State, as an employer, should provide equal benefits to all employees. We strongly support S.B. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

I have a few family members that this issue is very important to. Therefore, its an important issue to me.

I support this bill. I believe that same sex couples/individuals should have the same rights as anyone else.

Johanna Bugarin

From: NJHawaiiWalter@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:50:56 PM

Honorable Legislature:

My partner and I have been together for almost 18 years. It's time that we were allowed to get married with all the benefits and obligations that go along with it.

This is not a religious matter and has nothing to do with any church. Of course, for most people living in our islands, the most important thing is to start bringing in the money that marriage equality will bring from weddings, receptions, florists, caterers, plane tickets, hotels, etc. We have been taxed enough. Let some of the mainlanders and people from other parts of the world help pay our bills by lowering our taxes.

Please vote for marriage equality. Twenty years is a long time for us to wait.

Respectfully,

Walter Mahr

95-1020 Paemoku Place

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

From: [Soul Dancer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session Bill SB1 - RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:32:26 AM

Aloha Honorable(s) Clayton Hee, Maile Shimabukuro, Mike Gabbard, Les Ihara, Jr. and Samuel Slom,

I am a resident on the Big Island. I am a gay man who is also a monk and social worker (masters level). SB-1 creates equal access to those who seek to enjoy the benefits of being married.

In the spirit of Aloha, accept my testimony in favor of affirming SB-1 to recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex. Make it legal to extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. Make this change effective 11/18/13.

Mahalo nui loa for your leadership, service and passion to support equality.

[Soul Dancer](#)

(yes, Soul Dancer is my birth name).

sd@souldancer.org

Founder: [Soul University](#)

Author: [Pay Me What I'm Worth](#)

[Huffington Post Blogger](#)

[National Personal Worth Examiner](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Facebook](#)

Skype me at souldancer0 (that's a zero at the end of my skype ID)

[Media Kit](#)

Janice C. Marsters, Ph.D.
2675 Hillside Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
(808) 371-8504 • janicem@lava.net

October 25, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT – SB1

**Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m., State Capitol Auditorium
(Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor)**

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: **SB1, Relating to Equal Rights**

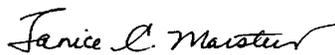
Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB1, Relating to Equal Rights. I commend the Senate for taking up this bill and strongly urge its passage. While I have lived in Hawaii for more than 20 years, I am originally from Canada, where the legal benefits of civil unions have been available to same-sex couples since the 1990s. Same-sex marriage has been legal nationwide since 2005. I feel society can only be enhanced by equality afforded to all couples and families. Some of the best families I know are homosexual couples providing loving homes for their children. I believe this is an equal rights issue, and that the rights normally afforded by marriage should not be withheld from same-sex couples who choose to make the commitment of marriage.

I believe the bill strikes a good balance and appropriately acknowledges religious freedom by allowing that religious entities and clergy are not required to conduct same-sex marriages if their beliefs are in opposition.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB1 and, again, urge you to pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice C. Marsters

From: [Bobich, Joseph](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:24:52 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I completely support marriage equality. It will benefit Hawai'i and it's residents, and I am sure legislation can be crafted to protect those who do not wish to participate in such, PROVIDED THEY ACCEPT NO PUBLIC FUNDS. It is sad to think we have less aloha than New Jersey, a situation I hope you will correct. It will truly, actually harm no one, so please pass it ASAP.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Bobich, Ph. D.
Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus



October 25, 2013

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FR: SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television & Radio Artists)
David C. Farmer, President Hawaii Local
Brenda Ching, Executive Director Hawaii Local

RE: **SB 1 - Relating to Equal Rights**

The attached is our testimony in support of Marriage Equality. Thank you.

Aloha.

Brenda Ching, Executive Director
brenda.ching@sagaftra.org • SAGAFTRA.org • 808-596-0388 (P) • 800-305-8146 (F)
SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
949 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 105, Honolulu, HI 96814
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO



October 22, 2013

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Abercrombie,

As the Hawaii legislature reconvenes to address marriage equality, we are writing on behalf of the members of the SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local to let you know we strongly support the rights of same-sex couples to wed in our state.

Being legally married means everyone is treated the same and allows same-sex couples access to benefits currently enjoyed only by opposite-sex couples. It also sends a strong message of support to young people in our state struggling to live open and authentic lives, but who face harassment and stigma largely because current law is written to discriminate against them.

The members of our Hawaii Local may fall on both sides of the political aisle, but the one thing our great union agrees on is marriage equality. As professional performers whose livings are made based on productions that come to the islands, we also know that marriage equality and non-discrimination policies simply make good business sense.

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, members of the SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local respectfully ask you to fulfill the true spirit of aloha and ensure that Hawaii stands on the right side of history by enacting in favor of marriage equality.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David C. Farmer".

David C. Farmer
President Hawaii Local

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Ching".

Brenda Ching
Executive Director Hawaii Local

cc: Hawaii State Legislature

From: [darci](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:04 AM

October 25, 2013

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**RE: SB 1
Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: State Capitol Auditorium, 415 South Beretania Street**

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Respected Committee Members:

The faith of Christian opponents to same-sex marriage is being challenged in a number of ways by their own doing. For what is asked, will be answered, and what many of us seek, no matter what our religious affiliation or non affiliation, is the opportunity to cultivate peace and eternal happiness. Sadly, in our quest for peace and eternal happiness, who we think we are is treasured like gold over what we really are. So, when others are trespassing on our prized possession, emotions like anger, hate and disgust envelope the silence of our minds and hearts, the silence where we are able to see and hear God.

Anger, hate, and disgust-these are emotional cues that a blessing is at hand for spiritual growth, but in order to receive that blessing, which can be said to be presented either by God, a Higher Power or the Universe, one must first recognize the opportunity. Dealing with difficult situations is never easy, yet it can be the most beneficial if we have the courage to face them head on without fear. Unfortunately, these emotional cues can make one blind and

deaf when the opportunity presents itself, such as is the case with the Christian opposition. Their weapon of choice is the Holy Bible, yet they fail considerably when it comes to following the commands of the very teacher upon which Christianity was founded, Jesus Christ, who spoke of justice, acceptance, and unconditional love. In their fight to preserve the sanctity of marriage, their emotions have blinded them and made them turn a deaf ear to these sacred commands. As a result, without eyes to see or an ear to hear, the blessing, the answer to their prayers, go unheeded; and unaware of the blessing at hand, they continue their merciless, judgmental trek, in the name of their God, to persecute the lowly- same-sex couples and their children- who seek equal treatment and protection under the law.

For justice and liberty for all citizens, I respectfully ask that you do what is fair and honorable and pass SB 1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Aloha,
Darcianne Ernce
Kailua, HI**

From: [Suzy Brown](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Equality is about fairness, not a popularity contest!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:25:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner and I had to fly to CA to get married in July so she could immigrate to the US and stay with me. This was an expensive burden that is not imposed on heterosexual couples. We are grateful that the US Federal Government now recognizes same-sex marriages (per the US Supreme Court decision in June of this year). This paved the way for my Swiss partner to stay with me on Kauai and begin building a life together. Our marriage is recognized by the State of California and the US Federal Government, but not by Hawaii, our home state. This impacts us in every way imaginable. When we buy a house in Hawaii, are we married? When we apply for health insurance, are we married? What about taxes? Do we file a joint federal return but separately for state taxes? Think of all the ways the State of Hawaii treats married couples versus singles. Why should we be treated any differently than other married couples? Give me one good reason! Don't tell me it's because your God says so, because the Truth is my God made me this way! To love is the most natural thing we do as humans. My love is no less than anyone else's. My marriage should be treated no less than others. Even if you have our own religious issues on this subject, this decision must NOT be based on your religious views! Separation of church and state is fundamental in our government and our laws and I expect our elected officials to uphold these basic tenants of our constitution and vote for equality.

Elected leaders should be focused on equality for all, not religious arguments or a majority popular vote. I'm 49 years old now and grew up with religion being used as the excuse for why I would never be able to get married. So, I'm really tired of religion being used to discriminate against a me...something that has been done to minorities throughout US history! Religion was argued to keep women from having the right to vote, then blacks, now gays. I'm also tired of waiting for the majority to vote in favor of a minority. Equality is not something you put to a popular vote. It's about fairness, not a popularity contest!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suzy Brown
Anahola, Kauai

Suzy Brown
PO Box 571
ANAHOLA, HI 96703

From: [Robert Marks](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:51 PM

I support marriage equality

Robert Marks

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Senator Sam Slom, Senator Malama Solomon

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

I will not testify in person.

I have communicated with the Hawaii Senators and Representatives over the summer several times with many of the reasons from Hawaii to provide marriage equality, including the federal tax decision, marriage benefits for military couples, the outcomes for children of same-sex parenting families, and the recent New Jersey court decision.

Then my late husband (we were married in Canada), Bill Woods, started working on this issue in 1989, resulting in the initial suit in 1991, it was to accomplish many of the things that come with marriage equality, eliminating the discriminations that existed.

Over the past decade, many have worked hard to gain non-discrimination in public housing, public accommodations, and employment. It is important these protections be maintained as Hawaii proceeds with the step of making federal benefits and responsibilities available to ALL Hawaii citizens wishing to enter into a recognized marriage.

I support the current version of SB1 as written, which maintains the principle of religion not mandating politics, and politics not mandating religion.

Lance Bateman
3070 Holua Place
Honolulu, HI 96819
Daytime phone: 808-372-5323

From: [Lila Sherman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:17:24 PM

I'm sending this testimony in support of the equal rights for ALL! For equality for ALL! The fact that some people, or religions, are uncomfortable with other's choices – does not mean their choices should be discriminated against!



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

I am a long-term resident of Hawaii, having moved here in 1968 to take a position as faculty member in the psychology department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the past 37 years I have been in a committed relationship with my partner, who was born and raised in Honolulu. We are recognized and treated as a married couple by friends, colleagues, and family. When I retired, we registered as domestic partners, and many state benefits have been afforded us under the civil union provisions. However, we are not eligible for the 1,138 federal benefits offered to married couples because of the State's failure to allow us to formally enter into marriage, even though individuals who have entered into same-sex marriage in other states are now able to claim such benefits.

Marriage has been established as a fundamental civil right in a number of court cases, beginning with those dealing with marriage between individuals of different races and implied in the recent Supreme Court decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act. Therefore, it would seem the State needs to show some compelling reason to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples. The recent television commercial opposing same-sex marriage in Hawaii argues that such action would result in "damaging our people," but it is not clear in what way this damage would occur. The American Psychological Association, of which I am a member, has concluded that there is no scientific basis for denying marriage rights to same-sex couples, in terms either of the effects on the same-sex partners themselves or on their children.

State civil rights laws forbid discrimination along a number of dimensions, including sexual orientation. Failure to extend the right to marriage to same-sex couples would seem to be in direct violation of this precept, since it discriminates against gay couples with respect to a fundamental civil right.

I am respectful of the right of religious groups to define "holy matrimony," but this should have no impact on the right of the legislature to establish the legal definition of marriage for governmental purposes. I strongly support the passage of SB 1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karl A. Minke

October 26, 2013

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Brickward Galutaria
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
Senator Malama Solomon
Senator Sam Slom

October 28, 2013 10:30 Room Auditorium

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer

RE: SB 1: Relating to Equal Rights - Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013- **SUPPORT**

Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Stephanie Batzer. I am a retiree from the U.S. Army, Court Appointed Special Advocate, JD candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law, MSW, and a member of the National Association of Social Workers legislative committee. I have had the great fortune to travel and live across the globe during the course of my adult life, finally settling in this great state for the past 15 years.

Two of my five cousins are gay. The older of the two has been in a committed relationship for the past 20+ years. However, they have lived in states where marriage between members of the same sex is not legal. Each time they have moved, they have had to keep painstaking track of powers of attorney, living wills, and other legal documents. A number of companies have not had liberal partner benefits programs, so they had to set up separate wills and living trusts. I feel in the deepest recesses of my heart that this is simply wrong.

In my time in service, I had the pleasure of working along side many different people, including those who identified themselves as part of the LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning) community. They were not allowed, under Don't Ask, Don't Tell, to publicly identify themselves and then serve. Once we abolished DADT, these service members were then denied their rights to have their partnerships, and marriages, acknowledged and treated equally as it pertains to rights and benefits. Our military is slowly coming around to acknowledge and grant these rights. Hawai'i needs to follow suit. The Land of Aloha needs to make certain that its love and grace do not exclude a good portion of our population.

I echo some of the American Psychoanalytic Association's reasoning in my very strong support of this bill:

- Discrimination frays the human spirit.
- Making committed human connections is good for physical and mental health.
- Forming families, traditional or not, is good for the soul.

- Marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice and the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry.
- Homosexuality is a normal variant of adult sexuality; gay men and lesbians possess the same potential and desire for sustained loving and lasting relationships as heterosexuals, including loving and parenting children. This is supported by hard data, not just opinion.
- Discriminatory marriage laws deprive gay and lesbian couples of over 1000 federal rights and benefits
- Deprivation of these benefits has demonstrable negative psychological and social impact on same sex couples, their children and families.
- Change and adaptation make for a stronger and psychologically richer society
- Same sex couples can teach heterosexual couples how couples in relationships lacking gender based power dynamics often solve problems and make decisions with more respect and mutuality.
- Ending discrimination enhances the human spirit and makes all our lives better. Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals.

I believe in the Spirit of Aloha that is the very core of our society here. I believe that discriminating against same sex marriage completely goes against the very core values of humanity. I believe that we all deserve the rights of marriage, regardless of gender. I ask you to continue to foster that spirit, and to extend that welcome to the LGBTIQQ community.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 28, 2013**

**Hearing on Senate Bill 1
Relating to Equal Rights**

**Statement of Douglas Laycock, Thomas C. Berg, Bruce
Ledewitz, Christopher C. Lund, and Michael J. Perry
(not appearing in person)**

We write in support of same-sex marriage and in support of religious liberty. Senate Bill 1 should be amended to include far more robust protections for religious liberty. Then the bill should be passed. Only in that way will the legislature protect the liberty of all Hawaiians—both same-sex couples and religious conscientious objectors.

The signers of this testimony have devoted much of their careers to studying, teaching, and writing about the law of religious liberty in general, and the religious liberty issues arising from same-sex marriage in particular. One of us is co-editor of the leading book on the subject, *Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty: Emerging Conflicts* (Rowman & Littlefield 2008) (Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, & Robin Fretwell Wilson, eds.). Each of us is employed by a public or private university, but of course our universities take no position on the issues before the Committee. We testify in our personal capacity as scholars. We provide more information about ourselves at the end of this Statement.

We support same-sex marriage. We think that Senate Bill 1 can be a great advance for human liberty. But careless or overly aggressive drafting could create a whole new set of problems for the religious liberty of those religious believers who cannot conscientiously participate in implementing the new regime. The gain for human liberty will be severely compromised if same-sex couples now force religious dissenters to violate their conscience in the same way that those dissenters, when they had the power to do so, used to force same-sex couples to hide their sexuality. Conservative religious believers should not be allowed to veto same-sex marriage for those who want it, but neither should they

be forced to directly facilitate it in violation of their understanding of God's will.

Same-sex couples and traditional religious believers should not be at war with one another. Members of each group seek to protect a core part of their identity from interference by the state. Each seeks to manifest that identity in public practice, not confined to mere belief or orientation. Each is misunderstood and vilified by its opponents—far too often, each group vilifies the other. Each deserves legal protection for its deepest commitments.

It is important to keep in mind that marriage is both a legal relationship and a religious relationship. The profound religious significance of marriage means that many religious organizations and individual believers experience marriage equality as reaching deep into a fundamentally religious institution. The challenge for any bill is to equalize civil marriage while preserving religious control over religious marriage. Senate Bill 1 has not yet accomplished the task.

The religious exemptions in the current draft of Senate Bill 1 address only a small part of the problem. Existing religious exemptions in Hawaii civil rights laws fill another small part of the gap. But many issues remain to be addressed.

I. Religious Organizations

The proposed sections 572-E and 572-F of the Revised Statutes (created by § 2 of Senate Bill 1) protect the refusal to solemnize a marriage and the refusal to provide physical facilities for the solemnization of a marriage. Section 572-F appears to distinguish “solemnization” from “celebration,” and to protect only with respect to “solemnization.” That is, these sections do not even protect churches from having to host the wedding reception.

The issue of solemnization is important, but it is only the most obvious part of the issue for religious organizations. A bill that addresses only solemnization would do less to protect religious liberty than any other state that has enacted same-sex marriage by legislation. Equally important, and far more likely to be litigated, is the issue of *recognition* of same-sex marriages by religious organizations for purposes of carrying out their religious missions.

A religious organization, in the course of carrying out its religious mission, cannot in good conscience treat as married two persons whose relationship fundamentally violates the religious organization's understanding of marriage. Must the pastor provide pastoral counseling for a same-sex married couple? Must a church employ spouses in same-sex marriages—spouses that are publicly defying the church's teaching on marriage? A religious-liberty provision addressed only to solemnization neglects these and many similar issues.

II. Individuals

Senate Bill 1 provides no protection for individuals who provide services to help celebrate weddings or professional services to help sustain marriages. This omission threatens serious harm to a religious minority while conferring no real benefits on same-sex couples. Same-sex couples will rarely if ever actually want such personalized services from providers who fundamentally disapprove of their relationship, and they will nearly always be able to readily obtain these services from others who are happy to serve them.

It is one thing to say that a substantial business, with numerous employees to serve its customers, should serve all comers. It is quite another thing to say that an individual, or a very small business that is essentially an extension of an individual owner who is deeply involved in serving every customer, should have to provide personal services in violation of conscience. The few such owners who object typically believe marriage to be a fundamentally religious relationship, and believe facilitating a same-sex marriage to be a profound personal sin with respect to a religious matter.

It is not in the interest of the gay and lesbian community to create religious martyrs when enforcing the right to same-sex marriage. To impose legal penalties or civil liabilities on a wedding planner who refuses to do a same-sex wedding, or on an individual marriage counselor who refuses to provide marriage counseling to same-sex couples, will simply ensure that conservative religious opinion on this issue can repeatedly be aroused to fever pitch. Every such case will be in the news

repeatedly, and every such story will further inflame the opponents of same-sex marriage. Refusing exemptions to such religious dissenters will politically empower the least reconcilable opponents of same-sex marriage. It will ensure that the issue remains alive, bitter, and deeply divisive.

It is far better to respect the liberty of both sides and let same-sex marriage be implemented with a minimum of confrontation. Let the people of Hawaii see happy, loving, committed same-sex marriages in their midst; let them see (this cannot be helped) that some of those marriages fail, just as many opposite-sex marriages fail; let them see that these same-sex marriages, good and bad, have no effect on opposite-sex marriages. Let the market respond to the obvious economic incentives; same-sex couples will pay good money just like opposite-sex couples. Let same-sex marriage become familiar to the people, and do these things without oppressing religious dissenters in the process. Same-sex marriage will be backed by law, backed by the state, and backed by a large and growing number of private institutions. The number of dissenters will continue to decline, as minds continue to change and as others acquiesce in the new circumstances and in the live-and-let-live traditions of the American people. The number of individuals in business or professional settings who assert their right to conscientious objection will be small in the beginning, and it will plunge still further over time if deprived of the chance to rally around a series of martyrs.

Exemptions for religious conscientious objectors will rarely burden same-sex couples. Few same-sex couples in Hawaii will have to go far to find merchants, professionals, counseling agencies, or any other desired service providers who will cheerfully meet their needs and wants. And same-sex couples will generally be far happier working with a provider who contentedly desires to serve them than with one who believes them to be engaged in mortal sin, and who grudgingly serves them only because of the coercive power of the law. Statutory drafting can provide for the rare cases where these suppositions are not true, such as a same-sex couple on one of the smaller islands that may have reasonably convenient access to only one provider of some secular service. Such cases are no reason to withhold religious

exemptions in the more urban areas where most of the people—and most of the same-sex couples—actually live.

III. Proposed Statutory Language

Another group of scholars, led Professor Edward McGlynn Gaffney, has also submitted testimony. That group includes supporters, opponents, and undecideds on the issue of same-sex marriage. Those of us joining in this statement wanted to be free to emphasize our support for same-sex marriage, so we are testifying separately. Both groups—the supporters, the opponents, and the undecideds—are agreed on the need for more complete religious exemptions.

The Gaffney group’s analysis of potential legal conflicts is accurate. Its survey of what other states have enacted is accurate. And it offers carefully drafted statutory language to reconcile same-sex marriage with religious liberty. This statutory language has been refined over the years in light of debates in other states. It anticipates the range of issues likely to arise and addresses them with care, balance, and attention to the essential rights and needs of both same-sex couples and religious conscientious objectors. It should be added to Senate Bill 1, as a substitute for proposed sections 572-E and 572-F.

The Gaffney group’s language would protect only religious organizations, religious individuals, and very small businesses that are essentially personal extensions of the individual owner. It would protect individuals and businesses only when some other business is reasonably available to provide the same service. It would not prevent even one same-sex marriage; it would not make same-sex marriages difficult to celebrate or sustain. But it would protect religious liberty—also a constitutional interest and one that is equally important.

At the very least, any bill on same-sex marriage should protect decisions about “recognition” as well as decisions about “solemnization.” Proposed section 572-E could be amended as follows:

572-E. Refusal to solemnize or recognize a marriage.
~~Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any~~

Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no clergy, minister, priest, rabbi, officer of any religious denomination or society, ~~or~~ and no denomination, religious society, or religiously affiliated not-for-profit organization not having clergy but providing solemnizations that is authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter shall be required to solemnize or recognize any marriage. No such person who fails or refuses to solemnize or recognize any marriage under this section for any reason shall be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or other civil liability for the failure or refusal.

The more carefully drafted language in the Gaffney group's testimony would be better for both sides—more protective of religious objectors in some ways, more protective of same-sex couples in other ways. It is more protective of both sides because it more carefully attends to the interests of both sides. That language would be the better solution. But if the Senate chooses to work within the structure of the current bill, the amendments just suggested to section 572-E would be a reasonably workable solution and far better than nothing.

IV. Constitutionality

Some legislators have expressed concern that religious exemptions may be unconstitutional. There is no basis for such a fear.

The emerging law of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage is that *government* may not discriminate against same-sex couples. Nothing in that body of law suggests that government may not also protect religious liberty. The Supreme Court has repeatedly, and unanimously, upheld religious exemptions from regulation against constitutional attack. The most recent example is *Cutter v. Wilkinson*,¹ unanimously upholding the religious exemptions for prisoners required by the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.²

¹ 544 U.S. 709 (2005).

² 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc *et seq.* (2006).

More directly relevant here, *Corporation of the Presiding Bishop v. Amos*³ unanimously upheld a religious exemption from the discrimination laws that lets religious organizations hire and fire on the basis of religion. The Court rejected both an Establishment Clause attack⁴ and an equal protection attack.⁵ “This Court has long recognized that the government may (and sometimes must) accommodate religious practices,”⁶ the Court said, and government is free to do so when it acts “with the proper purpose of lifting a regulation that burdens the exercise of religion.”⁷ The Court’s point about legislative purpose is important; the purpose of including religious exemptions is to protect religious liberty. There is no purpose to harm same-sex couples who are granted the right to marry in the same bill. So nothing in the Court’s gay-rights cases⁸ changes its analysis of religious exemptions to protect the rights of conscience.

An exemption may be unconstitutional if there is no burden on religious exercise to be relieved, or if it imposes significant burdens on third parties. But as *Amos* shows, mere loss of access to employment or other affirmative benefits from a religious organization is not a cognizable burden on others. The regulatory exemptions we have proposed leave same-sex couples free to live their lives without imposing on religious organizations or believers, and leave religious organizations and believers free to live according to their faith by steering clear of same-sex couples, neither affirmatively facilitating their marriages nor affirmatively imposing any burdens on them. The language in the Gaffney group’s testimony is carefully drafted to avoid burdens on same-sex couples.

All nine Justices approved of legislative religious exemptions in separate opinions in *Board of Education v. Grumet*,⁹ and in

³ 483 U.S. 327 (1987).

⁴ *Id.* at 334-39.

⁵ *Id.* at 338-39.

⁶ *Id.* at 334.

⁷ *Id.* at 338.

⁸ *United States v. Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013); *Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558 (2003); *Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620 (1996).

⁹ 512 U.S. 687, 705 (1994) (stating that “the Constitution allows the state to accommodate religious needs by alleviating special burdens;” reaffirming

Employment Division v. Smith.¹⁰ And in a case that struck down an exemption because the Court thought there was no burden on religious exercise to be relieved, eight Justices in separate opinions explicitly reaffirmed *Amos*, and the ninth (Justice White) had written the opinion in *Amos*.¹¹ The Senate would act in the highest constitutional and civil liberties tradition if it authorized same-sex marriage and simultaneously protected religious liberty with respect to those marriages.

V. Conclusion

Enacting the right to same-sex marriage with generous exemptions for religious dissenters is the right thing to do. It respects the right of conscience for all sides. It protects the sexual liberty of same-sex couples and the religious liberty of religious dissenters. It is obviously better for the traditional religious believers; because it creates no martyrs and reduces civil conflict, it is also better for the same-sex couples. Because it is better for both sides, it is better for Hawaii. The language proposed in the Gaffney group's testimony would protect the liberty of both sides. We urge you to add it to Senate Bill 1 or to any other bill on same-sex marriage.

Amos); *id.* at 711-12 (Stevens, J., concurring) (distinguishing the facts of *Grumet* from “a decision to grant an exemption from a burdensome general rule”); *id.* at 716 (O'Connor, J., concurring) (“The Constitution permits ‘nondiscriminatory religious-practice exemption[s]’” (quoting *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872, 890 (1990) (emphasis by Justice O'Connor, meaning that exemptions cannot discriminate among faiths)); *id.* at 723-24 (Kennedy, J., concurring) (approving *Amos* and similar cases); *id.* at 744 (Scalia, J., dissenting) (“The Court has ... long acknowledged the permissibility of legislative accommodation.”).

¹⁰ 494 U.S. 872, 890 (1990) (“a nondiscriminatory religious-practice exemption is permitted”); *id.* at 893-97 (O'Connor, J., dissenting) (arguing that regulatory exemptions are not only permitted, but also constitutionally required).

¹¹ See *Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock*, 489 U.S. 1, 18 n.8 (plurality opinion) (approving *Amos*); *id.* at 28 (Blackmun, J., concurring) (approving *Amos*); *id.* at 38-40 (Scalia, J., dissenting) (arguing that regulatory and tax exemptions are generally permitted and sometimes required). Justice White's brief concurrence said nothing about the exemption issue one way or the other. See *id.* at 25-26 (White, J., concurring).

At the very least, the bill should protect “recognition” of marriages, and not just “solemnization” of marriages.

Each of us signs this letter in our individual capacities; none of our employers takes a position on the issues we address. We are available to discuss these issues further if that would be of any benefit. Each of our e-mail addresses is in the Appendix.

Appendix

Douglas Laycock is the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He is also the Alice McKean Young Regents Chair in Law Emeritus at the University of Texas. He may be reached at dlaycock@virginia.edu.

Thomas C. Berg is the James Oberstar Professor of Law and Public Policy at the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota). He may be reached at tcborg@stthomas.edu.

Bruce S. Ledewitz is Professor of Law at Duquesne University. He may be reached at ledewitz@duq.edu.

Christopher C. Lund is Associate Professor of Law at Wayne State University. He may be reached at lund@wayne.edu.

Michael J. Perry is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law at Emory University. He may be reached at mjperry@emory.edu.

From: [Chad Marshall](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:28:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband, Michael Looney, and I, are legally married in Washington State. We have been together in our hearts, minds and bodies as a committed married couple, since 2002. When Washington State passed a Marriage Equality Bill earlier this year, we made it official in the presence of family and friends, and legally married. We moved to Maui in June of this year, excited to experience a life of paradise and Aloha. When Michael went to get his Hawaii ID card, he listed me as an emergency contact. When the woman at the desk asked who I was, Michael stated, "My Husband." She promptly replied, "Not here is isn't." This is not the spirit of Aloha we imagined.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chad Marshall
480 Kenolio Rd
APT 22-205
Kihei, HI 96753



Hawai'i Peace & Justice

2426 O'ahu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.988.6266
info@hawaiipeaceandjustice.org
hawaiipeaceandjustice.org

Nāpua Hō'ala i ka Pono -The Flowers Awaken in Peace and Justice

SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Date: October 26, 2013

To: Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor (Monday, October 28, 2013)

From: Kyle Kajihiro, on behalf of Hawai'i Peace and Justice (*formerly the American Friends Service Committee Hawai'i Program*)

Subject: **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on a very historic bill that when it passes, will help to undo a major structural source of discrimination and oppression in Hawai'i.

For many years, Hawai'i Peace and Justice and its predecessor the American Friends Service Committee Hawai'i Area Program has spoken out in support of the right of same-sex couples to enjoy the same legal rights and benefits of marriage that heterosexual couples do.

Today, we heartily support this bill to undo the legal system of marital apartheid that has existed in Hawai'i and in the U.S. Marriage equality for same-sex couples will improve the quality of life for thousands of our family members, friends, and neighbors who do not currently have their committed relationships recognized by the law of Hawai'i.

At the same time we understand that this bill does not end homophobia or anti-gay oppression. But this law, when it passes, will remove an important legal impediment to legal protection for same-sex relationships, and it will be an important step in our process as a society to unlearn dehumanizing ideologies and undo oppressive structures.

We thank you for your willingness to take up this challenge, to hear the bill that will mark a historic turning point in our islands. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: rstotzer@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:40:42 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/26/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rebecca Stotzer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Rebecca Stotzer and I live in House District 23 and Senate District 11 in Manoa. I am writing to urge legislators to pass marriage equality in the State of Hawaii. As an Associate Professor at UH Manoa who studies issues related to our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) communities, I can say without reservation that same-sex marriage has been found to be beneficial. It is beneficial for the same-partners and their children, as well heterosexual partners and their children, as this type of law sends a message of valuing diversity. Passing marriage equality increased religious freedom by allowing churches who wish to marry same-sex couples to have their ceremonies recognized under the law. We also know that states that recognize marriage equality also boosts to their economy in both marriage tourism and encouraging the "creative class" (both straight allies and LGBTQI people) to stay and create businesses and new industry. Although some mistakenly believe the misinformation spread by people with poor research skills and even worse reputations, some of whom have been brought from the mainland to testify in person, all the truly well-designed research has shown again and again the valuing LGBTQI and protecting their rights reap nothing but benefits for everyone involved. So please, I urge you to pass marriage equality to strengthen the State of Hawaii and help fulfill the promise of aloha. Rebecca Stotzer

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

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HAWAII'S MARRIAGE EQUALITY BILL

Testimony Of Guy T. Nakatani (Deceased)

Offered By Al and Jane Nakatani

Co-Founders Honor Thy Children, Inc.

22 Puuaina Place

Kahului, HI 96732

October 28, 2013

To the distinguished members of the Hawaii State Legislature, we thank you for the opportunity to have this testimony read before you. Before reading this testimony, Al and Jane Nakatani wishes you to know that in this matter, they simply serve as proxies for their deceased son Guy Nakatani. In essence this is the testimony of Guy Nakatani who died in February 1994, at the age of 26, from complications of HIV/AIDS. The testimony reads as follows:

I first sensed being different when I was 5 years old. I remember having warmer feelings toward my uncles rather than my aunts. When I experienced "crushes" it was for a boy, not a girl. At first, I didn't think there was anything wrong about how I felt or was as a person. But soon I began to hear and learn that there was something terribly wrong with someone like me. Over time I would learn that I was a sissy, a fag, a queer, a deviant, an abomination, a sinner, someone horribly abnormal. There were a few times that other kids sensed something different about me and would tease and bully me for being a sissy or whatever. My Mom and Dad never referred to me in those terms, but every so often I would hear them make jokes and laugh at others like me, and I quickly learned that if they knew about me, I would be risking their favor, if not their love altogether. But what Mom and Dad did say to all us boys, was "to never bring shame and dishonor to the Nakatani name" and it did not take me long to understand that by being and admitting I was Gay, I would indeed bring shame and dishonor to our family. By the time I entered adolescence I was so troubled by my "gayness" that I did everything I could to become straight, even to having sex with girls. On the outside I appeared to be happy and well adjusted, but inside I was so confused, frightened, ashamed, feeling alone and hopeless, and having no one or no place to go for help. There were so many nights, alone in the darkness of my room that I cried myself to sleep. Soon I found myself entering the gay world totally immature and unprepared to deal with a broken community of people who themselves were struggling to live a life, a life not always within the context of health and wellness. When I was 15 years old I was sexually brutalized by a stranger at least 10 years older than I. Life after that was a downward spiral and only my closest friend knew how I was living. At age 20 I learned I was HIV positive and remember feeling that after I died, Mom and Dad will have no one.....and who will look after them when they are unable to care for themselves. I had indeed brought shame, dishonor and disgrace to our family. For the next 5 years I did whatever I could to

salvage whatever was salvageable for Mom and Dad. I worked at Nordstrom until I could no longer work and for the remaining 2 years of my life I became an HIV/AIDS educator talking to as many children and youth in the schools that would allow me to do so. When I died, I was but a shell of myself, seemingly a fitting end, as I indeed brought dishonor and anguish to Mom and Dad.

But that was then, and this is now. I wish I can be 5 years old again. I know I would still be Gay, but perhaps today, I would be more accepting and loved as a child growing up Gay. Perhaps whenever bullied there would be others who would come to my assistance. Perhaps I could look forward to the time when educational institutions will teach all of us that all forms of sexual orientation and gender identity is normal; a reflection of our human diversity. Perhaps those of faith who believe in unconditional love will be better able to stand up to those people of faith who continue to define someone like me as an abomination. Perhaps my own Japanese American Community would be more accepting of me and not insist on my being a source of shame to our culture. Today, my Mom and Dad have been transformed and I would be secure in sharing with them everything and anything about how I am evolving as a person. Perhaps the schools that I attend will have a Gay Straight Alliance Program which would provide me the opportunities to meet and gain the kind of friends that I would cherish throughout my life. And most importantly, today I will have more open opportunities to love someone who I may end up marrying.....that is, if we here in Hawaii, become a Marriage Equality State.

Mahalo for listening and hopefully "hearing" what I have shared today. May you find it in your hearts to vote Yes and pass the Marriage Equality Bill before you. For you see, "It Is More Than Just About Marriage Equality, It Is About Giving Hopes and Dreams To Children Growing Up Diverse With Respect To Their Sexual Orientation And Gender Orientation"

Guy T. Nakatani

Headquarters



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

1727 PALI HIGHWAY / HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 / PH: 522-9200 / FAX: 522-9209

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is the largest Buddhist denomination in Hawaii and we have provided spiritual guidance for nearly 125 years. Our Shin Buddhist teaching provides guidance on how to live mindfully with an awareness of universal compassion which embraces and uplifts all people equally without exception. We dedicate our lives to nurturing compassion and we work daily to promote social justice for all people. We believe that the issue of marriage equality is one of basic civil rights and that it is morally just to provide equal rights and responsibilities to loving, committed same-gender couples.

In 2010, the governing body of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii adopted a resolution supporting equal rights for same-gender couples because we believe that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. According to our teachings, gender is not what is important, but rather the commitment and respect that all people, regardless of their gender, brings to their relationship that is most essential.

We believe that religious freedom is adequately protected in this bill. It is clear that no member of the clergy will be required to perform a wedding ceremony with which he or she disagrees. Some religious denominations will perform marriages for same-gender couples, and some will not, just as some houses of worship perform interfaith marriages and some will not. This bill does not change that. This protection applies to all religious institutions regardless of how they are organized or where they worship. Again, it is clergy who will always get to decide which weddings they will officiate. Our ministers would welcome the opportunity to perform weddings for same-gender couples as it affirms our spiritual values.

We humbly ask for your support for same-gender couples having the right to marry as a step towards ensuring that everyone in our society is treated equally and with compassion.

With gratitude,

Rev. Blayne Higa
Chair
Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Musicians' Association of Hawaii

LOCAL No. 677, American Federation of Musicians



BRIEN MATSON
President

JAMES F. MOFFITT
Vice President

STEPHEN DINION
Secretary-Treasurer

October 28, 2013

RE: S.B. No 1

To All Concerned:

The Musicians' Association of Hawaii, Local 677 stands in support of S.B. NO. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

As a labor union we have always stood fast with our fellow Unions in the fight for equal rights for those in the workplace, and we stand with the AFL-CIO, the AFM, and a large number of local unions here in Hawaii, in support of marriage for all people who wish to marry, not "some of the people."

Because LGBT couples are not allowed to legally marry in this state, they are denied a large number of the same rights that opposite sex couples are entitled to, and this is a tragedy for the people denied these rights, as well as for the state of Hawaii, and our country.

We urge you to pass S.B. 1.

Sincerely,

Brien Matson
President



October 28, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Pride At Work Hawai'i, which advocates for full equality and inclusiveness – in our workplaces and our unions – for LGBT workers and our families, testifies in strong support of marriage equality legislation. We stand united with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement both locally and nationally on this important issue of economic and social justice.

Now that Section 3 of DOMA has been repealed by the Supreme Court, the State of Hawai'i's non-recognition of same-sex relationships as marriage deprives thousands of families of the most important attributes of their labor: the ability to provide for themselves and their families. There are more than 1,100 rights and protections under federal law to which only married couples are entitled. Many, such as Social Security benefits and family medical leave, derive from an individual's employment status.

While opponents of working people's interests try to use marriage as a wedge issue to divide our strength, at the heart of labor's support for LGBT equality is the belief that "an injury to one is an injury to all." As Joe Hansen, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, said, "Marriage equality is an economic justice issue, and a social justice issue – and that makes it a union issue."

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Tod Robertson
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: aranyadevi@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:55:52 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/27/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ronja Giesser	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a resident of the State of Hawaii I wholeheartedly support the right of everyone to marry the person they love. Religious organizations may choose to define marriage according their own beliefs. This, however, according to the separation of church and state, should not influence the decision of the senate. Laws should reflect the needs of ALL citizens, not just a select few. Therefore the right and privilege to enter in marriage should be extended to all.

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October 28, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jeanne Ohta, Amy Monk, Co-Chairs
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

Re: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
(10:30 a.m., Monday, October 28, 2013, Auditorium)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing us to present testimony today, in strong support of SB 1 which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai'i's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Caucus strongly supports this measure which extends the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

Establishing marriage equality is a big step to ending the disparity between the rights of opposite-sex married couples and those of same-sex couples. It is a step toward the goal of treating people equally under the law, as required by our Constitution.

Although Hawai'i enacted a civil unions measure, same-sex families still do not receive the federal benefits that opposite-sex families do. In order for same-sex families in Hawai'i to file federal income taxes, Hawai'i must enact a same-sex marriage law. Enacting this measure will help end this unequal treatment by government agencies and employers.

We urge the committee to pass SB 1 with as narrow a religious exemption as possible and we urge the committee to ensure that our public accommodations law is not weakened. We should not let selected members of the clergy dictate to the government the legal definition of marriage and churches should not be allowed to subvert the public accommodations provisions.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. Please vote to pass SB1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: crismhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:02 AM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/27/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Christine McGowan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support marriage equality. I support SB1. I think anything else is a mockery of justice and human rights.

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October 28, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in support of SB1, Relating to Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

The Supreme Court and the Federal government have upheld my fundamental right to marry and access benefits afforded to heterosexual couples by overturning section 3 of DOMA. It is Hawaii's turn to ignore opponents who would discriminate against me by denying me the full right to marry the person I love and deny all the privileges that come with that. It is time for Hawaii to join those states that have passed marriage equality legislation and end this discrimination.

I am a law abiding, tax paying American citizen that should be entitled to the same rights and benefits of every other American citizen. I was born in this state and should be allowed to marry and have it recognized in this state. I have always prided myself on the fact that Hawaii is culturally diverse, been accepting of all ethnic backgrounds, have a strong sense of family and community and is known as the melting pot of the pacific. I am disappointed with our reputation of being the "Aloha" state that we were not one of the initial states recognizing same sex marriage. I encourage our Legislators to do the right thing and pass marriage equality now.

Thank you,
Jamilyn Makaehu

**HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON CLAYTON HEE
HONORABLE VICE-CHAIRPERSON MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR JUDICIARY & LABOR**

**STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1, IN ITS PRESENT FORM,
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS**

Saturday, October 26, 2013

My name is Dan Abrahamsson and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1 in its present form before this Committee.

In November 2000, my long time gay male partner of 24 years died of lung cancer. Until he was diagnosed with cancer, 16 months earlier, we lived a wonderful harmonious loving life together. Just like any heterosexual married couple, we enjoyed our relationship of love, planned for our future and for our retirement at old age.

However, there was a big difference at the end. We could not marry, or obtain the many benefits and privileges that heterosexual couples were given for a secured and protected future in old days, simply because we were a same-gender couple. When my partner died, the property and the assets we both had worked and saved so hard for were taxed much higher and differently than if we had had the opportunity to marry. Because my partner's relatives accepted our loving relationship, I was fortunate to be allowed to care for and visit my partner at the hospital during his illness. I was allowed to arrange his funeral according to his own wishes. I know of friends that did not have relatives who were as tolerant as ours. These friends were not allowed to care for or visit their partners, let alone to attend the funeral of their loved one.

The time has come to stop wallowing in antiquated dogmas and superstitions. Attempts to stop the Marriage Equality Bill have nothing to do with legality; they simply respond to uninformed public opinion as well as political and religious ambitions. Gays and lesbians are equal Hawaiian and American citizens and have a right to enjoy the same protection and privileges as anyone else in the Hawaiian and American societies.

From the bottom of my heart, I implore you to support the SB1 in its present form, which will provide gay and lesbian couples, and their families, with a good measure of equal legal rights and privileges when compared to those of married heterosexual couples.

Me ke aloha Pumehana,

Dan Abrahamsson
1607 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 753-6287

From: [Sachiko Taketa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:35:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My family and I have faced injustices because of our racial background. Why should discrimination continue to survive in this day and age because of fear. Our children and the children of our children should have the freedom to marry the person they love. It is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Marriage is to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, aloha is touted. Our aloha for family and others is priority. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. Have we not learned from history? None of us would want to be told again that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sachiko Taketa
Ala Makahala Pl
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Aaron Toman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: My support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:38:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a citizen of Hawai'i I hope that my words will have an actual impact on your decision for this bill. I was raised in a family that was slightly homophobic, it was just a touchy subject with the family. But in the past couple years, I have become really good friends with a fellow classmate, who only after getting to know me, came out that he was gay. It had zero impact on our friendship, because it doesn't matter who you love; as long as you're a good person. Through him, my family has come to accept the gay community without problems. Even to admit to me that my great uncle had been gay, and slightly outcasted by the family. A fact that I had been hidden from for 19 years. That should not have had to be a secret. Times are changing and I'm hoping that you are on the right side of this battle.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Aaron Toman

Aaron Toman
2629 kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Adrya Siebring](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:19:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Adrya Siebring
5118 Iolani Place
Princeville, HI 96722

From: [Alicia Carveiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:17:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner and I have been happily together for 13 years now. We have 6 children and 11 beautiful grandchildren. My family and I deserve equality in all aspects. We both work hard to support our family that we so dearly love, contribute to society and our communities.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alicia Carveiro
P.O.Box 609
Hanapepe, HI 96716

From: [Amanda Schaefer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:01:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marriage for all, or marriage for none.

Amanda Schaefer
4393 Opana Pl.
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Amy Webb](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:17:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Webb
30 Ohala Place
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Ann Freed](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:11:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This should not be a matter of debate or up for a vote (of the "people") as the Bill of Rights was created to protect minority rights from the tyranny of the majority.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ann Freed
95-227 Waikalani Dr. A403
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Anne Leete](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Please Pass SB1!!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As an attorney, I find it abhorrent that Hawaii's marriage laws do not apply equally to all of our citizens, and respectfully request that you pass SB1 to end the practice of institutionalized discrimination against same-sex couples.

My close friends and neighbors, Kevin and Mark, have been in a loving a committed relationship for a decade. For the last several years, Mark has cared for Kevin's Mother on a full time basis after she suffered a debilitating stroke. Their love and commitment to each other, and to each other's ohana, is truly incredible. Caring for a disabled elder is truly a labor of love. It is truly shocking that they are unable to obtain the same legal protections that my husband I have.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anne Leete
55 Eono Place
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Arnold Abe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:30:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Arnold Abe
35 Iliau Way
15-C
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Anstern Gouveia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:42:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I am queer myself and for many years was depressed by the fact that I wouldn't be able to marry the person I love until I found out same sex partners do get married all the time and they have wonderful loving families of their own. The disappointing fact though is not all couples are treated as equals under the law. I have known too many couples who have been together for 20 years or more and one of the partner's passes away while the other one is devastated not only for losing the love of their life but for also losing everything else because they weren't recognized as lawfully wedded spouses by the state or federal government. Now the federal government recognizes same sex marriages as equals to opposite sex marriages.. it's the same thing it's just marriage.

Marriage Equality is not only about recognizing the love and commitment two people share but the recognition that gays and lesbians are equal members of society. This is an example to be set for the many LGBT youth coming out at earlier ages now that society is evolving on LGBT equality. I am looking forward to the day when kids growing up that identify as LGBT find they can express their love without so much hate, fear and shame being imposed upon them. That they can grow up with similar struggles that their straight counterparts grow up with, not more struggles imposed on them by society.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anstern Gouveia
234 Hanauana Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Arthur Grau](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:53:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Arthur Grau
469 Ena Rd 3110
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Bahiyih Smits](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:09:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bahiyih Smits
820 10 the ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Barb Travis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:03:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of Marriage Equality Act.

I strongly urge you to support the freedom to marry for same-sex couples; like all people, gay and lesbian couples want to marry because of love, commitment, and the desire to build a strong ohana. It is only fair and just that all people be given the opportunity to share in the freedom to marry, as well as all its rights and responsibilities.

I am a practicing Catholic, and as such, I find the attacks by my Church on this legislation both unfair and debasing. I believe in the Church's doctrine of "right conscience," which is rooted in Scripture, tradition, and Church teaching. Using these three guidelines, I have been convinced for many years, that GLB persons have the right to marry and raise a family if they choose. I am ashamed of the bias and homophobia being proclaimed by my Church, which at the same time, proclaims "social justice" as one of their basic principles.

Voting against this legislation is not an act of social justice but rather institutional prejudice. Marriage is a choice and a commitment that is not taken lightly by anyone, but in particular by GLB persons who have had to fight and suffer the prejudice of society for decades, as chronicled in our history books.

No Church, Catholic or other denomination, will be forced into anything they regard as against their doctrines because Section 572 G addresses their freedom to refuse to host such ceremonies or allow use of their facilities.

Therefore, I believe this section is essential as part of this law when it is passed.

We, the people, have given you our input, and we are ready and willing to support this law giving freedom and equality to everyone. We are depending on your intelligence and compassion as representatives of the people of Hawaii to enact the Marriage Equality Act.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Barb Travis, 91-999 La'aulu St. Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Barb Travis
91-999 La'aulu St., Unit F
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Bart Dame](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:08:56 AM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Auditorium

Testimony in Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 1 and end the exclusion of gay and lesbian couples from the full and equal protection of the law.

I started testifying in favor of marriage equality in Hawaii in the mid-1990s. We have spent far too much time already, justifying prejudice and helping politicians dodge and evade their responsibility to support equality. Please, act decisively--at long last-- and pass this bill.

Some opponents of equality have fixed upon the religious exemption language in the bill as a tactic for obstructing passage of the bill or spreading the false impression this bill treads upon the religious freedom of persecuted conservative religious groups. In my view, the language on exemptions is unnecessary, as the US Constitution already provides protections for the private expression of prejudice, whether towards same sex marriage or, for that matter, inter-racial marriage. People have a private right to be prejudiced.

And Hawaii's Public Accommodation laws have a well-established guideline for differentiating between permissible private prejudice and illegal discrimination in providing public accommodations. There is no good LEGAL reason for including these exemptions.

There may, however, be tactical, POLITICAL reasons for including such language and I will yield to the judgment of the Legislature in cobbling together enough votes to pass the bill, even if it requires unnecessary language meant to reassure mis-informed voters that such language provides more protection than they already have.

Please pass this bill and allow our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters equal legal protection, as well as the message we embrace them as full members of our extended ohana.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Bart Dame

Bart Dame
710 West Hind Dr
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Ben Robinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SUPPORT for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:56:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ben Robinson
PO Box 166
APT 1106
Honolulu, HI 96810

I support extending equal rights to individuals who wish to enter marriage to a same gender partner. As a person who recalls the civil rights turmoil of the 1960s, I find it difficult to find the words to engage in “civil” discourse about something I believe to be a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution. I refer to this bill replacing the word “sex” with “gender” since that three letter word tends to make some otherwise rational folks behave with inexplicable agitation. Same gender partners simply ache to have the same rights that opposite gender partners take for granted. They believed it when they learned in school that they have inalienable rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Life is not the same as existence. If that were the case legislators would mandate heroic measures be used without exception to assure that sick or injured folks would not die until medical science was exhausted. Life, in this case, implies that the law recognizes that a “quality of existence” supersedes the concept of life as the mere absence of death. Without this law, individuals will continue to be refused the opportunity for a quality of existence that includes social recognition that is available to every other member of our community who desires this unique experience sanctioning their deep, profound alignment with another human being.

Legislators who endorse limits on liberty are treading into shadowy territory. Such serious laws are only endorsed when one individual’s exercise of liberty infringes on the rights and well-being of another. Same gender marriage does not impose on any other individual’s rights or well-being. It does, in some cases, challenge mindsets that have been indoctrinated from parent to child for generations. So does the concept of communicating with a person via a flat box filled with wires and plastic. How strange cellphone technology would seem to my ancestors. How strange same gender marriage would seem to them as well. Probably as uncomfortable as it would be for them to see members of two distinctly separate races or ethnicities marry.

The objections I hear most often from those opposed to same gender marriage involve expressions of psychological discomfort or religious dogma. Which religious dogma dictates the basis for law in our state? There is none, as it should be. Religious or psychological objections to same gender marriage are neither scientifically based nor are they inspired by the voice of a single Divine being. Although loud, dissenting voices to this bill represent a small, albeit passionate and frightened fringe of our population. Many a fear is born of ignorance and unfamiliarity. The world will not cease to spin, and the firmament will not crash upon us once same gender marriage is authorized. Liberty itself is divinely endowed, in my opinion. Will you consider my religious dogma in equal measure when comparison to the other perspective?

Pursuit of happiness, when not harming the next person, is the final civil right I’d like to mention in my support statement. Ask many a married person what was the happiest moment of their life, and the answer often is “when he/she said ‘yes’,” referring to their partner agreeing to marry the person. The happiest moment of many a life has been that moment of recognition when two lives/hearts/spirits become so aligned that they are poetically referred to as “becoming one”. What arrogance for any person to believe that one has authority to morally dictate who may, or may not, experience that moment of wonder and joy between two consenting adults. What violence it does to those individuals when society dismisses such an experience as spiritually corrupt.

Gay marriage is the 21st century's civil rights issue. It is not a matter for the "voters" to decide. Voters decide what taxes they do (or don't) want the location for new parks, and those sorts of public well-being matters. Voters should not get to decide whether individuals with dark skins get to vote, whether women have the intelligence to express political opinions, or whether partners of same gender can marry under civil statutes. Such matters are for the keepers of our Constitution. In this state it is you who bear the torch. Do not shirk this noble responsibility in fear when a small crowd of oppositionists threaten your public service career. The good you do, the honor you demonstrate, and the integrity with which you uphold your responsibilities will be judged correct and wise by future generations.

From: [Bill Waring](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support for SB1-Marriage Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:28:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting testimony today to urge you to pass marriage equality in Hawaii to put our civil laws in line with our societal values of equality under the law and inclusion versus exclusion.

Hawaii began this journey for our country and it is time that we finish what we started.

To be crystal clear, this is an issue for the Legislature to decide and I believe it is time for you to do just that during this special session.

Mahalo.

Bill Waring
1212 Nuuanu Ave. #1108
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Birgitta Soderberg](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:20:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I truly feel that America has fallen behind on this issue. I have lived in Europe my whole life and my gay friends there have had the rights to same-sex marriage for many years now.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Birgitta Soderberg
60 N. Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96817

Bryson Kaulani Keliipio
439 Kupuohi Pl
Hilo, HI 96720

October 24, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard
Hon. Brickwood Galuteria
Hon. Les Ihara, Jr.
Hon. Sam Slom
Hon. Mālama Solomon

Re: Testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Bryson Kaulani Keliipio. I was born and raised in Kailua kona and currently reside in Hilo. I am a Native Hawaiian Student and a proud member of the student organization P.R.I.D.E. (“People Respecting Individuality and Diversity in Everyone”). My future as a resident of Hawaii will only be strengthened and protected by the passing of this bill. Therefore, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1.**

I write to you as a young gay individual who is worried about his future and the future of others. The bill that is being proposed is one that will only help those who identify themselves as LGBTQ. Many communities support this bill and the only groups that oppose it spring from religious views. These groups bash and undermine our relationships with pieces from the bible that don’t relate to our relationships. These groups use the bible to support what they think is wrong, when the bible doesn’t say anything against our relationships. Therefore, any and all oppositions towards this bill have branched from the bias and hate from religious groups.

What people don’t understand about civil unions is that the people in civil unions don’t have the same rights as people who are married. When people find the loves of theirs lives they want nothing but the best for them. Marriage is the only solution for this problem.

As Hawai’i’s leaders, you are entrusted with the kuleana to do what is pono for our entire community. I encourage you to look into your na’au and consider the peaceful and just world you want to shape for our keiki and mo’opuna. I am confident you will arrive at the same conclusion: that voting in favor of SB1 is the right thing to do.

Mālama Pono,

Bryson Kaulani Keliipio

From: [Camille Rockett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The opposition may use terms like "let the people decide," to disguise their agenda of imposing religious beliefs on fellow Americans, I would like to declare that I am one of the PEOPLE, and I support EQUALITY and JUSTICE for every person who lives in Hawaii and the United States.

While I don't necessarily believe that marriage is the most respected institution in this generation, I believe that if an American citizen wishes to demonstrate LOVE through marriage, it should be their right.

Hawaii has an opportunity to show the world that human rights matter, that people should be treated equally no matter their ethnicity, gender, and no matter who they love.

What we need to focus on is LOVE. ALOHA. OHANA. How do we keep our families, healthy, happy, and able to thrive in this difficult economy? I believe Jesus focused on these things when he was on earth, not on the law and religious interpretations.

Voting for equality shows you care about ALL people. It is a first very SMALL STEP in making life better for Hawaii's families, children, and most vulnerable. We need to continue to move forward in protecting and providing for our keiki and kupuna so that we will continue to have equality in health, happiness, and success in future generations.

Please vote for SB.

Camille Mariko Rockett

Camille Rockett
1926A Huina St
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: camille.yoshiko.copeland
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:06:54 PM

Ho'omaika'i

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

camille yoshiko copeland
pob 223086
princeville, HI 96722

From: [Cara Spangler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:46:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cara Spangler
1801 fisler ct
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Carl Sorrentino](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:04:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carl Sorrentino
3145 Baldwin Ave
#43-202
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Carolyn Golojuch](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:46:40 AM

October 24, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 –10:30 a.m.

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor

State Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

I strongly support SB 1 because:

1. -It's a US Constitutional Right as stated in the June 27, 2013 US Supreme Court Decision;
2. Social Justice calls for respect and dignity of all human beings;
3. Our Hawai`i State Constitution calls for equitable treatment of all citizens;
4. Hawai`i Civil Unions do not qualify under US law for 1,000+ rights of marriage;
5. Hawai`i needs SB1 to continue it's reputation as the land of Aloha;
6. Ancient Hawai`i respected all sexual identities prior to influx of Christian missionaries;
7. 14 other states, DC, some Native American tribes and 15 other countries have legalizes Full Marriage Rights;
8. Lt. Frank Golojuch, fought in WWII for Liberty and Justice for all Americans and his own Grandson doesn't have Liberty and Justice;
9. My husband and I are 48 years married and want the same rights for our gay son and the rest of the LGBT community;

10. US Military LGBT couples are recognized as legal couples and need Hawaii to legalize marriage for them to receive Federal benefits;
11. Our LGBT couples and families are in valuable and loving relationships and need the legalization to qualify for Federal rights, responsibilities and benefits;
12. Those churches that value their LGBT members want to perform wedding celebrations to respect them and it's discrimination to refuse this right;
13. I love my gay son and have worked for 18 years for his and all my other LGBT friends liberty and justice;
14. It's the right time for Justice.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and important legal action.

Sincerely,

Reverend Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

Universal Life Minister, Wife of 48 years, Mother of a daughter and a gay son

Gomama808@gmail.com

--

Carolyn Golojuch, MSW

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71

Kapolei, HI 96707

(808) 779-9078

gomama808@gmail.com

"If more people believed in justice, freedom and justice would be reality." cmg

From: [Cassandra Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:31:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cassandra Wong
98-1034 Moanalua Road #4-104
#4-104
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Cat Taschner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:19:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cat Taschner
4340 Paho Ave #3A
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Catherine Delnat](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:11:21 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Delnat
1060 Kamehameha Hwy
Apt 2402A
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Catherine Ishida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:42:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

To find someone whom you love and loves you back is one of the greatest blessings in life. To enter into a committed relationship rooted in love is one of life's greatest joys and challenges.

If the government recognizes such relationships with special privileges and responsibilities, it should not discriminate against couples for their choice of life partner.

As a person of mixed Japanese and European heritage, I've experienced discrimination on a daily basis living in Japan and on the mainland. I know what discrimination looks and feels like. It pains me to think that here in Hawaii we have continued to systematically discriminate against people based on whom they have fallen in love with.

There is no aloha in denying people access to healthcare, retirement income, hospital visitation rights, etc. and above all the simple dignity of knowing that we are fully welcomed members of society, on the basis of who we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families, gay, lesbian, and straight.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Ishida
126 Kanoelani St
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Celeste Magnani](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:02:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Celeste Magnani
271 N. Kainalu Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Cherie Espinueva](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:49:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cherie Espinueva
129 Kamahao circle
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Christopher Medeiros](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:40:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christopher Medeiros
47-595 Puapo'o Place
Kaneohe, HI 06511

From: [Chrystal Hogue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:35:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chrystal Hogue
885 wanaao
kailua, HI 96734

From: [Clayton Logue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:19:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Clayton Logue
156 Central Ave
PO Box 2393
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Cloudia Charters](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:15:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

In my 60 years (26 here in our wonderful Hawaii) I have seen first hand the damage done to children, young adults, even seniors like me, by official discrimination that negates our relationships and humanity.

Churches may do as they wish. Mine performs union ceremonies to ALL who sincerely request. But our State must evolve with other humane Jurisdictions.

PLEASE allow healing, and a more mature Spirituality by supporting SB 1 at this time.
Mahalo Nui, REV. Cloudia Charters

Cloudia Charters
PO Box 89582
Honolulu, HI 96830

From: [Craig Tennant](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:12:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To the undecided legislators. It's clear to us that if you don't support us, you don't understand us. That we're NORMAL. Born this way!!! Denying us our human rights is cruel,absurd, barbaric!
PLEASE side with all those who KNOW the truth.
C&R together for 24 years.

Craig Tennant
P.O.Box 382
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1: Relating to Equal Rights**

My name is Cyr Pakele. I reside in Waipio-Gentry in Waipahu. I am a social worker by profession. I am also an advisor to the PRIDE Club at the high school where I work.

PRIDE is an acronym for People Respecting Individuality and Diversity in Everyone. PRIDE was founded by a group of high school students concerned for their classmate who came “out of the closet.” PRIDE Club not only provides a safe haven for LGBTQ & other disenfranchised youths, it seeks to advocate & educate our larger community about love, respect, and equality for all!

Sister Joan Chatfield appropriately states, “... we are all unique children of God. Being gay is another part of the diversity of life. You cannot make yourself or unmake yourself gay. It is the way God has chosen you. (*Golden rule should guide marriage issue. Views & Voices, Honolulu Star Advertiser, October 20, 2014.*)

As a social worker for the past 35+ years, I am all too familiar with the social injustices inflicted upon the LGBT community. Stories of discrimination, stigmatism, ostracism, & hate-crimes appear daily in our newspapers. Anti-LGBT bullying, violence and harassment are commonplace in our schools especially. And sadly, LGBTQ teens and young adults attempt suicide in alarming numbers.

As PRIDE club advisor, I recall an incident when one of my students made a serious suicide attempt. I asked myself, “Why would a smart, talented, handsome & popular class leader want to kill himself?” He had come out to his parents; and he was chastised and rejected by them. Surely, this desperate act gives pause to examine the loneliness, isolation, and lack of acceptance faced by LGBTQ people.

What would you do if your son/daughter killed him/her-self because he/she is gay? Is a young person’s life and identity worth the rejection?

We are all created equal in God’s eyes.

I support the marriage equality bill and ask that you vote YES.

October 24, 2013

Aloha & Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee
& Senate Committee members of the
Hawaii Judiciary & Labor Committee,

As a resident & a 70 year old voter in the
Aiea, Halawa, Newtown district, living at
98-1704 Kiawe St (Newtown Estates) Aiea, my
name is Angela C. Ho. Mahalo, thank
you for accepting this written testimony
opposing the proposed legislation. I'm
grateful & thank my Lord Jesus for your
service to us, Hawaii's Ohana.

As a retired Hawaii school Counselor and
Teacher for over 30 years, I have a deep, loving
concern for our children & future generations.
I've taught & hopefully modeled the values
of respect & integrity within our democratic
society. As an educator-leader in schools
& still working as a substitute & volunteer,
I know the importance of speaking truth,
having a clean conscience & serving others.

Please do not support a special session
since more deliberate analysis & consideration
are paramount to clearer decisions & more
wisdom. True democracy is mocked when
there's a "rush" in a most controversial issue.
Your constituents' voices cannot be effectively
heard in a short 5-day special session.

I believe we, Hawaii's people, addressed this
issue in 1998 & should be consulted again.

I thank you again for allowing me to voice
my heart's concerns. Mahalo.
Respectfully submitted, Angela C. Ho

10/23/2013

Aloha! Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate Committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Dale Stevens, I am 53 years of age and reside on the Windward Side at 47-097A Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe HI 96744.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation, and also to take this opportunity to thank you for your service in serving the People of Hawaii.

With that said, I believe we the people of Hawaii should be allowed to vote on this issue and strongly oppose to the "Special Session".

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stevens

47-097 A Kamehameha Hwy.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN CLAYTON HEE AND SENATE
COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND LABOR
COMMITTEE,

MY NAME IS BAREN LEE AND LIVE IN THE AINA HAINA DISTRICT.
I AM A FATHER OF FIVE ADULT CHILDREN AND CURRENTLY A
GRANDFATHER OF THREE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND HARD WORK TO OUR COMMUNITY,
AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY WRITTEN
TESTIMONY.

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THIS SPECIAL SESSION
BECAUSE IT DENIES THE PEOPLE THEIR RIGHTS TO THE DEMOCRATIC
PROCESS. GETTING THIS TYPE OF PRECEDENCE CONCERNS ME FOR
THE FUTURE OF OUR HAWAII. THERE MAY BE NO STOPPING OF
"SPECIAL SESSIONS" FOR ISSUES THAT WOULD IMPACT EVERY RESIDENT.
YET, SHOULD ALLOW FOR ALL VOTABLE CITIZENS TO HAVE INPUT.

I STRONGLY URGE AND ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER SUSPENDING THIS
SPECIAL SESSION.

RESPECTFULLY,
BAREN LEE

Oct. 24, 2013

GOOD MORNING, CHAIRMAN CLAYTON HEE
AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE
JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

MY NAME IS JOAN OHARA, A 70 YEAR
OLD VOTER RESIDING AT 800 THIRD ST,
PEARL CITY, HAWAII.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SUBMIT
MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY OPPOSING THIS
SPECIAL SESSION.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS 5 DAY
SPECIAL SESSION IS NOT ENOUGH TIME
TO DISCUSS THIS MOST CONTROVERSIAL
ISSUE OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE,
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE REGULAR
LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS ONLY TWO
MONTHS AWAY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK YOU TO
PLEASE ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII
TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE, AS THIS
ISSUE AFFECTS US ALL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Joan Ohara

Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate
committee members of the Judiciary and Labor
committee,

My name is Dorothy Akamine, a 73 year old
voter residing at 98-1745 Hapaki St., Aiea, Hi. 96701.
I want to thank you for allowing me to
submit my written testimony opposing this
legislation. A five day session is not enough
time to discuss the most controversial issue
of our time. A "yes" vote during special
session is a "no" vote to democracy because
the voice of the people is not being
heard. I strongly urge that this
issue be placed on the ballot next
election. I recommend as a concerned
citizen and registered voter, to suspend
the special session.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Akamine

October 23, 2013

Dear Chairman Clayton Hee and
Senate Committee members of
the Judiciary and Labor committees:

My name is Betty Sasaki. I'm a 71 year
old registered voter who resides in
Salt Lake, Honolulu, Hawaii.

I appreciate and thank you all for
your diligent service to the people of
Hawaii.

I would like to urge you to cancel
this Special Session to address Same Sex
marriage because:

- 1) It does not give adequate time
for amendments to be proposed,
discussed, and voted on;
- 2) it does not give enough time for
the people to give their testimonies
and express their wishes and desires;
- 3) this bill can be satisfactorily proposed,
discussed, amended, and put to vote
in the regular session which is only
a few months away.

Thank you for considering my request!

Aloha, Betty Sasaki
2950 Ala Ilima St, Apt 803
Honolulu, HI 96818

Chairman Clayton Lee & Senate Committee
Members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee:
My name is Davis Tardif, age 44, residing
at 3775 Kleenex Avenue, Harolda, AS 816.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written
testimony opposing same sex marriage.
May our legislators continue to uphold the
Arkansas Preamble and the Constitution of
the United States.

From my heart,

La mau ke ea o ka auua i ka pono

From: [Danette Kong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:08:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing
Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am an ordained Southern Baptist minister whose roots reach back to Kohala, Hawaii, in the mid-1800s, currently employed as a full time hospital chaplain on a neighbor island. My three sisters and I were born in Wahiawa, and raised by a loving, deeply religious, Christian family. Our parents are well known to the Southern Baptist community in Hawaii.

After one of my sisters "came out" to our family in 1979, I set my sights on pursuing a Masters Degree in counseling, in the hopes of one day helping LGBTs change their orientation. While in seminary, I read all the books I could get my hands on which addressed the issue. I studied the Bible in its original Greek and Hebrew, as well as numerous scholarly studies and interpretations. The more I sincerely sought answers, and the more I prayed for guidance, the more I believe God led me to discover I was coming at it from the wrong angle. I began to sit down with my sister, her friends, several of my classmates from high school and college, members of my church, and others who were gay and lesbian -- and REALLY listen to them.

At the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, I was given the privilege of working with HIV-positive patients, and soon recognized that the relationships I witnessed between several gay couples exceeded the commitment and love I saw in many heterosexual marriages.

It was a journey of a decade before I could finally "come out" as a straight advocate for LGBT rights, including same-gender marriage. And I have never wavered in my decision to do so. I have been told there was discussion of rescinding my ordination when I testified before the legislature in favor of same-gender marriage back in the 1990s.

There are all sorts of theological reasons I could give you, but mainly, I'm writing because I want you to know that not all Southern Baptists or members of other conservative churches go along with what their leadership and other members believe. Many are actually leaving their churches because of this issue.

My mother, two of my sisters, and I now live on Maui, where one sister has lived for the past 25 years, and her husband is a retired judge. Rather than get involved in discussions that we know would prove fruitless, my mother and I have made the choice to attend a church of another denomination here. Our love for, and pride in my lesbian sister, and God's biblical message of acceptance and love for ALL people are central to our personal beliefs. Mom's main caregiver is actually that sister, who lives with her partner. I think it's truly lovely to recognize that things have come full-circle in a couple ways:

- 1) Back in 1953, it was illegal for Mom and Dad to get married in her home state of Mississippi, due to anti-miscegenation laws. In fact, her parents pulled her out of seminary when they found out she was in love with a non-white boy. True love eventually won out.
- 2) After my sister came out to Mom in 1979, her friends were always welcome in our home. Some actually came to live with my family after being kicked out of their own homes and disowned by their parents. Mom always baked them their only birthday cakes.

In some Christian circles a frequently asked question is, "What would Jesus do?" As far as I'm concerned, Mom

gave (and continues to live) the truest Christian response to homosexuality I have ever seen or witnessed.

If the government and my very religious maternal grandparents had continued to maintain their anti-miscegenation laws and attitudes back in 1953, it is highly likely that I would not exist to be able to write you this letter. It is my strong belief that no one -- especially the government -- should be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Danette Kong
220-B West Kauai Street
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [Daniel Dangaran](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:56:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Born and raised in Wahiawa, Hawaii, I have found it immensely gratifying and liberating to know I have supportive parents, friends, and classmates. I'm a current student at Yale University, and have been very active in LGBT activism during my time in college. One of the draws of the East Coast is its open-minded approach of embracing diversity. Hawaii is known for this, too. However, it saddens me when I must tell people the "real" experience of living in Hawaii. Too often do I hear slurs of "mahu" thrown around. Our land of rainbows has made it very difficult for the rainbow flag of LGBT equality to be flown proudly because of the culturally widespread notions against LGBT people. Same-sex marriage would be one important step toward defeating that stigma, though it's far from the end.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Dangaran
1425 Manua Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Darcy Daniel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:13:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Darcy Daniel
75-5744 Alii Dr, Ste 200
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [David Lane](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:54:45 PM

My partner and I have been together for over 18 years and are raising five children. Three of them have gone on to prestigious universities and have become a teacher, a scientist, and a financial executive. We still have twins in Koloa.

All we want is the same rights as every other married couple in Hawaii. And that is what America is about. Equal rights. No more, no less.

David Lane
Koloa, HI

David Lane
4160 Omao Road
Koloa, HI 96756

From: [David O'Quinn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:31:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Regardless of whether you think Same-Sex-Marriage is popular or not, does not matter. It is a basic right that each human has the right to marry according to the original constitution. The domestic partnership currently granted in Hawaii only serves a small portion of rights that are granted through a legal marriage contract. If you remember it was not so long ago that interracial marriage was not legal. If this was true today then probably the majority of partners in Hawaii would be null and void. It is this point alone that in the early 1990's, when Marriage equality was first explored in Hawaii, I thought it would be accepted by the general Hawaiian population.

You may also remember at the time that many of the religious groups who opposed marriage equality claimed that if the word "marriage" was removed from the right to marry that they would have no reason to oppose it. Those same nay-sayers showed up to oppose domestic partnership. Now they raise the concern that churches who oppose same-sex-marriage will be forced to participate in these unions. This is absurd as who in their right mind would want to ruin their sacred day by being among parishioners who claim to be unsupportive.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David O'Quinn
6437 Kahuna Rd. Unit B
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Dean Hamer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1...don't let down this new fed retiree
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:40:26 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

When I retired from forty years of federal government service two years ago, I decided to retire to Hawaii for two reasons.

First you give us a tax break. I assume that's because it's good for the state to have seniors with steady income.

Second because I was confident my partner and I would be treated fairly even though we are both male.

Please don't fail us now. As the rest of the country moves quickly to equality, it would be very sad to have Hawaii look like Alabama.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Malama pono

Dean Hamer
58125c Iwia pl
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Denise Perdue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:03:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is an indispensable liberty that should not be denied to any individual. Gay and lesbian couples marry for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawai‘i, all family members are accepted for who they are as an individual, regardless of their belief and lifestyle. No member of the ‘ohana (family) – gay or straight – face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the position to be able to dictate which individuals can and cannot marry. It is the job of the government to promote equality for all persons, regardless of its own personal beliefs.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 1 to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawai‘i’s families and people.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Denise Perdue
87-1879 Holopono Place
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [Debora Halbert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:45:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We the undersigned members (faculty, graduate students and staff) of the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa write to provide our full support to the issue of marriage equality and the legislative special session to pass this legislation. As professionals in the study of law, politics and policy, we understand the legislative efforts of the State of Hawai'i to be consistent with the constitution and the concept of equal protection. The United States Supreme Court has recently made it clear that federal benefits cannot be withheld from legally married gay couples. In doing so, the court extended the concept of equal protection to all marriages in the United States and made it clear that discriminatory practices in marriage were inconsistent with the law. Given that equal protection under the law is a fundamental principle in American jurisprudence, civil unions can no longer suffice. Thus, it is our opinion that the State of Hawai'i should support gay marriage as fundamental to meeting its constitutional burdens under the equal protection clause.

Furthermore, as scholars who take our location in Hawai'i seriously, we celebrate the way that Native Hawaiian culture has historically embraced diverse expressions of sexuality and gender. Edified by Hawaiian oral and written traditions, we know that mahu and aikane relationships, for example, were valued since before the introduction of the institution of marriage. Through the Hawaiian language, which does not use gendered pronouns like "he" or "she," we can see possibilities to open more ways of honoring all people and their expressions of loving commitment. Just as we are looking to other states who are leading the way in protecting marriage for all people, we can also look to the Indigenous traditions of this place for guidance about how to honor and value diverse expressions of love.

We support gay marriage because as employees at an institution dedicated to EEO principles, we see the advantages and benefits of having equal access to marriage in Hawai'i. We see this first hand in the ways access to equal benefits impacts our students, our colleagues, and the staff at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. We seek to work in a professional environment that treats all its employees equally and extends the same benefits to all. The passage of this law will help move Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa closer to that goal.

Finally, as individuals committed to social justice and equality, we believe that a vote for marriage equality is long overdue. We stand with the unions, businesses, and elected officials who have endorsed the law. All things considered, it is time Hawai'i follows the lead of other states who have adopted similar provisions to allow for same sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Debora J. Halbert,
Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua,
Jon Goldberg-Hiller,
James Dator,
Kathy Ferguson,

Mike Shapiro,
Hokulani Aikau,
Jairus Grove,
Katharina Heyer,
Nevzat Soguk,
Ehito Kimura,
Colin Moore,
Kate Zhou,
Myungji Yang,
Sankaran Krishna,
Manfred Steger,
Kathleen Brennen,
Akta Kaushal,
Mary Tuti Baker,
Anjali Nath,
Duyen Bui,
John A. Sweeney,
Gino Zarrinfa,
Matthew Petrasek,
Tina Grandinetti,
Bettina Brown,
Taryn Kaili,
Heather Frey,
Heather Heffner,
Julia Guimaraes,
Benjamin Schrader,
Rex Troumbley,
Joshua Pryor
Michelle Brown

Debora Halbert
2757 Terrace Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Derek Brow](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:14:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I have personally witnessed many of my friends deal with the obstacles of "coming out" to their families and friends. The lack of acknowledgment and respect for gay couples to legally get married has made this pathway for acceptance even harder. I strongly believe that a marriage equality bill, such as SB1, is an excellent way for our state to show support and acceptance of gay couples throughout Hawaii, and that it should be passed immediately.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Now is the time for our state to show the rest of the nation how open-minded and respectful we are of others.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Derek Brow

Derek Brow
Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Diane Iwaoka](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:35:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic human freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Marriage is about building a relationship between two persons who choose to be together in matrimony, as a family, and to contribute to community.

In Hawaii, family reigns supreme. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should be denied this human right to a meaningful relationship. Our government should not be involved in tampering with this basic right to become a family.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify

Diane Iwaoka
1408 Ala Iolani Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Donna Au](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:38:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Donna Au
66-126 Awai Ln.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Doug Gray](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:58:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Doug Gray
50 Waiohuli Street #C
C
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Dr Tom Kane](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:43:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

"We are 2 doctoral level psychotherapists, and also ministers who are licensed by the state of Hawaii to officiate heterosexual weddings. We have been together as a committed couple for over 22 years, and have been legally married in Canada (Toronto, 2004) and California (San Francisco, 2008).

Please vote yes for Marriage Equality so that we ourselves can be married in our home state, and also perform legally-recognized marriages (with over 1,000 legal protections that heterosexual couples enjoy) for other committed couples, both residents and tourists who want to spend their wedding dollars here on Maui and throughout the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Dr. David Shaw
Dr. Tom Kane
Wailuku
kaneshaw@msn.com
808-214-5699"

Dr Tom Kane
2599 Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Dr. Elizabeth Bethea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:55:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The State of Hawai`i has strong social, political, economic and ethical interests in extending equal rights and opportunities to every citizen. The many benefits of enacting laws to increase equality, freedom and responsibilities have been documented repeatedly by research, and borne out by history.

We have seen that the direction of human progress and evolution is always toward greater freedom, greater diversity and complexity, greater expression of creativity, generosity, volunteerism and cooperation. As a community, we are strengthened, never weakened, by realizing and maintaining diversity within unity, and unity within diversity.

It is now time for the Aloha State to take its place in history by upholding the traditional Hawai`ian values of welcoming all people of good will, celebrating diversity, and walking the talk of non-judgment, acceptance and inclusion. We are all `ohana, and no one should be excluded because of whom we love.

This is an auspicious moment in our State's history and, as an elected official, you have a unique and rare opportunity to contribute to a more Pono future for all of us, and for future generations. Mahalo nui loa for your leadership in advancing equality for all of Hawai`i's families.

Dr. Elizabeth Bethea
238 Kaimanawai Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Dr David Shaw](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:46:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. "We are 2 doctoral level psychotherapists, and also ministers who are licensed by the state of Hawaii to officiate heterosexual weddings. We have been together as a committed couple for over 22 years, and have been legally married in Canada (Toronto, 2004) and California (San Francisco, 2008).

Please vote yes for Marriage Equality so that we ourselves can be married in our home state, and also perform legally-recognized marriages (with over 1,000 legal protections that heterosexual couples enjoy) for other committed couples, both residents and tourists who want to spend their wedding dollars here on Maui and throughout the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Dr. David Shaw
Dr. Tom Kane
Wailuku
kaneshaw@msn.com
808-214-5699"

Dr David Shaw
2599 Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Dylan Faltine-Gonzalez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:57:56 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dylan Faltine-Gonzalez
1448 Young St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: eduardoworks@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:03:00 AM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/25/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eduardo Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: The Members of the 2013 Hawaii Special Legislative Session From: Eduardo Hernandez Re: Support for Marriage Equality I urge you to affirm SB 1 for immediate enactment by Governor Abercrombie. This bill will be important for families everywhere who can realize the full and equal treatment of the law in Hawaii. Just as winter kicks in across North America, this legislation will send a powerful message that Hawaii is a welcoming destination for all families. The 50th state can be the 15th to adopt marriage equality, on the leading edge of fulfilling America's destiny of equality and justice for all.

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

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

From: [Eldon Wegner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:23:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 allowing marriage between same-sex couples.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom which is being affirmed by numerous decisions in recent state courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Hawaii, as the rainbow state, should take this step now. The Legislature has the authority to do this.

A few years ago, I experienced a heart-breaking situation when my partner of 12 years had a mental breakdown and was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Despite my best efforts, because I was not considered family, my efforts to keep informed about him and work with his case managers in helping him were rejected. This is just one example of discrimination which impacts gay and lesbian couples.

Opponents of this bill are misinformed about the impacts of this bill -- it does not infringe on the rights of religious groups -- but it would have many positive impacts in supporting families of same-sex couples. Please do not allow opponents to obfuscate what this bill is about.

Please support passage of SB 1 affirming the right for same-sex couples to marry.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.

Eldon Wegner
2333 Kapiolani Blvd #2413
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Elizabeth O'Connor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth O'Connor
430 Keoniana St #608
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Ellen Balsley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:08:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Everyone lucky enough to find a life partner should be granted the benefits of marriage, and the right to form a family.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ellen Balsley
66-980 Kuewa Dr
Waialua, HI 96791

From: [Ellen Cantiberos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:13:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ellen Cantiberos
2420 Puunoa Placw
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Erick Ehrhorn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:08:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

In the Nineties, the supreme court ruled that the state must show a compelling interest if they were going to prevent gays from marrying. I remember hearing on the radio then that a couple of gay couples were allowed to marry in California by a judge who after researching it found no reason not to. Until that point I had no opinion one way or another but always found that to be logical and so I have supported the right of gays to marry ever since.

Gay marriage should have been legalized then but instead an amendment was passed that gave the legislature the right to decide who can marry. The result was that gay marriage was not allowed for 20 years.

This is about to be finally corrected with the special session that is about to happen.. Please restore the right to marry to everyone.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

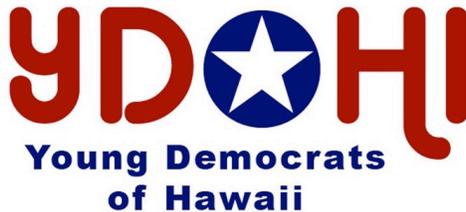
The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. People do not need to be told who they can and cannot marry. They can figure this out for themselves.

In the past, society had restrictions against mixed race marriages and those finally bit the dust. It is time for restrictions against same sex marriage to also bite the dust.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erick Ehrhorn
254 Kaha St.
Kailua, HI 96734



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30am, State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the JDL Committee:

The Young Democrats of Hawaii overwhelmingly supports Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

Hawaii is poised to become the 15th state in the nation to recognize same-sex marriage and marriage equality in the Aloha State is long overdue. Young people overwhelmingly support the notion that two individuals regardless of sex that seek to enter into a marriage should be afforded the same rights and privileges as everyone else.

We support same-sex marriage because we believe in equality and justice for all. Furthermore, the Democratic Party of Hawaii has a long history of fighting for equality in all sectors of life; from workers' rights to teachers' rights and we believe it is time for our elected officials to support equality for all.

We believe it's time that Hawaii joins the 14 other states in the nation to recognize same-sex marriage and we hope you will take this opportunity to do the right thing and herald in a new era of equality and recognition that is long overdue.

With Aloha,



Francis H. Choe
President

The Young Democrats of Hawaii represent over 1500 registered Young Democrats, between the ages of 16 and 35. We strive to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs, promote their involvement in the political process, increase the political strength of young people, and provide the highest degree of social justice and equal opportunity for Hawaii's people.

From: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FW: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:21:32 PM

From: Terea Macomber [anateresa@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:57 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Being from Las Vegas where marriage ceremonies are overseen by terrible Elvis impersonators, conducted in drive-thrus, or even held at a strip club; I am aware of what damage can be done to the institution of marriage. One's sexuality is not one of them.

I've always seen Hawaii as a place of unity, generosity, and 'ohana. Nature's forces came together and created these beautiful islands; the generous rainfall and tropical temperatures allowed for a beautiful array of plants and animals which should all be reflected in society.

Inhibiting couples to get married because of their sexual orientation is just as an offense if the government was still keeping different races from marrying. If this was still true, my Mom(black) and My Dad(white) would never have married and we all know where I would be...non existent.

I look forward to being witness to your history changing decision supporting Equal Marriage. Thank You.

Terea Macomber
PO Box 22651
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: [garid.chapman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:35:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

garid chapman
95-107 Huaala Place
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Gary chen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:22:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It amazes me in the state of Aloha that we couldn't be at the forefront of such a spirit of kindness and love.

It is hard enough in this day and age to just find someone and stay together without other obstacle that preach hate and non acceptance. In every ohana I can almost guarantee has someone who this bill affects and for us not to pass this bill is not only morally wrong but goes against who we are as a community.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gary chen
3738 Pukalani Place
honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Gerald Lai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:59:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The law of land & the United States is the Constitution, not the Old Testament, New Testament, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, the Torah, the Vedas, or any other religious scripture.
The U.S. Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, states " We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable RIGHTS, that among these are LIFE, LIBERTY & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

Please pass this bill to Expand EQUALITY FOR ALL GAY PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES IN HAWAII & IN THE NATION.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gerald Lai
95061 Waikalani Dr D806
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Greg and Pat Farstrup](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:41:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Greg and Pat Farstrup
2604-B Booth Road
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Gregory Garneau](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:45:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner, Steve Torres, and I have been in a committed relationship since 1984 and have lived in Hawaii since 1991. We have thought of getting married out of state many times, however, we want to be married in Hawaii which is our home. You no doubt have been told of the many reasons in favor of equal marriage, but in our view the most important reason is to listen to the people who will be most affected by the legislation. Steve and I are asking that our relationship have the same respect, rights, and responsibilities as any opposite sex, married couple. We do not want special rights under the law, just the same ones that married couples enjoy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gregory Garneau
27 Manu Street
Kula, HI 96790



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Josh Frost (Alt)
Marsha Schweitzer (Alt)

MAILING ADDRESS

PO. Box 617
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96822

October 25, 2013

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Americans for Democratic Action, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

The Declaration of Independence stands for the proposition that all citizens are equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution states in part: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place in the field of public education. Such segregation deprives citizens of "equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment." Although the Hawaii civil union law creates a bundle of rights for same sex couples, it does not provide equal protection of the laws under other federal and state laws. Even the difference in title – civil union versus marriage – is a badge of inequality. Equal justice demands that we discard this badge and grant true marriage equality for all.

Don't get confused into thinking Senate Bill No. 1 affects religious rights. It's about equality – the same kind of equality that requires us to forego racial and religious distinctions. The Marriage Equality Bill does not interfere with the right of any religious order to restrict which weddings will be performed within its sanctuaries.

Keep alive the American promise of diversity and equality that dates back to the Declaration of Independence, the U. S. Constitution, and the 14th Amendment's right to equal protection of the law.

VOTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1

VOTE FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

From: [Hali Davis-Sherwood](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:27:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hali Davis-Sherwood
752 Kaupakalua Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Henry Sandoval](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Henry Sandoval
700 Richards st 1607
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 24, 2013

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of SB1, which would finally bring marriage equality to Hawai'i.

You have a responsibility to your constituents to ensure that every person has the rights and freedoms associated with citizenship. This includes marriage.

As a 21-year-old recent college graduate, I can say with confidence that this is a non-issue for the vast majority of my generation, the future leaders of this state and nation. Marriage equality is inevitable, but you have an opportunity *now* to pass SB1 and stand on the right side of history.

I was born and raised on the North Shore. I want to be able to take pride in my home state. Here, we share the spirit of aloha, and we value diversity, tolerance, and inclusion. SB1 is a culmination of a 20-year struggle for equality that encapsulates these values. I urge you to vote yes in this matter.

Mahalo,

Holly Berlin

66-980 Kuewa Dr.
Waialua, HI 96791

From: [Honolulu Friends Meeting Religious Society of Friends](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:02:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Honolulu Friends Meeting Religious Society of Friends
2426 Oahu Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Jacin Harter](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:00:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacin Harter
3835 Sierra Drive
under the stairs
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Jack Hoag](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
Subject: SB 1 Relating to equal rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:48:39 AM

Attention Chair Clayton Hee,

In 1998 all of our people were given their "equal rights," as traditionally granted under our democratic system, by having the opportunity to vote on a societal sea change. As you know, after years of study, debate, and a massive public vote, the people of Hawaii upheld traditional marriage.

Now we are on the verge of what only can be deemed, "railroading" an administration bill, by an unpopular Governor, that circumvents the will of Hawaii's citizens.

Not that many years ago, when I supported your initial Senate candidacy, you pledged to uphold the principles and standards of your Moku. We respectfully implore you to review the heartfelt wishes of ALL your constituency, before embarking on this radical experiment in the structure of Hawaii's families.

Aloha, Jack & Jeanette Makaio Hoag
818 Moaniala St. Honolulu, HI 96821(808) 373-3783

From: [James Berlin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:05:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Families are important to everyone!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Berlin
66-980 Kuewa Drive
Waialua, HI 96791

My name is James F. Cartwright. I am giving testimony on the issue of gay marriage, at least partially because I am a member of minorities. Five generations of my family are Mormon. All my ancestors except one great great grandmother arrived in Utah before 1869 when the transcontinental railroad connected the east with the west coast. Her daughter, my great grandmother, and my great great grandfather had already reached Utah.

Early this month, Mormon leaders read a letter from the leadership to the members in the weekly Sunday meeting instructing the members to contact the state legislators concerning gay marriage. The letter instructed members to share with their legislators how they felt about gay marriage. The letter avoided taking an official position on the issue, but the Church's statements over the past decade leave little doubt what position the leaders wanted the members to take. In addition, the letter suggested that the members not state that they were members of the LDS Church. One minority to which I belong comes from my position as a Mormon on LGBT marriage rights which I support.

The other minority to which I belong is that I am gay. I totally followed the Mormon Church's instructions on how to cure myself—or persuade God to cure me—of my homosexuality. From the age of eighteen, when as a freshman I entered therapy at Brigham Young University to cure my attraction to other men, into my early fifties, I participated in the church fully. I was promised many times that if I would do “x,” God would cure me. One morning in my early fifties, I finally heard God's message to me: God accepted me as I was created, not as I tried to change myself to be. I was part of God's creation that, to quote *Genesis*, God said “was good.”

I am now legally married in California to my partner of seventeen years. So why should I care? I care because there is a difference between ‘domestic partnership,’ ‘civil unions,’ and marriage. ‘Separate but equal’ was deemed unacceptable by the US Supreme Court in 1954. Hawai‘i State Legislature should not assume that ‘domestic partnership’ is as good as genuine marriage. According to an article in the *New York Times*, describing marriages in New Jersey on Monday 21 October 2013 just after midnight, included the following direct quote:

Using that ruling as the legal underpinning for a decision issued last month, Judge Mary C. Jacobson of State Superior Court in Mercer County found that the state's not allowing same-sex couples to marry deprived them of received federal benefits and “is currently harming same-sex couples in New Jersey in a wide range of contexts.”¹

The judge's words apply to LGBT persons in Hawai‘i as well as New Jersey. Not allowing us to marry is to restrict our civil rights and deny us benefits offered other citizens. It is passed time for Hawai‘i legislators to correct the wrongs committed against us.

James F. Cartwright
2525 Date St. #4105
Honolulu, HI 96826

¹<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/nyregion/christie-withdraws-appeal-of-same-sex-marriage-ruling-in-new-jersey.html?from=homepage>, viewed 21 October 2013.

From: [James Lee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:23:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is James Jaewhan Lee. I am 51 years old and have the honor to have been living in Maui for eleven and one half years with my same sex partner of almost 20 years. We will celebrate our 20th anniversary this December 31.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Equal treatment under the law is fundamental to our way of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Malama pono.

James Lee
3136 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Jan Lubin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:28:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re: Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry whomever you choose is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jan Lubin
4300 Waialae Avenue
Apt. A-1106
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Jean Campbell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:17:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am unable to testify in person so I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I believe strongly that equal rights should be provided to all our citizens, regardless of whether we individually agree with or approve of their lifestyle. Our constitution requires a separation of church and state and therefore no one's religious beliefs can be a basis to deny another citizen's civil rights.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jean Campbell
1329 Kuuna St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Jeffrey Hong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:50:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Hong
700 Richards
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Jeffrey Yoshida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:01:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Yoshida
803 Ekela Ave. apt. A
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Jeri Arin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support SB1!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:42:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support SB! and I hop that you do too.

The government should not be in the business of telling consenting adults who they can and cannot marry.

This state is not up for the repercussions if this bill doesn't pass. Our state cannot afford the legal battles that will ensue. Precedence has already been set in this matter, let us move our state forward into the future not allow it to wallow in the past.

If this bill doesn't pass my partner of 17 years and I will seek justice under Article IV, Section 1 of our country's constitution that says that "Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state". We will marry in a state that is legal and seek "Full faith and credit" in our own home state of Hawaii if necessary.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for ALL of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeri Arin
PO Box 1916
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Jessica Dungans](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:29:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

And personally, I have grown up in the theater around many beautifully talented souls without whom I never would have been educated in the arts. I owe my life's passion to many people gay and straight who have taught me so much more than dance and acting, but how to fully express myself and be happy and unapologetically myself. They deserve every equal right, and to deny them is horribly unjust.

Jessica Dungans
21 Lopaka Place
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Jill Roberts](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:26:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jill Roberts
PO Box 1268
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Jim Wagner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:20:08 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I have been with my partner for 36 years this November. Nothing would make me happier than be able to marry him on our anniversary.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim Wagner
3210 Lanina PL
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Joan Heller](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:27:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joan Heller
3820 Uakea Place
Lawai, HI 96765

From: [Joanne Murray](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:50:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joanne Murray
2243 Mohala Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: truly.joannies@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:09:37 PM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/24/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joannie Pan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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From: [Jocelyn Fujii](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:16:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are now given one more opportunity to prove that Hawai'i is a state of inclusion and diversity, a place where cultures converge and 'ohana is a defining legacy. I believe that our right to marry the person of our choice is absolute, beyond the purview of government and religion, and that society's duty is to encourage, rather than deny, loving relationships whether straight or gay.

I'm thankful that gays and lesbians want the right to enter into such a flawed institution as marriage. To give them the freedom to marry would remove one more barrier for them and would enhance our society beyond measure. I think that all freedom-loving people who believe in justice and humanity, all of us, would be elevated by the passage of this bill simply because it elevates our humanity.

I also believe that legalizing same-sex marriage would save lives.

How many of us know of suicides that have shattered families, suicides that could have been prevented if only the closeted teenager had felt acceptance instead of fear, love instead of shame, a sense of belonging instead of alienation? Marriage equality would be one less barrier for them, one concrete sign that they are included and valued, and that the right to happiness belongs to everyone, not just to those who fit the biblical definition of traditional marriage.

Every gay and lesbian person I know who is raising children is an exceptional parent, having had to prove themselves by higher, stricter-than-usual standards and screening in the areas of emotional, socio-economic and financial stability. Their children are growing up in stable and loving families. As a heterosexual married woman who is childless by choice, I have nothing but admiration for those who, facing greater barriers than I, place so much value on the freedom I have sometimes taken for granted.

And, ultimately, it comes down to this: Why would anyone oppose someone else's marriage when it has nothing to do with them?

I testified in favor of marriage equality 20 years ago. I never thought I would have to do it again, that the pursuit of justice for such a fundamental right would take so long. I saw how organized religion poured money into Hawai'i to deny a part of our community a basic right. Please don't let it happen again.

For these and many other reasons, I strongly support SB1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Fujii

Jocelyn Fujii
1615 wilder ave

Apt. 606
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Joe O'Mealy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:46:15 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joe O'Mealy
2410 Cleghorn St
#1702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Joe Tolbe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:55:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joe Tolbe
480 Kenolio Rd. 13-202
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Joella Speelman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joella Speelman
137 Kealohilani Street
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [John Bickel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:48:28 PM

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 Relating to Equality. I am a high school History teacher. I see two big reasons to support this bill. The first is that my gay and lesbian students are often shy to come out.

They sometimes accept bullying because they are afraid. They feel inferior. Passing this bill will help make them feel that society does not look down on them. Instead it would give deserved equal rights.

The second reason is one I draw from history. Minority rights should never be left to the whim of the majority. Do not send this to the voters.

Instead protect the "equal protection of the laws" promised by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has seen the value of this in the Windsor decision. Now make it valid for Hawaii.

Pass this bill.

John Bickel

2415 Ala Blvd.

Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [John Heidel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:02:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a Christian minister in the islands since 1962, I personally know of the breadth of support for same-sex marriage from religious leaders and lay-people from many faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu. We aren't as organized or vocal as religious people who oppose this bill but we are there in the thousands.

My personal understanding of a loving compassionate God supports the basic right of all loving couples to have the full benefits of marriage.

This freedom is guaranteed by the U. S. constitution and is consistent with religious teachings. The first amendment clearly states that government shall not deny religious freedom and that religion shall not manipulate government. SB1 has language that is congruent with the constitution and every person can follow his or her personal religious beliefs without coercion.

Regarding the argument that same-sex marriage would destroy or harm the family or society, it can easily be documented (recent "expert" testimony notwithstanding) that the serious dangers to family life, marriage and modern culture are found in the areas of conflicting values, money management and violence - to mention a few.

Thank you for hearing this testimony and for your consideration of this bill.

Rev. Dr. John R. heidel
Minister, United Church of Christ
Former Chaplain, Punahou School
Former President, The interfaith Alliance Hawaii
Member, Christ Church Uniting in Kailua

John Heidel
1341 Manu Mele St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [John Herberger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Herberger
23 Mauka PL, UnitB
Kula, HI 96790

From: [John Mascaro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:29:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a working psychotherapist in Hawaii helping families who are in need of supportive therapeutic services. I want to marry my partner so that we can continue to live in Hawaii and have the same rights as all married couples. I want to continue to help our families here in Hawaii but if I am not able to marry, I will move to a state that will allow me to have all the protections that marriage provides. Please open your hearts to the call of us who are working members of Hawaii contributing to help make Hawaii strong. Allow us to have the right of marriage.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Mascaro
P.O. Box 3256
Honolulu, HI 96801

From: [Joi Kai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:31:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My very BEST friend, is a Gay man. He, and his partner are highly educated individuals, and greatly contribute to society. I am at war with my church who is urging me to fight against marriage equality, but I can't do it. I love my friend too much! Love is Love!

PLEASE consider passing this bill to allow for marriage equality for ALL of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joi Kai
91-1097 Namahoe St.
Unit 4F
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Jolynn Salomon-Porter](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:57:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I have been in a loving, committed relationship for ten years. We have three children and I want them to grow up knowing their parents are married. We also deserve the rights and protections all married couples, families have under the law.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jolynn Salomon-Porter
1005 Hoomau Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Jory Watland](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:08:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I have supported the intent of this bill since the 1970's, when the first "fairness" group supporting equality for all was meeting in Pauoa Valley. As an ordained clergy serving in Hawaii since June of 1968, I hope that the Senate will lead the way to fairness, equality, and inclusivity in Hawaii.

Jory Watland, Lutheran Pastor

Jory Watland
3030 Holua Place
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Justin Miyashiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:04:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justin Miyashiro
725 Piikoi St #905
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Kate Boyles Thompson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1, from a Nurse
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:43:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kate Boyles Thompson
350 Aoloa St. Apt. A-218
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Kate Bryant-Greenwood](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I want to be able to tell my children and grandchildren that our state proudly lead the way in allowing for marriage equality. This fundamental equal rights issue should not be put to popular vote, it should be addressed by our legislators. We, as a state, must send a message to the rest of the country that Hawaii is place that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation. Hawaii has the opportunity to lead the way and we must seize it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kate Bryant-Greenwood
847 19th Avenue
bryant@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Katherine Drury](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:54:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Katherine Drury
3009 ala makahala
honolulu, HI 96818

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: kstofocik@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:45 AM

SB1

Submitted on: 10/25/2013

Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kathleen Stofocik	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I have family members who are gay and friends who are gay. I got married last year to a wonderful man and had the opportunity to share that memorable day with family and friends. I will never forget how incredible it felt to say, in front of my family and close friends, that I choose to spend the rest of my life as a devoted wife. In all the trials and tribulations of everyday life, the grind of daily meetings and work, it is nice to come home to my husband and relax together. It is nice to have someone who wants to hear about my crappy day at work and then pushes me to get to the YMCA to release the stress that that day had built up. My Uncle and Aunt, who have been married over 33 years, wrote in our wedding guestbook that life is full of dull and boring days. But every now and then there are these 10 second highs. Where the fog is lifted and you are beyond happy, you feel excited and nothing at that moment is either dull or boring. Our wedding day was one of those 10 second highs. When our daily life of boring and dull days occur, it is nice to remember our wedding day and why we decided to go through life together as husband and wife. It is nice to be reminded that the person who sleeps next to you, wants to wake up next to you, every single day; even the days where you are just hitting the repeat button. I found someone who wants to be with me for the rest of his life. I had the freedom to marry the man I love, and all adults in Hawaii should have the freedom to marry the person they love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Kathleen Stofocik

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

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From: [Kathryn Launert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:30:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I was still in high school, and under 18, the last time this issue was voted on by the public in 1998. Back then I did not have the opportunity to voice my thoughts and values. However, I did have the opportunity to see how hurtful it was to my friends and neighbors when they were denied the right to build a family. I am part of a new generation in Hawaii who has seen the negative effects of inequality and who believes Hawaii should not just support all our citizens, but should be a leader in marriage equality!

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. It is a brave thing to dedicate yourself to one person. It is a deeply personal and important step in connecting a person not just to the one they love, but to their families and their community. It goes without saying that Hawaii is a special place, where we are connected to our neighbors far more than anywhere else. To deny a right to any of Hawaii's Ohana is not just anti Aloha, but harmful to everyone who lives here.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathryn Launert
91-678 Makalea St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Kathy Lukas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:49:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Lukas
91-1005 Hokuimo St
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [kaycee.parker](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:08:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kaycee.parker
PO box 241
Lawai, HI 96765

From: [KC Carlberg](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:05:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

KC Carlberg
1414 Heulu Street #C
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Kenneth Hays](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:22:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Equal protection must be given to all Hawaii's citizen's in regards to the right to marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kenneth Hays
PO Box 894480
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FW: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:24:26 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Cochran [<mailto:kcochran2u@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:37 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a licensed mental health professional in the State of Hawaii, as well as the son of a gay father, this is a topic that is close to me. I've witnessed the pain of my father who has not been able to marry his partner of 29 years, and I can not think of one good reason why these two loving men should not be able to enjoy the same benefits that are afforded to me because I am straight. Furthermore as a professional I have seen first hand the negative impact that not having the right to marry has on gay and lesbian couples. It's senseless and cruel, and needs to be rectified. I'm requesting that you pass SB1 and add Hawaii to the list of states that are standing up for equality and decency. It is time to show ALL of Hawaii's residents our aloha.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Cochran, MS, LMHC

Kevin Cochran
P.O. Box 551723
Kapaau, HI 96755

From: [Kit Grant](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:43:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kit Grant
1111 Wilder Ave 14b
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Kristina Jenkins](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong and grateful support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:50:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am moved to tears when I think about this opportunity open before us, to make a just and pono choice that will change lives. We all personally know a gay person, or many, who have suffered from unequal treatment and subtle, or not so subtle, discrimination, right here at home. As a straight, recently married woman, I stand for what I believe is a basic right of all people -- to love and provide for the person you choose.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. Please please please pass this bill to allow marriage equality for all.

Mahalo,
Kristina

Kristina Jenkins
244 Ohana Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Kristina Switzer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:11:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Switzer
98-400 Koauka Loop #402
Aiea, HI 96701
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Kuliaikanu'u Petzoldt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:11:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As a lifelong Hawaii resident, active voter and someone dissapointed that Hawaii was not the first to take our culture of equality and continue it through marriage rights for all - I beg of you to be on the right side of history. To deny these rights to our citizens is a travesty, and to do so in the name of a religious minority who have protections from participation within the law seems insane. Please don't fall victim to talking points, rather choose to put our state on the right side of history by extending this civil right to all.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kuliaikanu'u Petzoldt
1043 Apokula Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Larry Meacham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Written Testimony SUPPORTING SB1, Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:46:01 PM

October 24, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

The time has come for this bill to pass. There has been a sea change in public opinion on the subject of marriage equality. In 1998, a majority of Hawaii voters were against it, but polls show that today a strong majority would support it. It is not only young people, 80% of whom support marriage rights. Older people such as myself see this as the next logical step in the extension of civil rights in this country.

American history shows the expansion of voting rights from propertied white males at the time of the Revolution, to all men, then women, minorities and 18-years-olds. Similarly, other legal rights such as owning property, signing contracts, the right to sue in court and non-discrimination in school admissions and employment has steadily broadened to include all Americans.

Marriage, which includes hundreds of other rights such as hospital visitations and health care coverage, is too important to allow discrimination, whether the racial discrimination of the past or the sexual preference discrimination of today. The LGBT community cannot be excluded from an institution which promotes personal happiness and social stability. It would be a gross violation of civil rights to allow this to continue.

There are those who disagree, but marriage equality does not infringe on their rights to conduct their personal lives based on their own beliefs. They, in turn should not be able to dictate to others how to conduct their lives. Live and let live.

It's time. Let us join with the other states and countries that have recognized that civil rights apply to everyone. Please pass SB1 and show once again that Hawai'i stands for equality for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

From: [Laura Brewington](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Brewington
445C N. Kainalu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Laura Corlew](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:24:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Corlew
3503 Trousseau St.
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Laurie Temple](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:26:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laurie Temple
1040 Kainui Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Lee Garrow](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:35:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lee Garrow
110 Kaanapali Shores Pl. #504
unit 504
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: [Lee Takagi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:59:48 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am Mrs. Lee Takagi, a Caucasian woman who has been married to David Takagi, a Japanese man, for the past 42 years. When we were married in California in 1971 there were still anti-miscegenation laws on many law books in southern states. Although declared illegal by the Supreme Court in 1967 these laws were still very much in the hearts and minds of people who feared such racial mixing. For decades we were afraid to even consider a drive through the south out of fear that something would happen to David or to me in retaliation for a white woman marrying a non-white man.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. They don't want to flaunt the fact they are married any more than I do. They simply deserve to legally benefit the same way a heterosexual couple does when it comes to health, pension and survival benefits, as well as tax breaks for being married.

The government is formed of, by and for the people - for ALL people - to pass legislation which will fairly benefit all people. This is a really a CIVIL RIGHTS issue. This bill will right years of wrongful discrimination. It is time to make this most important correction in our laws so that ALL loving, monogamous couples have access to these basic spousal rights.

I urge you to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mrs. Lee Elizabeth Dye Takagi

Lee Takagi
1833 Fern St
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Leslie von Arnswaldt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:53:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My partner of thirtytwo years passed away nearly four years ago. Unfortunately, the closest we could get to legal recognition was the Reciprocal Beneficiary agreement. He was a Viet Nam veteran, a Silver Star awardee, and was wounded in that war. If same sex marriage were made legal back in 1998, or anytime since then, I would be receiving Veterans survivorship benefits today.

Please do the right thing, bring marriage equality to our State, and protect the rights afforded all other married couples in America. We are all Americans, and deserve to be treated equally.

Mahalo.

Leslie von Arnswaldt
16-1623 Moho Road
P.O.Box 7740, Hilo HI 96720
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: [Lilian de Mello](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:08:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lilian de Mello
4667 Apopo Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Linda Rich](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:22:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Linda Rich and I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I urge you to decide this issue on the basis of civil rights and not to be swayed by religious arguments. Churches will still have the right to decide not to conduct same sex religious ceremonies The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.It is not the state's job to enforce religious beliefs. The Supreme Court has recognized that.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Linda Rich
3721 Kanaina Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Lisa Veneri](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:51:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I've been with my partner for over 20 years. We moved back home to the place I was born and raised to be with my ohana and help care for my aging parents. Coming back from the state of California, where marriage would be legal for my partner and I. It makes me extremely sad to come back to my island home where we cherish aloha, yet equality it is not granted to my partner and I and treated as second class citizens. Being native Hawaiian raised by a Portuguese Hawaiian German mother and pure Italian father, I grew up celebrating culture and diversity. I have always been proud of my island home and my roots here until Hawaii legislators voted to take my rights away along with so many other LGBT people. Today I humbly request you correct this wrong and stand on the right side of history by granting civil rights and equality for all. Mahalo Nui Loa for listening.

Aloha,

Lisa Veneri

Lisa Veneri
215 Kawaihae St. #6
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Lois Toyama](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My brother is in a 30+ year committed relationship with his partner. They are solid supporters of our whole family. They should not be denied the rights that we have.

Our daughter and her partner are expecting their first child in April. They should be able to create a family with the same rights and privileges that their straight siblings have.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lois Toyama
4734 Aukai Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Lorena Goya](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lorena Goya
1002 South Kihei Road #102
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Louis Ramirez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:56:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I frequent St. Peter and Paul every Sunday morning and they brought up that marriage is between a man and a woman for one sole reason conception. What about the hundreds of children waiting for a family to adopt them? Who is going to love and care for them? We are - the hundreds of gay couples that just want a family of their own. LOVE IS LOVE!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Louis Ramirez
1634 Makiki St. OFC-104
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Lucas Morgan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:10:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I am heterosexual and am happily married to my wife now for 3 years, and if we are to call ourselves a fair and just society that treats its citizens equally, we need to give this same right to my cousin who is gay, and my many great friends who are gay, and to my wife's aunt who is gay and living with her life-partner in Australia because their relationship wouldn't be well-tolerated here. Laws have a big part to do with perception of the public in the long run. And this in turn has impacts on the self-esteem of those kids who right now are ashamed and full of self-hatred because they get messages from the government and media that they are bad and evil for being naturally attracted to those of the same sex.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lucas Morgan
609 Kumukahi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Lucia You](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:42:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lucia You
767 N. Kalaheo Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Mae Moriwaki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:13:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mae Moriwaki
1043 Kinau Street #301
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Margaret Mahon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:41:39 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I have friends and relatives who are waiting to get married. I have been married for 16 years and I have a wonderful family. Families form the backbone of our society and I want all people who want to form couples and families to have the same opportunity and benefits that I take for granted.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Margaret Mahon
2119 Kaloa Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Maria Olsen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:54:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. It is not wrong to love someone of the same sex; when you find the one, you've found the one.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Maria Olsen
1748 Huli Street # A
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Marie Mull](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marie Mull
3055 Pualei Cir. #A104
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Marion Sangiuliano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:33:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marion Sangiuliano
1350 S King St. #309
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Marissa Mendoza](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Furthermore, as a wedding coordinator on Maui, I witness weddings on a daily basis. I can tell you first hand that the love felt and shared during a gay wedding is no different than that shared during a straight wedding. Love is love, plain and simple.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marissa Mendoza
15 E Ku'u Aku Ln. Unit #113
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: [Mark Brasher](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 support for equality and justice in Hawaii
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:27:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My two sisters and I grew up in the state of Hawaii, attending public school from kindergarten through 12th grade. We work and pay taxes and have registered and voted in every election since turning 18.

My sisters have been with their partners for many years. One of my sisters can marry her partner but the other sister, who is lesbian, cannot.

This is not equality.

When they file taxes this year, the Federal government will recognize one's partnership, but not the other. This is because Hawaii does not allow same sex couples to marry. This is not just.

Please pass SB1 to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mark Brasher

Mark Brasher
1214 Kina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Marti Townsend](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:27:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marti Townsend
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96822