

From: [martina queenth](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:33:19 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.

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 am the proud parent of an incredibly smart and caring young woman who fell in love and married a wonderful woman this fall in Washington DC. I would have loved to have had the ceremony here. The truth of the matter is that she loves who she loves and they hurt no one. Our new daughter in law is proud to be serving in the US Navy and is anxious to do her duty overseas as a counter terrorist dog handler. The Navy recognizes this marriage, our church recognizes this marriage, our family recognizes this marriage...why not this state of Hawaii?

martina queenth
1435 9th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816



National Association of Social Workers Hawaii Chapter

October 23, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and members of the Judiciary and Labor

From: National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

Re: Special Session SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 Time: 10:30 a.m. Location: State Capitol Auditorium

Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor, My name is Marty Oliphant and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1** which will extend the same rights and responsibilities of same-sex partners in marriages.

The social work profession has consistently fought for social justice, equality, and constitutional protections for Hawaii's most vulnerable individuals and groups. Along with other social justice and civil rights advocates, social workers have played an indispensable role in preserving freedom and ensuring opportunity for all. Social workers believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons deserve the same protections and opportunities in their work, family, career and health equal to other members of society.

NASW encourages the adoption of laws that recognize inheritance, insurance, same-sex marriage, child custody, property, and other rights in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender relationships. The Association firmly believes that all federal protections and responsibilities available to legally married people in the United States should be available to people who enter same sex unions (including domestic partnerships, civil unions, and same sex marriages).

Furthermore, NASW promotes equal protection under the law, and strongly supports the full implementation of existing civil rights legislation and its application to women; to people of color; and to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people. And, because we believe that everyone is entitled to equal opportunity — regardless of age, disability, gender, language, race, religion, or sexual orientation — NASW endorses local, state, and federal policies and programs that give all people equal access to the resources, services, and opportunities that they require.

Approximately nine million adults in the United States—or three percent of the population—identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals. Discrimination and prejudice directed against any person on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, whether real or perceived, are damaging to the social, emotional, psychological, physical, and economic well-being of the affected individuals. NASW believes that same-gender couples should be afforded the same respect and rights as other-gender couples. Discrimination and prejudice directed against any group is damaging to the well-being of society as a whole.

NASW strongly supports SB 1. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

From: [Megan Ikemoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:35:22 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.

Megan Ikemoto
2569 Dole Street #1108B
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Michael Carius](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:43:28 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:

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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.

Michael Carius
852 Hoalauna Way
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Michael Pellegrino](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:05:07 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:

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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.

Michael Pellegrino
2600 Pualanai Way 603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Michelle Galgay](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:33:56 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.

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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.

My brother and myself have both been in long term relationships with our partners and deserve to be treated with dignity and fairness. Our mom passed away in 2010 and she accepted and loved us unconditionally. My mom brought us both up to treat others with love and acceptance, she was described by many as an exceptional woman. However, is treating people with love and acceptance qualities that should be considered exceptional? I believe these are qualities that should be the standard. My mom would've agreed, how about you?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Galgay
140 Uwapo Rf
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Michelle Yamashita](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:12:35 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.

My name is Michelle Yamashita, I am a retired veteran of the United States Navy. I served four tours in Afghanistan and Iraq in defending the right's and freedom of the citizens of the United States.

Not having Marriage Equality impacts my family deeply. Since we do not have Marriage equality in Hawaii my 1 year old son can not be put on my federal retirements benefit because of the inequality of Civil Unions. We are not a "Special Interest" we do not have a "Gay Agenda" . We are families that are just looking to have the same rights as all other families in this country.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry, nor should the religious belief systems of some citizens dictate how we craft our laws. 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 Yamashita
4510 Kuilei St
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: [Miguel Galvez Bravo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:46:37 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:

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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.

Miguel Galvez Bravo
1522 Bertram st
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Misaki Takabayashi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:26:41 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 in absolute support of SB-1.

The tide has now turned and the scale has tipped on this issue in our state and in our nation. Just as we never reinstated the ban for women to vote after the nation realized the injustice and corrected its own wrong, we will never again deny anyone's right to marry whom they love after this wrong is righted.

Thank you all for allowing this special session to occur. As some folks are pointing out, this session is costing the state quite a bit of money. Let's only do this once and bring in the inevitable future once and for all.

Please vote yes to grant the marriage right for all of your constituents, not just some.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Misaki Takabayashi
Konomanu Rd
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: [MiSuk Lee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:33:57 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.

MiSuk Lee
91-1649 Halolani Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Moriah Sanchez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:48:16 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.

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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.

A hundred years ago, people were protesting keeping colored people out of their schools, bathrooms, etc... They look pretty stupid now, don't they? Love is love regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Moriah Sanchez
1539 Liholiho St
Apartment 204
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Ms. Stephanie Fitzpatrick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:15:17 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.

It would have been good to grow up knowing that I could marry the woman of my dreams, as well as being encouraged (and able) to marry the man of my dreams.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ms. Stephanie Fitzpatrick
1545 Nehoa St. #1003
HONOLULU, HI 96822

From: [Nancy Aleck](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:40:46 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:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Equality is a concept that has yet to be put fully into practice or policy. Civil rights cannot and should not be determined by a general voting populous, many of whom are bitterly bigoted and have yet to ripen the concept of equality in their hearts.

Nor should the government be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. This was done in the past with people of different races. The case that changed law was over 45 years ago. This is what one of the plaintiffs, Mildred Loving, said in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of the landmark civil rights decision of the US Supreme Court that invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage:

“I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry...I am proud that ...my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness and the family that so many people... seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That’s what Loving, and loving, are all about.”

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nancy Aleck

Nancy Aleck
PO Bos 61212
Honolulu, HI 96839

From: [Nancy Kern](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:07:14 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.

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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.

Nancy Kern
1933 Ualakaa Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Naomi Pualani Abraham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:17:50 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 have been with my Ku'uipo for over 35 years, and would love to enjoy the freedom of marriage afforded to all others, except same sex couples. Please do the right thing and let your hearts and your na'au tell you that equality for all should supercede prejudice and religious beliefs. As a Native Hawaiian, our Kanaka Maoli have lost so much, please don't let this once in a lifetime opportunity, "til death do we part" slip away. So I ask you again, Please pass SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, you know it's the right thing to do. :)

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Naomi Pualani Abraham
999 Bishop Street
Suite 2700
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Natisha Moreman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:39:24 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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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.

Natisha Moreman
77-409 Puuwai Alii
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Newt Chapin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:24:18 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.

Get with it people. It's 2013. Some of you are still trying to drag us into the last century where Bible Thumpers had more political power than the rest of the citizenry. Stop listening to crazy people who believe big daddy up in the sky tells them that gays and lesbians are somehow subhuman. We're not. We're regular citizens who pay our taxes and have families with children to support.

It's time to stop jerking us around. I want equal rights NOW! Do your jobs and get this passed.

For those of you who already believe my co-parent and I should have the right to protect our family with legal marriage, thank you in advance. For those elected representatives who still believe it's OK to oppress gay and lesbian citizens, go ahead and vote that way. Your name will go down in infamy as one of the few elected officials who had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. Your descendents will carry the shame of your hateful actions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Newt Chapin, mother of two.

Newt Chapin
2404 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Pamela Huber](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 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.

I am a woman. I am keenly aware of what EQUAL looks like and feels like. Only a few years ago, the rights of women had to be affirmed legislatively to pronounce to the citizens of this country that discrimination would no longer be sanctioned.

I am married to a man. I wanted this not because I needed God to sanction my commitment, not because I needed Uncle Sam to sanction my union, but because it is an established social contract in our culture that carries benefits and privileges.

I am a person. If one person is lucky enough to find another person with whom they can find mutual support, love, companionship, and trust, and they desire to be legally recognized as married, that person should not be denied rights and privileges that other persons are offered.

EQUAL PERSON.

Is the government hypocritical, bigoted, or uninformed as to the meaning of EQUAL? Take one minute to reflect upon how you or your parents or grandparents were marginalized and not treated as equals.

You have the opportunity to stand for EQUALITY.

Freedom of religion is guaranteed for all. Freedom from religion is also implied. The bible states a widow must marry her brother-in-law. We do not legislate this practice so please, apply this law EQUALLY.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Pamela Huber
46-024 Puulena Street
Apt. 613
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Pat Villiarimo-Cockett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:28:12 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 plan on coming to Oahu to testify. However, here is my testimony so that you can copy it to all the legislators.

Aloha, my name is Patricia Villiarimo-Cockett. I am the mother of 7 children; I also have 7 grandchildren. I came here today from Hana, Maui to share my story. On Aug. 21, 2013, my daughter was married under bright skies and the eyes of God. I was able to witness my daughter dressed beautifully in white, walk down the aisle, embraced by her father as he gave her away; and of course, witnessing my husband cry at his daughter's wedding. I had never seen her happier. We celebrated with some 300+ family and friends. Her fiancé's, 96 year old grandmother came all the way from Oklahoma, along with some 40 others of her family and friends. Her own 86 year old grandparents came from Oahu to bless their union. As in the tradition of Hana, family and friends came together from all over Maui to help in the wedding preparations, to make her day special. It had taken two years in the planning, and some \$20,000 was spent, between airfare, vacation rentals, rent-a-cars, food, cake, formal wear, tents and musicians. We took their wedding pictures, paraded around town honking our joy; then at their reception they cut their cake, danced the dollar dance, had their father daughter dance, and threw the bouquet. It was a beautiful wedding, and it was an honor to find out afterwards that my new daughter-in-law was going to take our name; to be a Villiarimo. They were married that day, under the eyes of God, blessed in their union by their grandparents, parents, brother's, sisters, aunties, uncles and friends.

Why is it then that the State of Hawaii, says that they were only civil unionized? They have loved each other for over 12 years, committed that love to each other for the rest of their lives; and yet the State of Hawaii does not want to recognize that commitment as being the same commitment I made to her father. Yes, I have 7 children, three of whom are gay; why is it that the state will allow four of them to marry legally, yet for three of them, the state will only civil unionize them. What the heck is that? It is discrimination. It is not following our Hawaii or US Bill of Rights. Which state that:

(A.2 Rights of the Individual)- All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Isn't marriage the pursuit of happiness?

It also states that the (A.3 Equality of Rights)- Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State on account of sex. If you take that phrase literally, which you should, that would also include sexual orientation. Under Hawaii state law, if my transgender child is discriminated against at her work place, she can sue. So why is it then that the state is still discriminating as to whom we call married and whom we call civil unionized. It is wrong, and I will call it like I see it; it is discriminatory and bigoted.

Sincerely, Patricia Villiarimo-Cockett
PO Box 413 Hana, Hi 96713
8082698307

Pat Villiarimo-Cockett
4855 Hana Hwy
Hana, HI 96713

From: [Patricia Anger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:12:45 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patricia Anger
16-1979 36th street
Po box 1358
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:32:16 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.

As a heterosexual individual I believe:

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. This basic right is not a threat to anyone!

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.

Patricia Blair
25 Aulike St
Apt. 426
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Patty Gorski](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:34:30 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.

Up until recently, my opinion was not based on personal experience. I've been bisexual for all of my mature life, simply able to see the beauty in all, not wanting to limit my life and ability to love. Recently, I've fallen in love with my best friend- a woman. This is the first same sex relationship either of us have ever shared, and it's also been the richest experience of my life; I've never known a love so grand. But we keep our relationship a secret from our community because of the continued stigma of homosexuality. This stigma exists because of the fact that homosexual marriage and acceptance is still "debatable" in the laws of our nation. As a teacher, I should be proud of my love and feel free to express it and demonstrate tolerance and acceptance to my students. But-I'm highly aware of the stigma, the judgement, and the hate crimes that exist because of the fact that our own government creates laws that perpetuate the notion that "gay is bad." I hide my love to protect my reputation as a "respected" member of my community and school. This is a dispicable notion. My government should protect my freedom to love and be loved without judgment. "Gay" should not be an insult my students throw at one another because our government has established the idea that gay people are inferior. They can't even marry.

There is no constitutionally in denying rights to a class of people. That is the definition of discrimination and it is not American. Marriage equality for homosexuals will create equality for homosexuals in all areas of their lives, and increase their acceptance by the American population. This logic is not new- we have discriminated against groups of people historically: native Americans, African Americans, women, Japanese, and now gay people. Laws need to change to ensure equality for all Americans.

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: [Paul Harper-O'Connor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:00:41 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.

I strongly urge your support for marriage equality in our state.

This is no longer a moral issue, but a matter of civil rights and intentional discrimination.

The lack of access for same-sex couples in Hawaii is an outright denial of access to federal rights. The recent US Supreme Court ruling have validated this and states are choosing to either acknowledge their obligation of inclusion of same-sex couples in the institution of marriage or await being named in lawsuit challenges that are strongly anticipated to rule by recent rulings as unfounded.

Many in the community remain ignorant to the facts around same-sex marriage and assume that my partner and I are considered "married" under state and federal laws already – as they see us a committed couple; however this has not yet been attained.

Hawaii has floundered on the issue of marriage equality for many years and it is more than time to stand on the right side of the issue.

My partner of over twenty-four years and I DESIRE and DEMAND equal standing in the eyes of the law, as well as having the rights, respect, dignity, and responsibilities as our married friends and families.
I ask you to pass marriage equality in Hawaii NOW and allow our keiki to see that they can have faith in our elected legislators and government officials.

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 Harper-O'Connor
576 Kuikahi Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [PETER SCHAKTMAN](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:36:30 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.

Further, it occurs to me that the entire public accommodations controversy can and really ought to be reframed more simply: Religious institutions are free to practice their religion as they see fit. Businesses need to abide by the public accommodations law. Religious institutions, to the extent that they function as businesses, LIKE ALL BUSINESSES, must abide by the law as well. All the rest is really nonsense and a head-on attack on the will of the people (i.e., to outlaw discrimination against protected classes) that many of the opponents of this bill suddenly (and selectively) claim to hold so dear.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

PETER SCHAKTMAN
2047 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1402
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Phil Kinnicutt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:06:27 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.

It is purely and simply a matter of equal rights under the law...nothing more, nothing less.

Aloha,
Phil Kinnicutt
808-254-4534

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.

Phil Kinnicutt
341 Iliaina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Philip Steinbacher](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:14:10 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Philip Steinbacher
2110 Kaneka St #182
Lihue, HI 96766

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: rachelpualani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:13:35 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
Rachel Orange	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue. I am writing to express my full and unequivocal support for marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well. This is a basic civil rights issue. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer. Do the right thing. Mahalo for your time. Rachel S. Orange Palolo

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: [Raedean Sanchez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:09:25 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.

Raedean Sanchez
1539 Liholiho st
apt 204
Honolulu, HI 96822



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Rev. Douglas Pyle
Chair

Commission on Ethics in Public Life

Sister Joan Chatfield, M.M.
Chair

Commission on Community Building

Dr. Ha'aheo Guanson

October 27, 2013

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Testimony on Behalf of
Senate Bill 1
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senators Clayton Hee, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

Aloha mai kākou.

The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii supports Senate Bill 1.

As the successor to the Hawaii Council of Churches that was founded in 1927, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii has been active in seeking social justice, and marriage equality is an area where state and church each hold a place in our social fabric. We therefore have adopted the following statement.

The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii is made up of clergy and lay-leaders representing more than 30 faith-based traditions. Some of our religious institutions perform and recognize marriages for same gender loving couples by officially blessing these unions, while others do so as individuals. Some find it contrary to their beliefs or teachings to perform marriages outside of an opposite-gender paradigm. We find our diversity to be a source of strength.

We firmly believe that the state and federal governments have no place in defining the sanctity of some traditions to the exclusion of others, as pertaining to our diverse practices of marriage. For religious institutions, marriage is deeply rooted in the rites of passage and pastoral care according to the moral and ethical teachings of those traditions.

We affirm the human dignity and worth of all people, thus we support civil liberties and religious liberties, regardless of affectional orientation and gender identity or expression. We also affirm that civil marriages for same gender-loving couples performed by the state do not endanger any of our religious traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

Respectfully,

Bishop Stephen Randolph Sykes
President, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii

From: [Rena Hamilton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:34:22 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.

Rena Hamilton
3094 Elua Street
Lihue, HI 96766

From: [Renie Lindley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:03:43 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.

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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.

Renie Lindley
PO Box 765
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Rick Velasquez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:41:35 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.

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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.

Rick Velasquez
911 Kaipii
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Rob Harper-O'Connor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:16:33 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 young people of Hawaii, our future, want to live in an advanced society that is free of discrimination and mistreatment of others. That is why they are depending upon you to do what is current and right for now. They are planning on voting out people who are hateful and demeaning toward others, as the people against marriage equality have shown themselves to be. In this issue, you are against us if you are not for us. That is why you ought to support the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Also, we are not a theocracy. People in Hawaii Civil Unions can and will sue for equal protection and access to federal benefits you are denying them by preventing marriage in this state. I ought to know since that is what I will have to do if I must.

I resent having to write this letter at all because I believe you understand fully that the rights of people are meant to be protected by the courts and not put up for voting. We won that right many years ago before it was wrongfully taken away. How awful it has been all these years waiting. Well our time has come with the end of DOMA. I'm certain you understand this and will vote in support of the act unless you only want to placate the opinions and beliefs of backward people who don't care or understand about the needs of others. You may wrongly choose to ignore the concrete realities expressed in the needs of gay people if you personally dislike them, but then you are not doing your job- the job of securing rights, benefits, and needs of your constituents. It is not your job and you were not elected to sit in pompous moral judgement against the needs of a minority and the future dreams of the young generation. Your job is to move us forward, please!

Rob Harper-O'Connor
576 Kuikahi. Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Robert Miyake-Stoner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:53:24 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 as a United Methodist minister to express my support for 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 Miyake-Stoner
99-043 Kealakaha Dr.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Robert Watkins](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:07:03 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.

As a practicing physician,I firmly believe that homosexuals merit the same freedoms and rights as the straight population.

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 Watkins
Pob 63
Hawi, HI 96719

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: robineagleray@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:43:36 AM

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
Robin Hart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I speak in support of SB 1. I, along with thousands of other Red-Letter Christians in this country, believe that the best path forward is a legal system that respects the rights and responsibilities of all couples, gay or straight, and also respects the religious liberty of faith communities to define marriage consistent with their theology and scriptural understanding. Thank you. Robin Hart

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: [Ron Gima](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:52:29 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 gay, but do not have a partner, but I have a female cousin who is married (in Wisconsin) to her female partner, and even raise 2 adopted children--a sister and a brother. They have the same ups and downs and challenges as any straight couple does, and maybe more, due to gay couples being naturally in the minority in society. Yet, their isn't a family with more morals, family values, discipline, and most of all LOVE than they have.

So, I hope same-sex partners, here in our Islands, can also soon enjoy the right to marry, and if they so choose, to also be able to raise a family with all the protections and benefits and rights for the sake of THEIR children. (It's not only straight, traditionally married couples who devote themselves, as touted in the current TV ads "For the sake of the children"...it's gay couples as well, just the same!)

It's TIME for same-sex couples (who did NOT arbitrarily choose this lifestyle, who were made by the SAME CREATOR as those professing to speak for "God" against gay marriage)...it's time for us to be given the right, the civil right, to one of the most fundamental areas of life--to marry fully and fairly and happily.

May I add, thank you, Hawai'i Legislature, for this special session...because an issue as basic a civil right as this is, should NOT be left to public opinion, for the masses to decide. It should indeed be decided by those whom we have elected to do what is right, "pono", for the community of these Islands as a whole...by you, who stand for the rights of EVERY citizen of Hawai'i nei, whether in the minority or not.

* * * * *

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.

Ron Gima

1039 Kekaulike
A-410
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Rosie Roma](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:43 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rosie Roma
2591 dole st
F1102
honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Ross Uehara-Tilton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:56:27 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

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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.

Ross Uehara-Tilton
95/269 waikalani drive
C803
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Samuel COX](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:13:02 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.

Samuel COX
45-090 Namoku st, #1002
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Scott Sorensen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:17:50 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

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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.

Scott Sorensen
p.o. box 1858
Koloa, HI 96756

From: [Sharon Blanton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:37:12 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.

I had to travel all the way to Massachusetts to marry my wife. The older we get, the more important marriage protection becomes. We hope desperately that marriage equality will be passed here else we may have no choice but to leave our home and move to a state that will honor our commitment.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sharon Blanton
44-044 Kaimalu Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Shaun Campbell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:30:06 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.

It's a little-known fact that for 24 hours back in 1996, same-sex marriage was legal in Hawai'i. However brief that moment of justice and equality, it was one that sparked the modern movement for equal marriage around the globe that now is embraced by fully 17 countries, including more than a dozen states here in the U.S.

Indeed, Hawai'i has always supported diverse configurations of what comprises "family", from structures of kinship and households of Native Hawaiians to more recent options. Judge Kevin Chang perhaps summed up the familial landscape best in his landmark decision of 1996 in *Baehr v. Miike*:

"There is diversity in the structure and configuration of families. In Hawaii, and elsewhere, children are being raised by their natural parents, single parents, stepparents, grandparents, adopted parents, half parents, foster parents, gay and lesbian parents, and same-sex couples."

Notwithstanding our unique leadership role in the global equal marriage front, there are those here at home who pander fear and a false morality, insisting that respecting the civil rights of gay and lesbian minorities will deteriorate, rather than strengthen our society. This is factually untrue. In 2004, the American Anthropological Association, the world's largest organization of scientists who study culture, issued this "Statement on Marriage and the Family":

"The results of more than a century of anthropological research on households, kinship relationships, and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social orders depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution. Rather, anthropological research supports the conclusion that a vast array of family types, including families built upon same-sex partnerships, can contribute to stable and humane societies."

What we need now in Hawai'i to strengthen families of all types is equal marriage for all citizens. The time is ripe for fair treatment. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Shaun Campbell

Shaun Campbell
1911 Kalakaua Avenue, #305
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Shawna Koch](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:34:24 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.

Shawna Koch
68311 oloho st
Waialua, HI 96791

From: [Shelley Steele](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:30:34 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:

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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.

Shelley Steele
3955 Roundtop Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Sina Sison](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:19:52 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sina Sison
677 ala moana blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Soo Sun Choe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:08:03 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.

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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.

Soo Sun Choe
3632 Keaolele Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: sussman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:26:54 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
Stephen Sussman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This should be passed to promote equal rights for minorities in Hawaii. It does not threaten other marriages, nor does it threaten religious freedom. 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. They quote a recent study by sociologist Mark Regnerus to justify this. But the Regnerus study has nothing to do with same sex marriage. It studied 2 groups. The first group included almost exclusively children whose parents separated, and one parent was in a same sex relationship at any time, no matter how brief, during the child's rearing. It did not distinguish as to which parent actually raised the child. The second group included only children raised by opposite sex parents that stayed together. Not surprisingly, the children from stable relationships did better. The official national organization representing sociologists like Mr. Regnerus is the American Sociological Association. In a brief to the Supreme Court in favor of same sex marriage they write that the Regnerus study "did not specifically examine children raised by same-sex parents, and provides no support for the conclusions that same-sex parents are inferior parents or that the children of same-sex parents experience worse outcomes." "If any conclusion can be reached from Regnerus' study, it is that family stability is predictive of child well-being." They then write "Scholarly consensus is clear: children of same sex-parents fare just as well as children of opposite-sex parents" and that the Regnerus study has been "mischaracterized" by opponents of same-sex marriage in a deceitful effort to justify their opposition. 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. 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. Yours truly, Stephen Sussman, MD Haiku, HI.

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: [Steve Jacques](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:20:29 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. And for me and my partner, it is a personal issue. We have been together for 24 years and 2 months. Last year we entered into a civil union, but as I am getting closer to retirement, many of the federal benefits denied us are weighing heavy on our minds. We have paid taxes to this country all our adult lives, lived in this great state for more than 20 years, and want our ashes scattered here when we die. All we are asking for is equality.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steve Jacques
742 Maluiniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Steve Leeper](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:14 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.

Steve Leeper
173 kulipuu
kihei, HI 96753

From: [Steven Vannatta](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:47:38 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.

Steven Vannatta
300 Wai Nani Way APT 1517
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:52 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
Kyle Kajihiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT Marriage Equality. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

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

October 25, 2013

RE: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN HAWAII sb1_

TO: Senator Clayton Hee
Chair Judiciary and Labor Committee Hawaii State Capitol, Room
407 415 S.
Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Sue Stone
75 Mano Drive
Kula, HI 96790

Dear Mr. Hee,

I am writing to voice my support of the Marriage Equality bill currently under consideration in the special session beginning October 28, 2013.

I am in favor of this bill because:

1. This would generate revenue for the state of Hawaii for mainland folks wanting Hawaii to host their destination wedding and for residents waiting for you to do the right thing.
2. If this bill is not passed, our state would likely endure the time, energy and money that would be required to defend litigation similar to other states are currently experiencing. This would not generate revenue, it would cost our state monies that mostly likely would be wasted now that same gender couples are entitled to federal benefits.
3. I am sixty years old, and long to be able to wed my long-time partner right here in the state we love. We could spend our dollars elsewhere, but that is not what we want to do, unless we have to if this bill is not passed.
4. Arguments opposed to this bill are wearisome, old, and not factually or scripturally based. I am an Episcopalian, and at last notice, this means I'm just as Christian as the next person saying I'm not. And it's mostly people calling themselves Christians in opposition. This is about the law, not religion.

Thank you for your time and attention and for doing the right thing for Hawaii. Do not let this go to a popular vote.

From: [Kathryn Bradley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:19:15 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.

I grew up in the South in a very religious family. Homosexuality was considered a sin. I finished college and left home to become a PBS art director. One of the young people I worked with was a man named Mark.

We, over time, became friends.

He confided in me that he was gay - but that took about two years.

Long story short - Mark has been my closest male friend for 30 years. I've seen his struggles with parents that thought shock therapy might "mend his ways".

I've seen him become a very successful professional and I've seen him fall in love.

My own first marriage ended in divorce. Mark and his partner have been together - through good times and some pretty bad times - for 20 years.

In short - they are the happiest married couple I know.

They live in California and were legally married last month.

They love Hawaii and come here for three weeks every year. This is where they will retire and this is where they wanted to be married - but couldn't.

This is a civil rights issue-not a religious issue.

Please live aloha - and make it possible for any loving, committed couple to marry in Hawaii.

Thank you for your help.

Kathryn Bradley

Kathryn Bradley
1952 Kui Place

Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Barbara George](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:19:27 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 write as a heterosexual woman who has been married. This status should be available to any couple that wishes to enter into a legal union. There is absolutely no threat to heterosexuals in providing the opportunity for same-sex couples. It is the just thing to 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.

Barbara George
58-126B Iwia Place
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Kelsie Polston](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:55 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelsie Polston
2465 ala wai blvd apt 102
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Edward Kakos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:34:15 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:

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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.

Edward Kakos
75-6009 Ali'i Dr
W2
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Brian Devera](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:38:11 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 very 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, no one turns their back 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 gay man born and raised in Hawaii, I wish to marry my fiancé there. We live in New York and considered marrying in Hawaii but because it would be a civil union we opted for a wedding here instead where gay marriage is recognized. The wedding is next year but hopefully, when marriage equality passes in Hawaii, we will be able to have another ceremony there as well.

My fiancé and his enormous family is from the east coast. They wanted us to marry in Hawaii so they would finally have a good reason to visit. With your support this can still become a reality.

And what an ideal reality it would be for the two us marry there, move there, and raise a family there.

Though I live in New York, my family still lives in Hawaii. I visit as often as possible. I care deeply for my home state. Anything that happens there affects me no matter where I am.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brian Devera
94-1502 Pokeo St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: [Dianne Gerard](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:38:23 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

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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.

Dianne Gerard
P.O.Box 453
Lawai, HI 96765

From: [Shannon Furomoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:39:54 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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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: [Ken Staton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:52:28 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:

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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.

Ken Staton
P.O. Box 491
Volcano, HI 96785

From: [Kealahou Alika](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:54:11 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

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I was born and raised in Kona in 1949. I was born to a mother who was Hawaiian-Portuguese and father who was Japanese.

I have seven siblings - four of whom are half brothers and three of whom are half sisters. Among the seven, two were married then divorced and remarried, two remain in their first marriages, two are single, and one is in a committed same-gender relationship. One side of the family grew up Buddhist; the other Christian.

I have served in the Christian ministry for almost 35 years - both as a lay person and as an ordained clergy member of the United Church of Christ. I share with others the conviction that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic right that should not be denied to anyone.

I know there are divergent theological points of view within our churches about "same-sex" marriage. That is why I think it is important that the broader discussion be about "same-gender" marriages.

I realize some will quibble about the terms - "sex" and "gender." But I also realize that the church has had a history of difficulty dealing with sex - period.

In the end I am convinced that the debate is not about what we believe (theology) but about how we feel (emotional). My hope and prayer is that whatever our mana'o may be that we will come to appreciate the truth that love is what makes a family.

Mahalo for your courage.

Me ke aloha o ke Akua,

The Rev. Kealahou C. Alika

Kealahou Alika
2035 Pakolu St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Martha Alyson Danford](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:54:57 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.

Martha Alyson Danford
39 Maluhia Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Darrin Kaneshiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:59:56 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.

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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.

Darrin Kaneshiro
P.O. Box 89502
Honolulu, HI 96830

From: [Emily Danford](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:00:17 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.

If you are going to base it on religion, you need to remove all the civil benefits that married couples get and make divorce illegal.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Danford
19-4067 Kilauea Pl.
Volcano, HI 96785

From: [James Vivian](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:00:39 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.

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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.

James Vivian
91-215 Niuhiwa Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Peter Lee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:08:32 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.

Peter Lee
4132C Napali Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Puakea Nogelmeier](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:20:06 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 SB1.

If the government is to recognize marriage as a legal state with various benefits, tax arrangements and responsibilities, that social and legal commitment should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as others – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, no one should be delegated to lesser status under the law 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 should 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Puakea Nogelmeier
2667 Anuu Place
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [VINCENT KIMURA](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:29:12 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.

VINCENT KIMURA
1711 Nanea St
HONOLULU, HI 96826

From: [Melissa Matsubara](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:48:38 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.

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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.

Melissa Matsubara
155 Paoakalani ave. #803
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Jean Evans](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:50 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 this 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.

Other states and countries have passed such legislation extending equal rights in marriage. Hawaii has always taken the lead in assuring equal protections and this is the time to do so again.

I urge you to pass this important bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jean Evans
99-1669 Hoapono Pl.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Tatjana Johnson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:00:02 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:

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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.

Tatjana Johnson
95-654 Naholoholo Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Tiffany Dalida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:07 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:

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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.

Tiffany Dalida
94-446 Hamau st.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: [Robert Bidwell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:47 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:

My name is Robert Bidwell and I am submitting this testimony in strong and heartfelt support of Senate Bill 1. I thank you for taking the time to consider this legislation which, if enacted, will bring our Hawai`i `ohana closer together in understanding and inclusiveness to the benefit of thousands of families, and their children, across our state. I submit my testimony as a pediatrician, as a father, and as a gay man who has made Hawai`i his home for over 30 years.

As a pediatrician and adolescent medicine physician at Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women and Children since the 1980s, I have worked with hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. I have worked with many more in my former position as Associate Professor of Pediatrics (and now Associate Clinical Professor) at the University of Hawai`i John A. Burns School of Medicine, fulfilling Judiciary and Office of Youth Service (DHS) contracts to provide health care and counseling to youth residing at the Juvenile Detention Facility in Kapolei and the Hawai`i Youth Correctional Facility in Kailua. One of my most important roles is to provide LGBT youth in my practice with hope for a happy and healthy future, nurtured in great measure by the presence of loving, supportive and committed relationships in their lives. As I have come to understand through my decades of pediatric practice in Hawai`i, relationships that are based on love and commitment and that are officially recognized and supported by the broader Hawai`i community are relationships that are strengthened because of that recognition and celebration. Committed, loving and nurturing relationships are important not only for the two individuals in that relationship, but also for the children they might raise together, and for our Hawai`i `ohana as a whole.

As a gay father, this legislation has important implications for both me and my son, who I love so much and whose safety and well-being are my most important responsibilities in life. The protection and support that comes from the official recognition of same-sex marriage has been well-documented in the testimony you have received from many individuals and families in support of this legislation. It has also been well-documented in the literature of my profession. It is for this reason that in March 2013, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued its official policy statement supporting same-sex civil marriage entitled "Promoting the Well-being of Children Whose Parents are Lesbian or Gay", stating that the AAP "supports pediatrician advocacy for public policies that help all children and their parents, regardless of sexual orientation, build and maintain strong, stable and healthy families that are able to meet the needs of their children."

As individuals who care deeply about the people of Hawai`i, I urge each of you to vote in favor of SB 1. With your support for equality for all of Hawai`i's people, we can make our state an even better place to live, work, and raise our children. What a visionary and meaningful legacy to have.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Bidwell, M.D

Robert Bidwell
6264 Keokea Pl.

Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Taja Chalker](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:36:02 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.

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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.

Taja Chalker
1419 Mamalu st
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Lois Perrin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony of Guy Nakatani in Strong Support of S.B.1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:38:33 AM
Attachments: [Marriage Bill Testimony.pdf](#)

Please see the attached testimony in strong support of S.B. 1. Thank you.

From: [Elaine Heiby](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex marriage SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:38:56 AM

Dear Honorable Legislators

I have been a resident of Hawaii for over 32 years and during that time I have been with the faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as well as a Hawaii Licensed Psychologist.

My training and work in psychology leaves me quite aware of the debilitating effects of discrimination in any form.

Denial of the choice to marry is discrimination, plain and simple.

I believe you know in the depth of your hearts that equality for marriage is the right thing to do.

I urge you to do the right thing.

Mahalo for your kind consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.
2542 Date St., Apt. 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
heiby@hawaii.edu

From: [Nancy Friedrich](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:43:16 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.

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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.

Nancy Friedrich
245-A Ulana St
makawao, HI 96768

From: [Michael Moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:40 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.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

I believe that if the gay parents of these children are allowed to marry it can only strengthen society by giving these children a happy, stable, nurturing home, thus bringing forth more well-adjusted children. This would be in sharp contrast to the other end of the spectrum - children who have been brought up to believe they aren't as good as others and consequently relate to the world from their tension around that issue. This scenario would only create conflict for these children - conflict in their interpersonal relationships as well as conflict with society in general.

Marriage for same sex couples has many other benefits too numerous to mention in this brief testimony, the economic boost to tourism being only one. But when you get down to the nitty gritty of it, this issue is most importantly about basic human rights - the right to marry the person you love, create a family and find some happiness in a world that is not always a very happy place.

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 Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: [Michael Moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:48 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

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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.

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: [Samantha Robinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:50:20 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:

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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.

Samantha Robinson
92-1038 Makakilo dr
18
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Susan Werner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:08:31 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 believe that this is a civil rights issue, not a social issue. Currently, we are denying a whole segment of our citizens the same rights that are available to others.

Two people who decide to permanently join their lives together should have the same legal rights, universally, regardless of gender. They, and their families, deserve the same protection under the law as any other couple.

I also think that passage of the bill would have a very positive impact on our economy. Hawaii is the dream wedding and/or honeymoon destination in the U.S. and opening it up to more couples would greatly increase the numbers of visitors.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Werner
2923 E Lelehuna Pl
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Melissa Egusa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:07:34 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:

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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.

As the mother of three adult children, one of whom is gay, I want my son to have the same legal right of marriage to a person he loves, respects, and cherishes...just the same as his siblings.

There are so many pressing issues in our state right now - it is sad the issue that can bring love, harmony, and joy to so many is causing such a chasm.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa Egusa
4028 Omao Road
Koloa, HI 96756

From: [Kimberly Zehner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:09 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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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.

Kimberly Zehner
3054 Ala Poha Place
#810
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [kathy.mociun](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:02:13 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:

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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.

kathy.mociun
59-589A Ke Iki Rd
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Gail Gnazzo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support for Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:58:05 AM

Honorable Senate President
Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives
Chairmen and Members

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly urge your vote in favor of marriage equality for all citizens of the State of Hawaii. First, it is only right from a civil rights perspective. One group of people should not be denied the rights others of us enjoy.

I have been friends with a number of same sex partners for over thirty years. One of these had been a couple for forty years. They were as devoted and loving as any hetero sexual couple. They were responsible, reliable, contributing members of our community involved in numerous volunteer community activities and contributing materially to many more non-profit and civic organizations, including those that served students, families, children and youth. They sat on several boards and government committees on the state and county level.

Several years ago one of them was diagnosed with malignant myeloma an incurable form of cancer. His partner cared for him through several rounds of chemotherapy and remissions during that time just as heterosexual partners do with love and commitment. Three weeks ago he died. Regretfully he died without ever being able to call his life partner his husband..

The Legislature can right that wrong for all committed same sex couples. Those worried for heterosexual marriage should look inward and work on their own individually and as a society..

Sincerely,

Gail P. Gnazzo, MSSW, LSW .

s

From: [Isayas Mandrial](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:57:28 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.

Isayas Mandrial
439 Keoniana St. #1202
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Alan Murakami](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:43:43 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:

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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. The US Supreme Court has signaled what is should have been apparent - intentional discrimination is illegal pure and simple. We in Hawai'i should have seized the chance to be the model for the nation when our Supreme Court told us such bans were unconstitutional. Instead , we decided to amend our constitution to prop up a bad if not legally flawed idea in 1998.

Stop this nonsense already. All people should have the same rights. Each new generation since that amendment passed don't share that view and political change has been sweeping the US each year since as older generations pass on. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alan Murakami
916D Auloa Road
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Hassie Zitnik](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:33:08 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:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hassie Zitnik
2144 Kahookele Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Emily Koenig](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:30:09 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.

Emily Koenig
140 Uwapo Rd
12-101
kihei, HI 96753

From: [Mark Koppel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In support of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:56 AM

Honorable Committee Members:

Aloha. My name is Mark Koppel. I live on Hawaii Island in Hakalau. I wish I could be here person but, unfortunately, I cannot.

I am writing in support of SB1, to provide Equal Marriage for all in Hawai'i.

First, let me emphasize this a Civil Rights bill. We do not have referendums on people's rights. In Hawai'i, most of us, from the wonderful original Hawai'ans, to Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Blacks etc. have been subjected to discrimination based solely on one characteristic of theirs.

The same thing has happened to Lesbians and Gays. One characteristic has led to severe discrimination against them. The Supreme Court has ruled that this discrimination is unconstitutional.

Let me answer what my Opponents will say.

First, "Marriage between a man and a woman is God's law". We do not govern our state or country by "God's law". And whose God? The Judeo-Christian God, the Buddhist God, the Shinto God? In the Bible, many men have multiple wives and concubines. Is this what we want? This argument fails.

Second, Marriage between a man and a woman follows "natural law". Once again, what is "natural law"? In nature, many animals have what could be called same-sex relations. There are stories, for example, about two male penguins mating for life and raising chicks. The argument falls.

Third, Marriage is for procreation. One of the worst arguments of all. Do we prevent sterile people from marrying? Old people? People who say they don't want to have children? Do we end marriages that have not produced children? The argument fails.

Fourth, Homosexuality is a choice. As almost any Lesbian or Gay person can tell you, they knew what they were from childhood. In spite of years of trying to change, Lesbians and Gays remain that way. The so-called Ex-Gay movement is completely discredited by former members, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, etc. etc. Two states, New Jersey and California have passed laws banning so-called Ex-Gay therapy. The argument fails.

Fifth, Equal Marriage will destroy America. This would be news to the people of the fifteen states that have Equal Marriage. There have been no changes in marriage, divorce, etc. The end of Don't Ask Don't Tell has not negatively affected the Military at all. The only change is Lesbians and Gays and their *children* can enjoy the benefits everyone does. The argument fails.

Sixth, There will be a slippery slope of people marrying their siblings, their pets, a bridge in France, multiple partners, etc. This is false. Why does this not happen now? Because we restrict marriage to two people who hopefully love each other. Nothing changes under Equal Marriage. Since Equal Marriage has begun, not one of these absurd prophecies has come true. Nor will they. The argument fails.

Seventh, Equal Marriage will harm religion. False. The laws of our state and country provide for the separation of church and state. No church can be forced to marry anyone. Many churches right now refuse to marry interfaith couples. This is their right. Some refuse to marry divorced couples. This is their right. If any church refuses to marry two men or two women, this is their right. No religion has been harmed in any sense. The argument fails.

Eighth, Equal Marriage will require services such as photographers and florists to work for Same-Sex couples. What opponents do not say is that this is *already* true. Our anti-discrimination laws prevent any business that serves the public from discriminating against any group now. Nothing will change. The argument fails.

I believe these points answer any possible objections to Equal Marriage. Our state has a wonderful tradition of equal opportunity for all. This is our chance to show what Aloha really means. We can lead the way for other people. All this law does is provide the opportunity for two people and, in many cases, their children, to receive equal protection under the law. They can visit their spouse in the hospital and control their care when needed; they can provide for their families at death; they can pay taxes equal to other couples; they can receive any of the famous 1,100 federal benefits married couples receive.

Civil Unions do not provide these. Only marriage does.

Who could possibly be against this?

Equal Marriage is overdue.

I know our legislature will pass SB1 and bring us once again to the forefront of Equality in the nation.

Mahalo

Mark A. Koppel
P O Box 283
Hakalau, HI

From: [Liza Garcia-Mitchell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:44 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Liza Garcia-Mitchell
Lipoa pl
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Darice Unick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:23:25 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:

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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.

Darice Unick
Kahili
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [RHOADY LEE](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:25:28 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 support of SB 1.

to marry the person one loves is a basic freedom that should not be denied anyone. couples marry for the same reasons--to make a lifetime commitment of love and fidelity to each other, regardless of sex. Hawaii has a tradition of accepting everyone, differences and all, into the family. 'Ohana' is most important. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

my partner and i have been in a committed relationship for thirty years; earlier this year, we traveled to Washington state to have our commitment made 'legitimate' in marriage. Government does not belong in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us wants to be told 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.

RHOADY LEE
PO BOX 2080
KAMUELA, HI 96743

From: [Hope Braceros](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:03:31 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hope Braceros
yellowpaddler808@yahoo.com
121 Hookano Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Steven Leong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:01:33 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.

All straight people produces Gay children. Government employees to local fishermen. Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Haole, Samoan, Filipino, Korean, Portuguese ... etc.

As long as these Gay children are being born, THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY, will go on.

The opposition, will continue to fight this equality.

Money, time, and effort on both sides will be poured into the pot, which will mean less of this for the poor, impoverished, and homeless here.

Eventually, the younger generation will win out, and same sex marriage will become the norm.

Why keep wasting EVERYONE'S TIME AND MONEY, and pass it already. It will happen eventually.

It's time we ALL work TOGETHER, Gay and straight, on solutions to our local problems.

As to forcing religious institutions, and businesses to do our life long commitment ceremonies, would a Christian as a Muslim Imam to sanction their marriage?

Make a positive benchmark for Hawaii's history. Vote on "happiness" rather than "fear".

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steven Leong
98-1277 Kaahumanu St. PP363
Aiea, HI 96701

From: camille.yoshiko.copeland
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:58:32 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:

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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.

camille yoshiko copeland
pob 223086
princeville, HI 96722

From: [Kim Donohue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:41:51 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kim Donohue
PO Box 64
Waimea, HI 96796

From: [Leinati Matautia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:59:22 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Leinati Matautia
1503 Punahou St, 2D
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Janet Makua](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:27:19 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Janet Makua
7761 Kula Highway
Kula, HI Hawaii

From: [Janet Makua](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:27:31 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Janet Makua
7761 Kula Highway
Kula, HI Hawaii

From: [Kristina Lopez-mata](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:35:58 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Lopez-mata
3395 akala dr
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [katherine saluzzo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:52:32 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

katherine saluzzo
860 Malulani st
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Angie Evans](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:53:50 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angie Evans
Ala kipa st
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Angelica Floyd](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angelica Floyd
951 puuloa st
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [tylrr_england](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:00:46 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:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tylrr_england
1659 marine core base
kaneohe, HI 9607

From: [Courtney Cesnik](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:04:45 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

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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.

Courtney Cesnik
1700 Ala Moana Blvd #1203
Honolulu, HI 77429

From: [kim.possible](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:06:40 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

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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.

kim possible
ala moana blvd
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Makana O ke kai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:03:45 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I moved to Hawai'i to attend BYUH in 1985. I fell in love with the Aloha Spirit. I soon discovered that I was a member of a Hate Organization whose modus operandi was to destroy human diversity and which particularly hated me for being born gay, a natural and healthy human condition! I suffered greatly for many decades because of the ubiquitous, intolerant bigots in Hawai'i. I am one of two of about 30 gay people at BYUH in 1985 who have not committed suicide! I am grateful to have lived. I escaped to Mau'i for many years and found myself. I married a Jewish man with 5 children the first day that California restored Marriage Equality in 2013! We vowed NEVER to return to our beloved Hawai'i until our sacred and beautiful marriage is recognized there! We feel that New Zealand and French Polynesia have Marriage Equality and it is an embarrassment for the other point on the Polynesian Triangle to perpetually stand against this basic Civil Right! I have truly suffered greatly for being a resident of Hawai'i for 28 years! I speak fluent Hawai'ian, Japanese and other languages and have assimilated into Local culture. HOWEVER, it is an embarrassment for me to be associated with the hypocrisy of ALOHA! There is no Aloha until all people are received and treated Equally! I have been working hard to discourage people from visiting the Islands due to the hypocrisy as well. I actually nearly did take my own life the day Governor Lingle vetoed Civil Unions, a step which Hawai'i was extremely late in adopting! I feel so embarrassed to be associated with Islands of Hatred! I hope and pray that my husband and our 5 kids, all of whom adore me can return to Hawai'i and live a free and Joyous life as EQUAL citizens! Due to the economy we cannot find a renter for our home there, yet we pay income and property tax to the state of Hawai'i. This is in spite of the fact that Hawai'i has an open policy of hatred towards our family! PLEASE CHANGE THIS DISDAINFUL POLICY and recognize Immediately our marriage! Hawai'i COULD have been a leader in extending this basic human right. Now by a very stretch Hawai'i can do the RIGHT THING & STAND ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY before they are ORDERED in an embarrassing manner to do so. It is inevitable that ALL STATES WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT AND PERFORM ALL MARRIAGES but for dignity, and to fix the illness of Aloha in the Islands it is essential that HAWAII PASS MARRIAGE EQUALITY N.O.W. (no other way....) Please do not hesitate to give me and my family our civil rights. Mahalo loa.

Makana O ke kai
1750 Kalakaua Ave
203-3253
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Richard Mindar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:10 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.

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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.

Richard Mindar
1645 Ala Wai Blvd
603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Ariel Canosa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:44 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:

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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 want to be able to look at my fiancée and say, "I love Hawaii, the place that I was born and raised, not just for the Ohana and the Aloha but for the freedom to know that we can get married here among all of those we love."

Why not make history for Hawaii and show the next generation and the next one after that, that Hawaii is not just paradise but also a place for freedom.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ariel Canosa
639 Piikoi St
Apt 5
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Holly Broman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - Imagine.
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:44 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:

Aloha. I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Passing this bill will be what is Pono - to finish what was started 20 years ago. It is time for Hawaii to stand up and take care of all of its People, like it had decided to in 1993 with Baehr v. Lewin.

Imagine what a world this would be if we had made the right decision back then - if we had gone the direction of the heart. Countless loving couples could have been married, and countless widows would have had the same rights upon their partner's deaths as opposite-sex couples do.

Countless youth would have grown up not knowing what bullying is - on either side of that bullying. Imagine how many brilliant people have perished because of the mindset that Gay is not equal - it is lesser than.

Inequality has no place in this world, and especially not in Hawaii, where Ohana is everyone. It is time to re-imagine this state to reflect this, and that all are valuable. All are equal.

It is time for us to not only imagine what we could be by passing this bill - an example to the rest of the country of what Aloha means - but to also imagine what it means if we do not pass this bill. What messages will we tell our Keiki and Ohana by saying there are those that are separate and that it's acceptable to make people outcasts for something as basic as who they love? How many more people will we allow to take their own lives because of the shame from both inside and out that they feel? What kind of future do we give our State of Aloha?

We have come full-circle now to pass marriage equality for all Hawaii Ohana. Let us not move backwards in this. It is time for us to move forward and truly Live Aloha.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify, and for your time.

Holly Broman
719A Maluniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Dustin Ebesu](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:54:07 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

Dustin Ebesu
92-573 Akaawa St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee. My name is Dustin Ebesu. Thank you for this opportunity to express strong support for SB1, relating to Marriage Equality.

I am speaking on behalf of my partner. He and I have a committed gay relationship of 30 years. We are very fortunate to live here in Hawaii. The spirit of aloha and respect for diversity has always allowed for many cultures to co-exist. My partner and I have the love and respect of many friends and our families. We both are self-employed in successful businesses. It is in this spirit of love and mutual respect that we request your vote to pass Marriage Equality for the State of Hawaii.

We have not committed to reciprocal beneficiary or civil union status because it is not the same as marriage. My partner and I have joint finances, bills, loans and a mortgage. We also have joint financial plans for retirement and long term care. We enjoy most of the freedoms and happiness of most other couples. But we do not have full recognition of our relationship. I strongly feel that marriage with equality on the state and federal level would be beneficial to my relationship and our financial security. I want my partner to have authority to govern my power of attorney, advanced medical directive or make decisions on my behalf should I be unable to speak for myself. Upon my demise, I do not want to impose taxes on my surviving partner as if my estate was inherited.

Since Marriage Equality bill SB1 calls for a separation of church and state, there is no reason for churches to fear threats to their freedom of religion. No church should be threatened by a marriage of two individuals.

We are all different, and yet straight or gay, we all have the same needs and desires. Everyone deserves the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In Hawai'i we say, Aloha Kakou. Please vote yes, and express true aloha for everyone.

Yours truly,

Dustin Ebesu

Dustin Ebesu
92-573 Akaawa St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Ann Egleston](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:20:45 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.

Ann Egleston
PO Box 61124
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Daniel Bissler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:26:18 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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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Bissler
303 Waipalani Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [joel pedro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:49:00 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:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

joel pedro
814 bannister st apr 5
honolulu, HI 96819

From: [reich deguzman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:50:09 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

reich deguzman
3003 ala napuaa place #218
honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Gabriella Fox](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:51:58 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

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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.

Gabriella Fox
2341 date street
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Caleb Pham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:50:45 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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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Caleb Pham
Ala Wai Blv
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [crystal kenyon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:53:51 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

crystal kenyon
95-227 waikallaini drive
honolulu, HI 96789

From: [Sarah Connor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:53:51 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:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Connor
827 Kinau St
apt 802
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [raeden ramoran](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:56:37 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

raeden ramoran
725 gulick ave
honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Jazmine A](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:57:19 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:

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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.

"Let tomorrow's future be today's dream of equality!"

Jazmine A
99-752 Aliipoe Dr
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Ralph Porcell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:31:45 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:

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In my life I felt shame and held myself back from growing as a person. At first I was taught to hate myself and feel shame. Much later on in my life when I became more aware of the truth. That I was a good person with no reason to feel shame or self hate. Even then I had to live most of my life in a world where it was legal to hate me. To say that I am less somehow. Discrimination did not include me. Even GOD was said to hate me.

I can't imagine that there is any reason in the world you would accept living in a world under such conditions. Why should I?

Change this now. Not for me. My life has already almost been lived. Do it for millions of American gay boys and girls that will go through what I went through if you don't.

Don't let history show that Hawaii was one of the last places to be equal. The ALOHA state should not have to think about whether fairness and equality are right. That would be a shame!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ralph Porcell
959-A Kupulau Drive
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Dustin Withrow](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:32:37 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:

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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.

Dustin Withrow
2421 tusitala 1901
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [laura.marquart-wason](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:34:16 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.

laura marquart-wason
91-1081 Hanaloa St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Kanaloa Schrader](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:36:19 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kanaloa Schrader
1717 AlaWai blvd. #405
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Michelle Johnson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:01 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.

Michelle Johnson
Waianae
Hawaii, HI 96792

From: [Michael McPherson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:43:17 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.

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 McPherson
801 Ala Nioi PL
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [shannon smith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:44:58 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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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

shannon smith
91-209 puni place
ewa beach, HI 96706

From: [Sarah McCrystal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:45:03 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:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah McCrystal
45-623 puohala St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Kristina Pietrofere](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46:09 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:

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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.

Kristina Pietrofere
1503A Fox Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Kristina Pietrofere](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46:12 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

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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.

Kristina Pietrofere
1503A Fox Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Steven Songstad](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB No 1 Support
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:06:00 PM

I write as a resident of Maui. I have been a resident of Hawai'i since I was a teenager. I am 67 now. I strongly support SB 1 and for the same reason oppose HB. No 5. I have rarely submitted testimony to the legislature, however the campaign against same sex marriage has been outrageous in its blatant willingness to lie to the public. Nearly every issue that they have raised was put to the test in litigation in the Federal Court in California. In that case each claim was demonstrably proved to be false. When they had the opportunity to prove each of their claims that failed. As this legislature probably recalls the group opposing same sex marriage could not substantiate any of their claims they made to support their claims. It is not because I care one way or the other if gay people marry rather it is because I do care that all people share equal protection under the law regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. It is also because I am so offended by the disingenuous false campaign the group opposing equal rights is waging in our state.

Thank you,

Steven BoothSongstad
190 Hau'oli Street #304
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793
808.283.3585
sbsongstad@yahoo.com

From: [Tracey Lamb](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:08:58 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tracey Lamb
5333 Likini St #2008
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Jayde Dayondon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:14:24 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

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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.

Jayde Dayondon
2706 Booth Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Shazi Usman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:18:52 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:

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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.

Shazi Usman
P.O. Box 105732
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Grace Himmelsbach](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:19:52 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Grace Himmelsbach
19 pamala pl apt503
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Grace Himmelsbach](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:20:00 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

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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.

Grace Himmelsbach
19 pamala pl apt503
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Susan Vanhorn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:21:06 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:

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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.

Susan Vanhorn
425 ena rd 597C
HNL, HI 96815

From: [Gayle Haraki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:25:22 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

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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.

Gayle Haraki
2136 Wilson Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [matthew_rosa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:28:57 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.

matthew rosa
3331 duval st. #a
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [natalee chung](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:29:48 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:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

natalee chung
98-1120 komo mai drice
pearl city, HI 96782

From: [KATHERINE AKERBERG](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:17:08 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. and of the many gay couples I have known in my life - mostly those in So. Cal They were doctors, dentists, tech and teachers. A few died of aids in the early 90s but I remember them and their struggles. I support them in memory and in requesting that the right thing be done for their sisters and brothers at this time - equality please.

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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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

KATHERINE AKERBERG
HC2 BOX 6872
KEAAU, HI 96749

From: [Emily Bedient](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:17:51 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Bedient
1464 molehu drive
honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Emily Bedient](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:17:57 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.

Emily Bedient
1464 molehu drive
honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Camille Yago](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:18:16 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.

Camille Yago
1112 Kinau St
#908
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Scott Buchanan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:21 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Buchanan
1212 Kinau St Apt #1804
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Pamela Berry](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:21:23 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Pamela Berry
95-310 Kaloapau st #116
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [nancy_wilder](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:24:33 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.

nancy wilder
1545 kalakaua ave 1006
honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Phyllis Kia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:29:34 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phyllis Kia
91-1039 Kelau Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [brittany warner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:31:11 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

brittany warner
322 aoloa st #304
kailua, HI 96734

From: [Laura Ramirez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:31:42 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.

Laura Ramirez
3013 Moreell Cir
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Joe Dipaolis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:19 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

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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.

Joe Dipaolis
2465 Ala Wai Blvd
#502
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [james reed](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:23 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.

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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 reed
2465 ala wai blvd #502
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [kristen honeycutt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:34:40 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kristen honeycutt
3152 moreell drive
3152n moreell drive
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Amelia Dubberly](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:36:04 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.

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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.

Amelia Dubberly
350 Aoloa Street
Apt A228
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Melissa Fuller](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:36:56 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.

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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.

Melissa Fuller
87-2109 Pakeke St
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [danellie rivera](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:37:59 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.

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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.

danellie rivera
44-291E Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Eleanore Crowe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:03:51 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:

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.

Eleanore Crowe
30 Alanui Pl
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Ray Takai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:05:59 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.

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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.

Ray Takai
2212 Aloha Dr
Apt D
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Kevin Kaneshiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:09:59 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 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.

Kevin Kaneshiro
2465 Ala Wai Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Walter Enriquez, Jr.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:05 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.

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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.

Walter Enriquez, Jr.
87-412 E Kulaaupuni Street
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [Frank Lassise Jr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:09 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.

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

On a personal note, I am a Maui resident, Married to my (same sex) husband of more than 5 years and we will be adopting a son in December. Our son and our Family deserve the equal dignity and rights that would be afforded any other married couple and I strongly urge you to make marriage equality the law in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Frank Lassise Jr
96 Alena Place
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Emery Love](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:41 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.

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.

Emery Love
94-1196 Eleu St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: [Sydney Deal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:11:12 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.

I have always known that the freedom to love and have that love be honored through marriage is fundamental and true. Please join the many other states that have politically acknowledged what so many Americans know to be justice: Same sex couples must have the same rights and be awarded the same freedoms.

Majolica nui loa.

Sydney Deal
Po 10866
Hilo, HI 96721

From: [carl francis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:07 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.

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.

carl francis
2464 Prince Edward St.
1609
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [britney jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:18 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.

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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.

britney jones
98-1950 kaahumana st unit f
pearl city, HI 96782

From: [Mapuana Oxilles](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:23 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.

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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.

Mapuana Oxilles
1995 Pauoa #G St
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Ilene Haraki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:57 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 Evangelical Christian who is in strong support of SB1. I believe in justice for all with all meaning all.

By denying the right to marry to all is unfair and unjust. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples are the same as heterosexual couples who desire to pledge their lives together in a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ilene Haraki
2136 Wilson St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Joan Tillich](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:48:33 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.

Joan Tillich
1217 Mona st
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [robert ortiz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:49:32 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.

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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.

robert ortiz
2256 kuhio ave
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [John Baessler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:10 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:

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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.

John Baessler
430 Kaiolu
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [aaron bronson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:58 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

aaron bronson
801 dillignham blvd
3rd floor
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Diana Parker](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:52:39 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.

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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.

Diana Parker
1720 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [william nesor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:53:14 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.

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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.

william nesor
1450 Young St. 2501
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Dorene Lum](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:55:06 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:

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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.

Dorene Lum
POBox17206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Lisa Martin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:57:12 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

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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.

Lisa Martin
1508 B Lanikila Ave
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [joseph villarreal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:57:24 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.

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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.

joseph villarreal
1467 Uluhala Pl
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Rev. Rosemary Cuccia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:57:51 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:

As a Christian woman I am writing in strong support of SB 1. all people deserve to have the right to share their lives together in a marriage state. Marriage to me is commitment. If the church so desires to see it differently then that is part of the dogma and belief system of their religion. Marriage has nothing to do with Gender in my opinion. I am an ordained interdenominational minister who has performed both weddings and civil unions in the state of Hawaii. I strongly support Equal rights For same gender Couples who choose to live their life in a committed loving relationship. The legislature needs to Make sure that their decision is not to be based on a religious belief system. Do not rob humanity of it's God given right to be treated the same as any individual in a committed relationship we call marriage.

Please support The bill as I do. Do not leave it up to the public vote. We voted you into office And those others were appointed to their office For the state of Hawaii As representatives for all of us and most especially the many who choose to live a life in the same sex relationship

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. 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. Rosemary Cuccia
Po box 8410
Honolulu, HI 96830

From: [alizabeth wong dock](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:01:31 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.

alizabeth wong dock
Nu Place Apt. A
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [natasha vaughan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:01:40 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.
I want to be able to marry the woman I LOVE!

natasha vaughan
255o kuhio ave
apt 1105
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [theresa burton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:02:27 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.

theresa burton
2550 kuhio ave
apt 1105
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [SUE FELT](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:28 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.

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.

LET'S REMEMBER THAT THOSE THAT HAVE A RELIGIOUS ISSUE WITH MARRIAGE OF SAME SEX COUPLE HAVE NO PLACE IN THIS ARGUMENT. Separation of church and state is essential for our freedom. Those who say that "gay marriage" threatens marriage have never been able to provide a cogent reason or explanation for how or why that could be the case.

There are those who desire this to be a ballot issue....what would have been the outcome if racial discrimination had been a state-by-state "ballot issue?"

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify from a 70-year old "straight Grandma who believes in equality for all.

SUE FELT
73-1104 Mahilani Drive
Mahilani Drive
Kailua Kona., HI 96740

From: [Douglas Smith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:29 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.

Douglas Smith
1916 Manoa Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Kristine Kaneichi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:44:53 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.

Kristine Kaneichi
803 coolidge st
apt 2
honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Emma Hewett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:45:24 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.

Emma Hewett
46-265 William Henry Rd.
Apt B-2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Antonio Orozco](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:45:43 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.

Antonio Orozco
1916 Manoa Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Hannah Miyamoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:47:52 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.

I have been a lawyer for 20 years, and part of that was spent helping women with children who were victims of domestic abuse. I will never forget one case in which the woman escaped her abusive husband, abandoned her home, car, and children--since she could do more for her kids alive than dead. Two years later, she rebuilt her life with a much nicer man, and married him. I helped her get her children back.

That was a great experience, but what has always haunted me is what would have happened to her--and her children-- if she had fallen in love with a woman. We need civil marriage because we need to protect the children of same-sex couples. Love does not need government protection, but children do.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hannah Miyamoto
1067 Alakea St., 4th Floor
Ohana Justice Center
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [tawney stephens](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:48:01 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.

tawney stephens
134 kapahulua
honolulu, HI 98615

From: [Brittany Anderson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:29:21 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.

Brittany Anderson
41-836 Ala Koa St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

From: [Aziem Kamal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:22 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.

Aziem Kamal
1561 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [jessica bartolome](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:33:20 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.

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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.

jessica bartolome
1717 violet st
hon, HI 96819

From: [Louise Simrell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:35:25 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.

It is a simple matter of equality - it is not a complex issue. People with prejudices see it as complicated when equality is not complicated at all. Some of us are old enough to remember when inter-racial marriage was not allowed...

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.

Louise Simrell
PO Box 888
Waialua, HI 96791

From: [tammy.cabalar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:36:48 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.

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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.

tammy cabalar
1707 kewalo street
#6
honolulu, HI 96822

From: [april oclitaria](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:38:18 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.

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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.

april oclitaria
1832 citron street
#401
honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Terri Lee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:38:58 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:

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 country was founded on the basic premise of separation of church & government. If you don't want a gay wedding, don't have one. I have been with my partner 10 years now. We just moved here from California, this is where we plan on retiring. & enjoying the last half of our lives.

Please pass this bill to allow me to marry the love of my life. Our marriage hurts no one, affects no one, it does not destroy "marriage" in any sense of the word. It just gives us validation & equal & fair rights afforded to all.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Terri Lee
99 nokekula loop
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Hannah Miyamoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:39:35 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.

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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.

Hannah Miyamoto
1067 Alakea St., 4th floor
Ohana Justice Center
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Brian Borell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:39:53 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:

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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.

Brian Borell
1561 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Heather Havey](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:01 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 would love to get married one day to someone that I love. This would be a marriage based in love and care, just like other existing marriages. I have dreamed of this my entire life, and I believe strongly that it is a human right to be able to legally express love and care for someone whom I love.

It has been heartbreaking to be discriminated against my entire life so far, and this gesture of equality would pave the way also for greater respect for diverse peoples. This would help the mental health of the entire population because it would help to decrease hatred and discrimination over time.

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 Havey
445 Seaside Avenue
#1605
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Valerie Lopez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:42 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.

Valerie Lopez
1628 Poki Street
Apt. 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Valerie Lopez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:53 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

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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.

Valerie Lopez
1628 Poki Street
Apt. 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [christopher Hrycko](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:58 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:

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 Hrycko
222 Liliuokalani ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [tom carpenter](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:05 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.

tom carpenter
1212 punahou
honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Eric Voorhies](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:15:13 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.

Eric Voorhies
6212 Olohena
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Kenn Liburd](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:15:13 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.

Kenn Liburd
454 Namahana St.
Apt #402
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Melanie Moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:17:20 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. I am a straight married woman with three children, and I assure you legalizing gay marriage can only strengthen the institution 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.

Melanie Moore
46-394 Nahewai Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Benjamin Martin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:19:03 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.

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.

Benjamin Martin
45-732 Paepuu ST
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Michael Formby](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:19:58 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 write in strong support of SB 1.

It absolutely astounds me that residents of this Aloha State cannot understand that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone nor put to a popular vote.

Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for the same reasons as straight couples – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. It's just that simple. Nothing more, nothing less.

With President Obama, a Hawaii son, believing all couples who are legally married deserve respect and equal treatment under the law, and his Administration working to implement the Supreme Court's Windsor ruling swiftly and smoothly, it would be shameful for the Aloha State to follow the misguided position of those in the community, like Mr. Hochberg and Bishop Silva, who oppose equal treatment under the law.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Formby
4132C Napali Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Shayna Lonoae'a Alexander](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:19:59 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shayna Lonoae'a Alexander
758 Hoomoana St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Lindsey Ono](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:23:09 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. As a Hawaiian, I recognize the need for a strong family unit. This bill supports family regardless of definition.

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.

Lindsey Ono
1723 Bertram Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Damaris Barrientos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:25:33 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.

Damaris Barrientos
711 Kamuela Ave
#304
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Helene Watson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:28:56 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.

Helene Watson
3676 Sierra Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Dwayne Thomas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:54:50 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.

Dwayne Thomas
85-174 Farrington Hwy.
#326
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [Ashley Takeuchi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:56:56 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.

Love is love. No matter your sexuality. People need to have open minds and not discriminate. That is not what the people of Hawaii are about. By not passing this law, we are teaching our children that people aren't equal. You can't help who you fall in love with. Everyone should have the right to marry the person that they love.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ashley Takeuchi
743 C North Judd Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [David Stout](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:58:52 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.

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 Stout
PO Box 6278
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [David Stout](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:58:53 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 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 Stout
PO Box 6278
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Bobby Clement](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:59:17 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.

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.

Bobby Clement
PO Box 6278
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [B.A. McClintock](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:59:54 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.

This bill is not about religion but about children, equality, and decency. Religions have the right to define their beliefs to the people who follow them. But in this country we have been separatists from when this country was founded. People came here because they wanted religion separated from their governing bodies. This is basic history. Please let us not forget this.

The religions pushing for not passing this bill do NOT represent me or my Christian family. Please know there are far more out here who support this than do not. And, we will stand with you to help everyone have equality in our country.

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.

B.A. McClintock
Disabled-email only
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Eddie Rose](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:03:33 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.

Eddie Rose
2035 Nu Place
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Joy Chisholm](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:03:58 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:

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.

Joy Chisholm
4694 Kua Rd.
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: [Robert Andrews](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:05:38 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.

Robert Andrews
98-1032 Moanalua Rd
Honolulu, HI 96701

From: [Lisa Russell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:06:44 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.

Lisa Russell
95-927 paikauhale st
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Susan Melchert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:29 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 I love is a basic freedom that i wish i had because my siblings have it and feel it should not be denied to anyone. 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 a transfer of property upon death.

In Hawaii, we celebrate our families; as i wish my family were her to be my social support, as well. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. It feels like bullying every time i see it in the news and picketing on the streets.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. I wish we had a separation of church and state. 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 Melchert
98-1426 Kaahumanu St
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Eli Strawn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:34 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.

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.

Eli Strawn
454 Namahana St.
Apt #402
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [ernie rabago](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:40:31 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.

ernie rabago
1821 lipeepee st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Vince M Okada](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:40:34 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.

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'm gay, and I should deserve my right to get married to the one whom I really love. I know there are some opposing groups... but I'd like to ask them... so do I need to lie to myself? or I need to understand that I don't have a right to get married with the one I truly love? I don't think so. They can believe what they want... but based on their belief, I don't want them to oppress my freedom.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vince M Okada
625 Iolani Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [marco mendiola](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:41:30 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.

marco mendiola
603 isenberg st
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [edgar_mendiola](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:42:45 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

edgar_mendiola
eisenberg
honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Kenneth Seekins](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:47:48 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. As a practicing member of Palolo Zen Center, I believe our government should not cause unnecessary suffering by continuing this discrimination.

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.

Kenneth Seekins
94-1503 Waipio Uka St C107
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: [Christopher ignacio](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:48:13 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.

Christopher ignacio
1332 Ala Kapuna St.
Honolulu, HI 96719

From: [wesley orr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:11 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 – 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.

wesley orr
3161 Ala Ilima Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Bridget Scott](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:49 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 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.

Years ago interracial marriage was illegal in some states. Lets not go backward but instead move forward respecting all people.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bridget Scott
1325 wilder ave
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [anthony westhoff](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:50:03 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.

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.

anthony westhoff
1655 liholiho st
apt 402
honolulu, HI 96822

From: [marvin hardcastle](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:51:12 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.

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.

marvin hardcastle
3161 ala ilima st.
honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Xyla Miguel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:54:20 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.

Xyla Miguel
94-1010 Awalua Street
Waipahu, HI 97697

From: [nirmaliz pena](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:21:37 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nirmaliz pena
905-e 16th ave
honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Dean Ossowski](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:22:49 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 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.

Dean Ossowski
1332 Ala Kapuna St. apt 403
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [nirmaliz pena](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:36 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:

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.

nirmaliz pena
905-e 16th ave
honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Judith Pyle](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:39 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.

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.

Judith Pyle
4155 Akulikuli Ter.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Keiko Gonzalez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:43 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.

Keiko Gonzalez
46-305 Nahewai St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [RJ Fernandez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:51 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:

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.

RJ Fernandez
91-118 Nohoihoewa Way
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [travis kim](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:24:29 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.

travis kim
1720 Ala Moana Blvd. Apt. C-105
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Logan Okita](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:24:48 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.

As a teacher, I see the value and importance of a strong family every day. A family can be made up of biological parents, adopted parents, foster parents, or stepparents, but the most important part of a family is that the children feel that they are loved, valued, and supported. You don't have to be a traditional family to provide children with these things and in my career I've seen many traditional families that do not provide children with the love and support that they need and deserve.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Logan Okita
1914 10th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [christine Everington](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:09 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

christine Everington
1720 ala moana blvd. apt c-105
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Trudy and Al Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:33:14 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.

I grew up in the Jim Crow south. Coming to Hawai'i for the first time in 1967, I found more than the 'paradise' on the tourist brochures. I found a place where people were essentially 'color blind.' Everyone was greeted and treated with respect and equality.

When I made Hawai'i my home in 1975, I again felt that I had found a place that truly understood the meaning of equality.

I am disheartened to think that we have turned a blind eye to ALL being created equally. In 1993 Justice Levinson started the ball rolling towards marriage equality in our state. We had the potential to be the leaders on this issue, instead we have waited and debated until people are confused as to why this should be an issue at all! I urge the esteemed members of our legislature to make this wrong right, but voting to again make all our residents feel that they are equally respected in this land of aloha.

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.

With aloha,
Trudy Schandler-Wong
Manoa
O'ahu, Hawai'i

Trudy and Al Wong
2639 Ka'aipu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Carolann Biederman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:27:26 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 Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am grateful that you are taking the time in special session to consider this important equality issue.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.
Please pass this bill NOW to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's people.

Let your leadership shine by demonstrating aloha in action.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carolann Biederman
44-391 Nilu Street #4
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Karl Christian Alcover](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:29:09 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Karl Christian Alcover
1555 kalaepaa drive
honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Shannon Blosser](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:32:42 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.

Shannon Blosser
36 waikalani pl
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Shannon Blosser](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:33:03 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.

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 Blosser
36 waikalani pl
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Bob Cook](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1support with a twist
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:33:53 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. Please make this the law of our land.

I find it strange that those who say this will damage the family and deprive children of either a mother or a father still support divorce laws that do exactly this. I would prefer to be a child of an any sex couple who loved me and each other, than have the divorce court tear my family part by allowing my parents to legally destroy my family, and in some cases toss me aside. We need a pro-family government, however the families chose to define that. They are marrying each other, they are not marrying the government.

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. And telling us which families can be legally destroyed and which cannot be legally created. 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.

Bob Cook
581 Kamoku Street #3802
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Helen Wagner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:43:05 PM

I had a brother that past away from HIV virus in 1989 when little was known about the virus. I was consoled by knowing he had love with a partner, in his life, and had someone and did not have to go through the illness alone. When asked by family @ would he go to heaven if he was gay"? I responded that was between him and the God of his understanding and not for me to be his judge. I believe everyone can serve God's purpose in some way.
Respectfully submitted

Helen Wagner
Po box 628
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Aaron Nakahara](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:43:10 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 world is perpetually changing and with it the acceptability of different paradigms are, too, changing. We live in times of transition and I truly believe that for one of the few times since I've become an adult that our Hawaii government has a chance to truly do something revolutionary, something that can only be described as "right".

In the past, society used to have very loud voices dictating the rights, dare I say the humanity of those with dark skin or a different look. The voices would command with absolutism that someone of different skin or creed or even sex could not and should not have the same, equal rights as the rest of that society. But times change and even with loud, raucous opposition, one by one we knocked down those voices who screamed "blacks are NOT equal to whites!" and "women are NOT equal to men!". Once more it is time to silence the voices that call for immortalizing inequality, that call for the perpetuation of a second class of citizen.

Sometimes even if the majority of people say they don't want something, sometimes they're still wrong. The voices were strong in saying that blacks and women and minorities who were not white and Christian did not belong, should not be equal, just as those voices right at this moment shout out saying that marriage is sacred, between only a man and a women.

They are half right. It is sacred, but that *right* does not belong to some, it belongs to *all*, not just to those who believe in God or Allah or Buddha, none of that matters since that *right* belongs to *all people* of *all creeds*. It should never matter who you love, just so long as you love.

I was always taught that everyone should have a chance to go to school, work hard, try their best, fall in love and be with the person they love for the rest of their lives and have that bond recognized by our state and our nation just as it's recognized for every other bond that is just as sacred.

This is something that transcends those who want to maintain the status quo. This is something the transcends simply voting one way or another to keep a job. This is the recognition that no matter who you are, where you come from, what you do, what you've done, that you should be able to be with whomever you want to be with.

We are one people, regardless of who we are as individuals, we are one people and we all deserve the same rights.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aaron Nakahara
135 Kulalani Circle
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Daphne Barbee-Wooten](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:46:32 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 without discrimination.

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

No one – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. Love is an equalizer. We need more love than bigotry, fear and hatred.

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 matter. The right to marry should be guaranteed to all regardless of sexual orientation, race, color, religion or national origin.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daphne Barbee-Wooten
1188 Bishop 1909
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Kim Springer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:56:26 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 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'm asking you to pass this bill, not for me, but for my family members and friends who are gay. They should have the same privileges and rights as anyone else. Remember - EVERYONE has someone gay in their family. That person just may not come out of the closet yet because they lack family support. If you had a loved one who you know are gay, wouldn't you want this for them? I know I do.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kim Springer
1722 Kaiao Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Gina Hunter](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:03:26 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 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.

Gina Hunter
75-5726 Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: [Sandra Sato](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:12:22 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.

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.

Sandra Sato
213 S. Wilder Road
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Lia Mariano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:12:59 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lia Mariano
225 Koa St
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Rev. Dr. Suzanne Schiller](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:16:08 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.

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. Dr. Suzanne Schiller
79-980 Kealaola st.
Kealakekua, HI 96750

From: [Whitney Thomas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:18:31 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.

Whitney Thomas
75-5726 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: [Daniel Rokovitz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:21:09 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Rokovitz
RR 2, Box 3916
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Gary Saito](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:42:39 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.

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 Saito
98-1827C Kaahumanu St.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Greg Hansen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:46:08 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.

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 Hansen
1111 Kaupakalua Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Dorcie Sakuma](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:48:05 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.

Dorcie Sakuma
720 Kapiolani Blvd. 302
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Dennis Tynan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:49:48 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.

Dennis Tynan
84-688 Ala Mahiku Street
Unit #167C
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [Katie Ozawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:56:15 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.

Katie Ozawa
Kanamee
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Denise Grayzell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:58:53 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 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.

Denise Grayzell
PO Box 893983
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Alex Young](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:00:33 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.

Alex Young
95-1031 Kaapeha St
279
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Hannah Aiwohi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:00:58 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:

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.

Hannah Aiwohi
95 miner pl
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Elaine Nishime](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:03:28 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 SB 1.

What is it that love between two people is outlawed and assault rifles,,and killing children at school is okay?

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elaine Nishime
4918 Waa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Robin Cone-Murakami](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:11:50 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.

Robin Cone-Murakami
3746 Anuhea St
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Reka Domokos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:49:30 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.

Reka Domokos
1551 Puolani Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Mary Gross](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:53:23 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 have been married for 26 yrs in an opposite sex marriage; same sex marriage is in no way a threat to my marriage or any other opposite sex marriage. Finding someone to spend your life with, to love, share and succeed in this life is difficult. It should not only be for opposite sex partners. Any two adults who want to commit to each other should have the right to marry or not to marry. It should be a person's choice not the government's.

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.

Mary Gross
PO Box 1002
4605 Kuli Road
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: [Bob Nakata](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:06:49 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 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.

Bob Nakata
47-417 Lulani St
Kaneohe, HI 96-744

From: [Alex Oshiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:12:19 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.

Alex Oshiro
1920 Kahakai Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Ralph Stevens](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:14:12 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.

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 Stevens
91-1221 Kama'aha ave, Unit 604
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Hilary Sholin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:14:39 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.

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.

Furthermore, I would hate to see Hawaii's gay and lesbian couples move out of state simply because they cannot live the life they dream of. Other states have done the right thing and legalized gay marriage. If we are truly the land of Aloha we would allow our citizens to make life choices for themselves.

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.

Hilary Sholin
3518 Hinahina St Apt A
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Julie Uyeno-Pidot](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:29:58 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:

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.

Julie Uyeno-Pidot
3626 Crater Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Dian Hermes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY!
Date: Friday, October 25, 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

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

I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY!

I am writing, urging you to support marriage for gay and lesbian couples in Hawaii. I believe that all loving and committed couples should be treated with equal rights.

I am standing up today specifically for my friends David and Danny for whom I recently gave birth (as a surrogate) to their son. Although they were married legally in Connecticut, they would like to have their marriage recognized and honored here in Hawaii where their son, Paul Kekoa, was born. Paul deserves to know that Hawaii, his birth state, believes and supports the love of his family.

I teach music in the public schools here in Hawaii. A subject that demands one understands the differences in the world. How boring would life be if we had only one genre of music? One of the great things about being a teacher here in Hawaii is diversity. There are so many different faiths, cultures and beliefs that truly make this place as beautiful as the rainbow. I am not to judge any of my students worth on their nature, which makes them who they are.

As this legislation is coming up, I am not asking that you change your moral views, for I would not want you to ask me to change mine- but instead I am asking you to understand and allow others to live their lives in happiness.

Mahalo for your kind consideration of our wonderful and beautiful family.

Dian Athena Hermes
1050 Kinau Street #1207
Honolulu, HI 96814
dian_athena@hotmail.com
808-428-7608

Dian Hermes
1050 Kinau Street #1207
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Sue Stone](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:33:53 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.

Sue Stone
75 Mano Dr
kula, HI 96790

From: [BOB SMOLIK](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:34:46 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. Religion discriminates enough. 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.

BOB SMOLIK
98-1038 MOANALUA RD
AIEA, HI 96701

From: [Emily Gualtieri](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:12:38 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 married for over 34 years and believe that my gay and lesbian friends should have the same rights and freedoms that my husband and I enjoy. 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.

Emily Gualtieri
P. O. Box 777
Honaunau, HI 96726

From: [Christopher Santos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:12:50 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.

I believe this is a matter of civil liberties, this is not a religious issue and it's only the churches who are against this issue. Churches need to stay out of Politics , it's in the constitution. We can not put human equality rights up to a vote, Marriage is for everyone.

Christopher Santos
826 15th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Craig Tennant](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:13:55 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.

We've written several times. In a nut shell, we're a lucky couple, together 24 quick years. It's near humiliating to be pleading now to be treated "normal".

To all who are helping, Thank you. To all opposed, please understand that you do NOT understand and so logically you should follow the lead of those who do meaning Our governor and other knowing legislators. VOTE FOR OUR FREEDOM

Craig Tennant
P.O.Box 382
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

From: [Denise Rupert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:21:20 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.

Denise Rupert
860 Halekauwial
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Mary Williamson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Kauai support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:21:24 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

Aloha Sen. Kouchi, Chair Hee, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to support SB 1.

A former coworker -- a person with a spouse, 2 kids, 2 dogs and a cat, a crockpot, a minivan, and a "traditional" suburban lifestyle -- used to ask "why are they so threatened by our June & June Cleaver lifestyle?" Exactly! I fail to see how allowing my same-gender couple friends and coworkers to have the same protections of legal marriage that I enjoy would weaken my own marriage, or the "institution" in general. The legal and tax aspects of my marriage have nothing to do with religion or commitment or the miracle of lasting love. It is time to give everyone -- believers or athiests, gay or straight, "traditional" or not -- equal protections under the law. Marriage will be strengthened because more people in our community will enjoy the same rights. And anyone in a successful relationship knows the importance of equality and tolerance.

Please pass this bill.
Thank you for considering this testimony.

Mary Williamson
4489 Papalina Road
unit 455
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: [Virginia Bennett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:24:59 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 heterosexual, but I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

What many legislators seem to forget is the strong opposition in our national Constitution against the interference of religions into the affairs of state. Sexual preference is something one is BORN WITH!! It is a NATURAL PHENOMENON!! Whether or not one's personal religious beliefs tell you that homosexuality is a sin, that should have no influence upon you as legislators in granting civil rights to couples of the same sex, who want to enjoy all of the privileges of marriage, which the state grants.

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.

Virginia Bennett
1201 Wilder Ave.
honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Bonnie McMullen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:30:36 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:

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.

Bonnie McMullen
Keahole Street
#2502
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Noah Souza](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:30:45 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.

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

50 years from now, we will look back in shame and disgust at the way LGBT individuals were treated. just like those who fought for civil rights in the 60's, we were attacked and ridiculed for standing up for what we know is right. so please stand on the right side of history.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noah Souza
92-1519 Allinui Drive Apt 12F
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Christine Wakuzawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:31:32 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.

Christine Wakuzawa
47-105 Nukupuu Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Kathy Edwards](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:35:16 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 partner and I got legally married in Massachusetts almost 3 years ago. We would love to see our marriage accepted here in the state that we live in and love.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Edwards
45-850 Lunana Pl. #D
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [William Ouellette](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:45 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Ouellette
1212 Nuuanu Ave.
Apt. 1108
Honolulu, HI 97817

From: [Hannah Finazzo-Krueger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:56 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.

Hannah Finazzo-Krueger
7070 kahuna rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Malia Finazzo-Krueger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:54:25 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.

Malia Finazzo-Krueger
7070 Kahuna Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Angie Durgan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:53:07 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.

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.

Angie Durgan
160 Keoneki Rd
Kehei, HI 96753

From: [Henry Trapido-Rosenthal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:56:11 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

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

I would like to thank you for your consideration of SB1.

I believe that strong, monogamous marriages make fundamentally positive contributions to our society. They foster social, financial, and educational stability. The opportunity that Hawaii now has to extend marriage to gay and lesbian couples, thus increasing the state's married population, will benefit us all.

As you may be able to guess from the hyphenated surname that my wife and I took when we were married here 36 years ago, I view this issue from the perspective of a participant in a strong, monogamous marriage. It is my hope that our elected representatives will take the opportunity afforded by SB1 to extend this valuable institution to all who are willing to join it.

Sincerely Yours,

Hank Trapido-Rosenthal

Henry Trapido-Rosenthal
3615 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Renate Seldon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:22:01 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.

Renate Seldon
P.o. Box 1216
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: [John Seagraves](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:22:47 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.

John Seagraves
400 Hobron Lane
Apt 903
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Chad Durgan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:25:50 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.

Chad Durgan
160 keonekai rd
Apt 18-201
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Paul J Endresen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:32:42 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.

Paul J Endresen
82-6012 Mamalahoa hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: [Laura Margulies](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:26:58 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:

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 Margulies
118 Hawaii Loa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [dennis chaquette](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:39:37 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.

Throughout America's history, the good people had to stand up to make America better. Over and over again.

When American's wanted to free slaves, good people had to stand up and make changes.

When American's wanted to give black people equal rights, good people had to stand up and make changes.

Now we want to give equal rights to the last group of American's who do not have equal rights in America.

That is all this is really all about, some people want to keep other people down, other people want everyone to be treated equally and fairly.

It doesn't matter what century you are in.

You either only care about yourself, or you care for others.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

dennis chaquette
box 492961
keaa, HI 96749

From: [Makakaulii Rego](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:33:24 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.

Makakaulii Rego
500 university ave
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Jack Zimmerman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:42:40 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. My immediate family involves several people of gay persuasion. They get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

There is absolutely no basis for a government to interfere with these personal issues. It makes no sense for a government to dictate personal relationships.

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.

Jack Zimmerman
PO Box 1868
Honokaa, HI 96727

From: [Chris DeVlugt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:43:11 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 – 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.

Chris DeVlugt
46-259 Kahuhipa St
Honolulu, HI 96744

From: [Michael Murphy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:45:08 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.

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 believe this is civil rights, not some social issue where people can politely disagree! The Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)! Hawaii should engage in inclusive politics, NOT exclusive! Many gays and lesbians and transgendered have fought and died for this country! Those who have served should be able to marry their true loves!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Murphy
91-1003 Hokuimo Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [joe dalessandro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:23 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.

joe dalessandro
656 Meakanu Ln., #1601
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Sarah Spalding](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:24:27 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.

3 weeks ago while traveling from Hilo to Kona on Saddle Road my partner and I were in a head on car crash. We survived, luckily, but while we were in separate trauma rooms at the hospital I kept asking for information about Jess.

I asked over and over and finally someone explained they couldn't give me information about "my friend".

I had to explain, while hooked up to IV's, pain meds and still immobilized that "my friend" and I were in fact partners with reciprocal medical powers of attorney. ALL of my hours of worry and worst fears would have been lessened if I had been able to ask for a status on my wife vs. partner.

The word "partner" doesn't have the legal or societal impact and power of "wife" or "husband". We didn't expect to be in a car crash and all our official papers were in Kona. This isn't a problem married folks face.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Spalding
84-4987 Mamalahoa Highway
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: [Paul Tamaoka](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:34:55 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.

Paul Tamaoka
1221 Kapiolani Blvd. #109
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Thomas Poole](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:44:03 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.

1. Same-gender marriage is a civil right.
2. To deny marriage between 2 men or 2 women is to deny a right that is given to a heterosexual couple. It is to deny a right based solely on gender.
3. To deny same-gender marriage, especially in light of the Supreme Court's invalidation of DOMA, is to continue to discriminate and to deny the benefits of marriage to an entire class of citizens.
 - a. The denial of marriage for Marcus and me is a willful prohibiting of my participation in his retirement benefits (Marcus is a DOD/Joint Base Hickam-Pearl Harbor civilian employee).
 - b. Likewise, the denial of marriage for Marcus and me is to prohibit Marcus' participation in my Social Security spousal benefits.
4. Same-gender marriage should be a state-approved and state-sponsored (civil) contract between two individuals. It is not and should not be a religious contract. It is a civil contract. When a marriage is performed by a member of the clergy, that member is certified by the state to officiate and function as an agent of the state. (One does not have to be an ordained religious person/clergy to officiate/perform weddings. One has to be licensed by the state!)

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Poole
2575 Kuhio Ave., # 902
5337 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Edmund Yee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: A Catholic's support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:44:04 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 to voice my strong support of SB 1. I felt confident that you and the Legislature had heard and knew all the substantive issues, which are really quite simple, but the onslaught of false and misleading images in the ad campaign of the opponents of SB 1 have caused me concern that the lobbying is making an emotional, unreasoned appeal that has nothing to do with the absolute right to receive equal treatment.

I have been a lawyer for 35 years and a Catholic since infancy. I continue to practice my religion at my parish, including service as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, as a member of the Finance Committee, as a member of the advisory committee to the pastor, and as the chairperson of our scholarship fund to assist parishioners with the burden of Catholic school tuition.

I do not agree with the non-fundamental rules that the American bishops, in particular, have imposed, and that includes opposition to civil or other forms of marriage that do not involve the Catholic sacrament of marriage. (Please note that technically the Catholic church does not recognize non-Catholic marriages in any event.) Instead, I take encouragement from Pope Francis's admonition to emphasize love and compassion over these more political issues.

My sister-in-law was married to her same-sex partner in Massachusetts 9 years ago. They continue to have a committed and loving relationship, that unfortunately my late mother-in-law was unable to accept. Yet, her daughter-in-law is the kindest and most concerned person for the elderly. It is a shame that my mother-in-law could not overcome the strictures of tradition and supposed Catholic doctrine. Fortunately, modern society, the evolving Catholic church, and you the Legislature have the opportunity to acknowledge and enjoy the positive qualities that same-sex couples bring to the institution of marriage.

It is not time to let old traditions and fear impair the fundamental right of all our citizens.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Edmund Yee
138 Pinana Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Leanne Hachey](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:55:30 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.

Simply put, as a business owner, property owner and taxpaying individual I am not afforded the same benefits and rights as my fellow citizens because my partner of 14 years is a woman. Clearly denying us the right to marry is unconstitutional and is an injustice no matter what you choose to believe in.

The people of Hawaii are a caring loving community and I have been overwhelmed by the support they have shown us in regard to equal rights for all couples under the law. Thank you to the University of Hawaii students who stood up in support of marriage equality this past week. And thank you to all of our political leaders that continue to fight for our equal rights. It means so much to me and my partner to have others care so much that we are not treated as second class citizens any longer.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Leanne Hachey
47-573 Hui Kelu
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Shane Wise](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:49:54 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 want to vigorously show my support of SB 1 and urge you to do the same.

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. We must establish a sense of equal treatment of all citizens in Hawaii. Hawaii has a legacy of tolerance and acceptance from a multi-cultural perspective. Tolerance and acceptance is the foundation of civil justice and civil rights. The issue of gay marriage is on of civil justice and I am strongly in favor of supporting equal marriage rights for gay, lesbian, bi, transgender persons.

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.

Lastly, this is another pivotal moment in history where human rights and justice are being tested. This is an opportunity to do the right thing support marriage equality. At this time a majority of Americans believe this is the right thing to do. But even if it were not popular, it is still the right thing to do.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shane Wise
7000 Pomaikai Street
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Maile O'Connell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:05:47 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.

Like many of us in Hawaii, I have LGBT friends and relatives -- good people who are currently prohibited from marrying the people they love. Not only do they have to face this discrimination, but with the overturning of significant portions of Federal Defense of Marriage Act, this also means that they are being denied over a thousand federal rights and benefits.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic civil right 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 side with fairness and justice for all of our citizens and pass this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Maile O'Connell
443 Kaha Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Robert Nathanson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:14:12 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.

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 Nathanson
68-615 Farrington Hwy. #19A
Waialua, HI 96791

From: [chuck Spence](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:16:42 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.

chuck Spence
551 S Kihei Rd
551 S KIHEI RD
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Kalani Pe'a](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:17:42 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.

It's a sign, a sign that will influence people or discourage people. Locals and foreigners, people of color with diverse lifestyles are holding these signs. I feel that these signs are not demonstrating freedom of speech, but animosity and misperception. There are fat, robust, slim, tall and stout people holding these "hate" signs. These signs say "TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES FIRST" or "GOD IS FIRST, MARRIAGE IS SACRED" or sign the petition that will prohibit lawmakers in approving gay marriage in Hawai'i or sign the petition that outlaws gay marriages and the people of America should vote on such issue. I think it's absurd and people just don't think prior to acting upon it, but it happens. People are people, but in this situation I am insulted.

To voice my concern on this issue is foremost significant to me. It's not only the gathering on the sidewalks, or signs and pickets and the fine hand gestures and shakas that bothers me, it's the message on those signs, the petitions created and blogs established by those people causes a nuisance. Those people I come to know of are imploring some message of revulsion. It's disturbing and they humiliate me. I am insulted by these human's hullabaloo and discourtesy. They have one point, but to flaunt or exhibit their poor actions are insignificant. Again signs will influence people and we live in a world of imperfect people who make inadequate decisions. I have made some poor decisions, but I have discerned right from wrong. With my choices and lifestyle, I am not wrong and I am fully blessed.

I am not going to touch base on religion, leaders in various denominations and their carcasses in the closet, the bible or Book of Mormon, Buddhism or Jehovah Witnesses. That is a whole different article. I could write a book on that. Hence, my goal here is to exemplify my reasons in writing this. I am going to touch base on the mere fact that these signs and the messages behind them are impertinent. These people wave graciously into the wind in Kahului and Wailuku holding their signs with messages that are brash and exasperating. The irksome just to see these people be so vocal is something I can't even elaborate.

I am happy with my partner and we are successful in our careers and we do so much for our communities. I will marry him on the top of Ali'i Kula Lavender Gardens in the white gazebo, while the garden is draped in metro-Hawaiian Kapa prints, purple, pink and illuminating lights with loved ones present.

Happiness and love is the key to all of this. Straight couples, gay couples, stout, tall, fat or slim couples want happiness in their lives. Set aside the bible and what men have published. Set aside what god wants because all I know is that god loves me. Pele, Kane, Kanaloa and Jesus loves me. Lono loves me. Kamapua'a doesn't because I can't consume pork (I have gout, but have been gout free for 2 years). I'm chuckling. But, I am in love. My partner is successful and loves me unconditionally. I know my father and mother raised me and my siblings well. My parents and grandparents love me. We are all college graduates and into our careers. My family and friends love me and I love them. I am in love and grateful. I am Hawaiian and gay. Why do birds sing so gay? Because they're happy 'damnit.' The question to those people on the sidewalks waving down people with signs of animosity, are you happy? Bring out the skeletons out of the closet because I'm sure you're not perfect!

Kalani Pe'a, 30 years old
Kihei resident

.

Kalani Pe'a
73-1100 Nu'uanu Pl. Unit E101
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Marti and Joe Paskal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:21:02 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.

Marti and Joe Paskal
box 1487
Hanalei, HI 96714

From: [Katherine Crosby](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:10:51 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:

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.

Katherine Crosby
168 Elilani street
Pukalani, HI 96768

From: [Summer Kaeka-Mau](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of gay marriage in Hawaii
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:11:56 PM

Aloha,

I, Summer Kaeka - Mau, support gay marriage in Hawaii.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via this email address. Mahalo!

Regards,

Summer Kaeka Mau

From: [Catherine Delnat](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: My niece should be able to marry
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:13:32 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:

My niece and her partner love each other very much and should be allowed to marry. They share their house, their business, and every aspect of their lives, except that they cannot be legally married. They flew all the way to Europe to marry there, but here they cannot claim to be legally joined.

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: [Evan Shirley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:16:05 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 Evan R. Shirley. I am writing on my behalf and, with her approval, on behalf of my wife Elaine C. Shirley. We both strongly support passage of SB 1.

Hawaii is a place that especially respects individual rights and personal freedom. The ability to marry freely someone with whom you have a loving relationship, a lifelong bond, and a mutual commitment to each other should be respected and endorsed by our State of Hawaii laws.

Our country's history started with only male, white people's rights with slavery sanctioned in much of the country by law. Over two and a quarter centuries, people's rights have expanded enormously. There is absolutely no reason to deny two people of the same or different religion, of the same or different race, of the same or different sex, of the same of different citizenship, the right to engage in a mutually consensual marriage just like persons of opposite sex can do.

Now I've heard that the Bible condemns such a relationship. The Bible, however, is not the law of the land any more than the Torah, the Koran, BhagavadgÄ, or other religious text. 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 want to end this testimony with what our country was started for in the first instance. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

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

Evan Shirley
4300 Waialae Avenue
Apt A204
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Jacob McPherson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:19:49 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 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 WANT TO BE A WHOLE CITIZEN.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacob McPherson
438 Kaumana Dr
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [David Sheridan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:21:04 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.

I have lived with my partner since the 20th of September 1983. We raised a daughter who graduated from college, then graduate school, then married a fine young man.

We are responsible citizens who vote in every election, we both work hard, have good incomes and pay taxes. We make substantial donations to charitable insitutions in our community. We have long been active in our local church.

Yet the State of Hawaii says we are not a family. Because we are both men, the state says we are "just friends" or maybe "roommates."

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. We have made a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity, and unlike 50% of heterosexuals who marry, we are still together. Yet the State of Hawaii says we cannot marry. This is wrong.

We urge you to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Sheridan
PO Box 7555
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Eduardo da Bahia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:22:08 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.

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.

Eduardo da Bahia
740A Ekela Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Jennifer Eyre](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:22:03 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. My parents raised six children, now adults; our oldest brother is gay and youngest sister lesbian. Both have been in committed partnerships for over 20 years and are wonderful people who contribute generously to their communities. They deserve every right the rest of us 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.

Jennifer Eyre
PO box 793
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Gerald Nishioka](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:23:05 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.

Gerald Nishioka
842B 20th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Joi Guerrero](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:23:27 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.

Joi Guerrero
3750 L Honoapiilani Rd
#205
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: [Charlene Zuill](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:24:24 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.

We would not be the first state to allow equal rights to all citizens in regards to marriage. We certainly do not want to be the last.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlene Zuill
1351 Center Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Kamu Dickson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:29:10 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.

Kamu Dickson
3212 Loulu St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Robert Hogan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:33:30 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.

Robert Hogan
85-175 Farrington Hwy
A133
Waianae, HI 96792

From: [William Seemann](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:34:13 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.

William Seemann
3247 Herbert St
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Dr. Tim Riley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:35 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.

I married my long term partner on September 21, 2012 in Wellfleet, Massachusetts. I am asking you to consider the fact that had our beloved State of Hawaii had marriage equality we would have spent the THOUSANDS of dollars we spent in Massachusetts right here in our home State of Hawaii. In these tough times of economic turmoil we need the financial BOOM we would have from marriage equality. I would look at this as MARRIAGE OPPORTUNITY for our Hawaiian economy.

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.

Dr. Tim Riley
240 Ala Malama AVE.
PO. Box482258
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

From: [Amber Alvarez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:58 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:

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 am a college student and I have been with my partner for almost two years now. My partner is a federal worker and retired medically from the Army after serving in Iraq. There are many benefits that we are not entitled to. Benefits that married couples never really think about and take for granted. If we were to get married i would be able to be a dependent to her and receive some benefits through the VA. I don't understand how my love for her is any different than love between a man and a woman. We are engaged to be married and if marriage equality doesn't happen here then we are still going to get married just not in our home state. Being able to join in this joyous occasion with our families and friends who support us would be the best feeling in the world. I am like any other woman who as a young girl dreamed of the perfect wedding. Unless marriage equality is passed here in Hawaii, my dreams will never come to fruition. We will continue to feel treated like second class citizens.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amber Alvarez
457 Manawai St. 1402
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Kelly Mitchell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:36:20 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.

Kelly Mitchell
Kumukahi
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Scott Dodd](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:36:33 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.

Please pass this bill to recognize my family and protect us legally like other couples.

We appreciate your support.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Dodd
75-5828 Kahakai Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Javed Maksood](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:41:57 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.

Javed Maksood
1792 Pe'e Rd
Koloa, HI 96756

From: [Mariana Monasi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:44:02 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 we are growing up, we dream of the day that we will find the perfect person for us, who we will be able to marry, form a family with and grow old with. We hope that our friends, siblings and kids will one day find their perfect partner.

With the hardship and discrimination that LGBT people face day to day, it is inhumane to deny a legal right to marry, when any couple is in love.

The majority of those who oppose a law to allow gay marriage, do so because of religious reasons. They say "let the people vote", but that is not what a government is supposed to do. A government is supposed to protect its citizens equally without discriminating against minorities.

While you were all voted into your positions, one of the jobs this committee has is to make sure that the laws of the land are non discriminatory, that these do not stomp on anyone's rights to live free and pursue happiness. We live in a state where historically, LGBT people were an ingrained and included part of the culture. We live in a secular nation, where religion and government are separate, so I urge you to vote from that standpoint.

Let us be able to create an inclusive and progressive future for every person. So that one day we can look back to this moment, as we now look back to the civil rights movement, women's suffrage and the emancipation proclamation. Often, minorities are discriminated against for many different reasons, I hope you have the strength to be one of the individuals who stand for those who often don't have a voice.

Mahalo

Mariana Monasi
kahoaloha Ln
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Madeline Reed](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:46:55 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 State should not legislate matters of the heart. People should be allowed to commit themselves to whoever they love, regardless of gender. Legislating otherwise is a governmental invasion into one of the most private aspects of human life.

We all deserve to be treated equally by the State, regardless of who we love and want to marry. Honoring the genuine connection between two people does nothing to harm the institution of marriage. On the contrary, it strengthens marriage by basing the union in genuine human emotion, rather than out-dated ideals, fear, and conformity.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Madeline Reed
PO Box 6774
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Kathrine Fast](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:51:03 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.

As a therapist in a local university, I've seen firsthand what a difference it makes in the lives of LGBTQ students when they have loving and supportive relationships with their families. Over and above the issue of equality, legalizing marriage will help families support their LGBTQ members by reducing stigma, and supporting long-term committed relationships.

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.

Kathrine Fast
47-759 Hui Kelu St., apt 4
QLCSS #312
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Chasity Cadaoas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:54:27 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.

Chasity Cadaoas
1935 Main St., Ste 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [GP Merfeld](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:55:13 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:

"The rights of a minority shall not be determined by the vote of a majority."

This was a guiding principal of our forefathers while setting up our democracy, as one of their greatest fears with this form of government was the possibility of the "Tyranny of the Majority."

The same tyranny that denied women and ethnic minorities the right to vote.

The same tyranny that denied the right of interracial marriage.

The same tyranny that now waives signs and buys commercial air time to urge us to "Let the people decide on marriage!"

The same tyranny that was overturned in California after so much time, effort, and money was spent in trying once again to deny a minority's rights by the vote of a majority.

It is time to learn from the past and move forward, in step with the Federal rulings that struck down DOMA.

It is time to truly practice the separation of Church and State.

It is time to allow all citizens their basic and equal civil rights.

It is time, here in the Aloha State, to live an let live, with Aloha...

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

GP Merfeld
87-2472 Mamalahoa Hwy
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: [Donald Sanders](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:56:19 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.

Donald Sanders
75-5475 Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: [DAVID McCAULEY](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:58:25 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.

In this country, as the U.S. Supreme Court has confirmed, neither the government nor any religious leader should be in the business of imposing it/his/her views on who people can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The scare stories we have recently seen expressed in our state by religious pundits are just that: unfounded scare stories.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID McCAULEY
3663 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Jordan Miles](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:58:34 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.

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.

Jordan Miles
2772 laniloa rd a
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Kristin Bacon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - Please give us marriage equality!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:06:46 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 ask you to please put SB 1 into law.

My partner and I have been together for 18 years, and we want to get married here in our home state. Shouldn't the love and commitment we feel for each other be acknowledged in the same way that other couples of the opposite sex experience?

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. With all my heart, I long to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person I love in the same way that straight couples have been able to for years.

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.

If other states and countries of the world can do it, Hawai'i certainly can join in on this vision of marriage equality

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristin Bacon
1717 Mott Smith Drive
Apartment 1112
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Debra Mark](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:07:11 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 – 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.

Debra Mark
1349 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Nina Ki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:09:55 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.

To this day, I weep at the thought of excluding people from a freedom that should be enjoyed by everyone. We need to think about the message that we are sending our keiki. Should Hawai'i acknowledge and give equal marital status to good people who do not fit into our cookie cutter description of "the norm"? Or deny this basic right and allow exclusivity based on a person's nature?

I am supporting this bill to give gay/homosexual couples the opportunity to enjoy the same privileges that many heterosexual couples abuse.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nina Ki
6093 Keoki Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Leigh Drachman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - YES for Marriage Equality!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:35:14 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.

As the sister of a gay man, my desire is that he always has the same rights as a heterosexual man. He did not choose to be gay, he was born that way and I love him.

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.

Leigh Drachman
6240A Olohena Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Paul Hanson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:35:40 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.

I know that we need to allow the same rights of marriage to gays and lesbians as the rest of us receive. It is a shame on our society that it has taken so long for this to happen. We need to change this now if we are to consider ourselves a decent society based on love and equality for each other.

-Paul Hanson

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 Hanson
733 Pensacola st.
honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Mary A. Guinger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:39:07 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.

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.

Mary A. Guinger
926A Kaipii St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Greg Walker](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:39:24 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:

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 Walker
po box 17668
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Carla Lapis on](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:42:55 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.

It is time for Hawaii to stand on the side of love for all of Hawaii's 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.

Carla Lapis on
1062 Oilipuu Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Lisa Grove](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:49:05 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

I am a faithful Christian and it is my faith that guides me to support SB1. I was taught that we are all God's children and it is not for us to judge others.

I was also taught the value of practicing the Golden Rule. To that end, would I want to be told it is illegal to marry the person I love? Absolutely not. My marriage is too important to me to want to deny that one-of-a-kind relationship to anyone else.

If someone told me I had to be in a civil union instead, it would be devastating -- and the lack of definition or understanding about civil unions has had devastating effects in other places.

I urge to practice the values we hold dear -- freedom, equality, the Golden Rule and the basic understanding that love is love, it is something that belongs to everybody.

Mahalo for reading this.

Sincerely,
Lisa Grove
Lana'i, Hawai'i

Lisa Grove
P.O. BOX 631719
Lanai City, HI 96763

From: [Zulma Aguiar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:50:00 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.

If you don't agree with homosexuality, think of them as humans who pay taxes. Some of the tax issues they encounter are unfair to them and the Supreme Court has already sided with them when it comes to paying more taxes just for being in a gay partnership vs. a marriage. Married people are being favored by the laws of our country and as a single person, I'm not happy about that.

Another thing. Think of all the gay weddings, personally, I own a bed and breakfast. I will have a new customer base that I never expected. The truth is that the green dollar that the gay spends in Hawaii is just as green and valuable as the green dollar of the Japanese tourist or the Chinese visitor. This is a new revenue stream that those of us who are tolerant of gays will absolutely benefit from.

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.

Zulma Aguiar
437 Pau Street
#703
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Patrick Taomae](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:51:21 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.

Patrick Taomae
1188 Bishop Street
Suite 3012
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Michael Lippert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:51:51 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:

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 Lippert
1415 Victoria St 806
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Rev Gregory Hungerford](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:54:41 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.

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 Gregory Hungerford
68-085 Waialua Beach Rd
Waialua, HI 96791

From: [Kelsey Dockter](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:54:30 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.

Kelsey Dockter
2591 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [James Duca](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:56:00 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, and to provide stability for the children that they bring into the marriage.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family and we do not discriminate against people for the way that they were born. . No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

With minor exceptions based on health concerns, 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 have long since eliminated anti-miscegenation laws which people once attempted to defend as God's will. The same mistaken claim is now being raised with respect to the same-sex marriage laws. Perhaps more importantly, we should not have laws that embrace one group's views as to what is God's will at the expense of another's.

Those opposing these laws have made the unfounded claim that the same-sex marriage laws would attack the family, the marriages of heterosexual couples, or their religious freedom. They might just as well accuse these laws of killing dolphins, emitting greenhouse gases and causing cancer. Giving my gay friends the same legal rights that I enjoy does not diminish anyone else's rights. Certainly no one expects clergy who have religious objections to same sex marriage to perform marriage ceremonies for gay couples.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Duca
828 Fort Street
Suite 1800
Honolulu, HI 96734

From: [Edwin DePonte-Merideth](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:00:23 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.

My husband and I had a private service in 1997 in Kane`ohe due to the inequality of our relationship to that of our parents. 1997 was also the year we left Hawai`i for California, where we lived for 14 years - we attained our education (we both have Masters' Degrees) and paid our taxes in California. Incidentally, we were also to legally marry in California in 2008, the same year we adopted our two beautiful daughters. We moved to what we considered "home" in 2011 only to find that the inequality still persists. If California and now the Federal government can recognize us as married, I am puzzled as to why Hawai`i cannot do the same for two of its own. We now live in Hawai`i, pay our taxes to Hawai`i, but do not have the same benefits and protections as other married tax payers in the state - it is not pono, and must be changed.

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 Hawai`i, 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 Hawai`i's families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Edwin DePonte-Merideth
1486 Humu`ula Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Elsie Andaya-Bohol](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02:05 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.

With such a beautiful mix and diverse place here we have our own unique culture that has seen change and revolution over time. Being able to change is one thing but we transform as a people that live here in the islands with true beauty the cultural values of 'Ohana and acceptance.

I ask not just as a young person of the future but as young Kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) of this beautiful place called Hawai'i to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo Nui loa for reading my testimony and for the opportunity to testify.

Elsie Andaya-Bohol
2585 Dole st Hale Noelani C 140
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [michael swerdlow](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02:46 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 swerdlow
pob 384192
waikoloa, HI 96738

From: [Theresa Galpin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:07 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.

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.

Theresa Galpin
49-051 Johnson road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Kae Toguchi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:37 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kae Toguchi
94-021 Hukupalemo Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Kae Toguchi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:39 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.

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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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kae Toguchi
94-021 Hukupalemo Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Keith Kessler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:47 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.

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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.

Keith Kessler
2747 S KIHEI RD APT E103
Apt E103
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Kae Toguchi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:48 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.

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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.

Kae Toguchi
94-021 Hukupalemo Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Kim Anderson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:05:00 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.

Kim Anderson
505 E Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Sonia Blackiston](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:08:43 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.

Sonia Blackiston
92-831 Makakilo Drive
Apt 55
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Fritz Fritschel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:16:15 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.

As a retired Lutheran clergyman, I heartily endorse SB 1. The term marriage is an abstract term, referring as it does to many forms of relationship during its use and history. Certainly that is true within the Bible.

But at concrete relationship of two people, same gender or not, is what the state should be interested in supporting and strengthening. Recognizing Same-gender relationships under the rubrics of marriage can go a long way in solidifying that support.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fritz Fritschel
and Carol Langner

Fritz Fritschel
1415 Victoria St #1101
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Rockwood Rockwood](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:25:09 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.

Human sexuality is a lot like a chocolate bar; some people like their chocolate bar with nuts and some do not. It should be up to the individual to make that choice.

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.

Rockwood Rockwood
74-5606 Pawai Pl.
suite #6
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Brandy Domingo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:27:15 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.

Brandy Domingo
94-446 Hamau st.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: [Ana Murray](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:11:52 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ana Murray
41-37 hihimanu street
waimanalo, HI 96795

From: [Renie Lindley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:10 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.

Renie Lindley
66-627 Haleiwa Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [aaron mickelson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:31 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.

I am straight, but have known many gay couples who would make excellent husbands and wives and parents, and deserve the right to do so. In fact, my girlfriend and I are waiting to get married until everybody in Hawaii can marry, regardless of the sexual orientation. So your decision affects me too!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

aaron mickelson
PO BOX 412
Papaikou, HI 96781

From: [Mattielin Mann](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:34 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.

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.

Mattielin Mann
98-1941 Kaahumanu St.
Unit C
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Aj Jaeger](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:32 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.

57 years ago, my parents married at a time when mixed marriages were against 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, 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.

Aj Jaeger
532 Paumakua Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [james heermans](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:24 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.

james heermans
1084 kinau st #5
honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Phillip Arnold](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:16:43 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.

Phillip Arnold
2825 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [David Bruce Leonard](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:26 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 writing in strong support of SB 1.

We cannot vote away someone else's civil rights. A "majority" vote for something like slavery or some other infringement of basic human rights and dignity is unthinkable.

And so it is with the right to love.

What we do here today will be judged by history. We can move toward the inalienable rights for all our citizens, or we can move back into the Dark Ages.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Bruce Leonard
620 Hoene Street
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Robert Berry](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:45 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.

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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.

Robert Berry
14-3468 Puna Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Lisa Hamilton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I support legalizing marriage for all.
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:19:15 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:

Marriage is a right, not a privilege. Love is our birthright, and it then further manifests in marriage and the rights inherent within that. EVERYONE has the right to marry whomever they wish. That is natural and sensible, as the heart goes where it will.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Hamilton
146 Ehilani
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Camille Chong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:19:48 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.

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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.

Camille Chong
1617 Young St.
Apt. A101
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Renie Lindley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:21:07 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 married the person I wish to spend the rest of my life with. I married this person in care of the Honolulu Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends. They welcomed our same-sex marriage with love and open welcome.

However, the marriage is not recognized by the State of Hawaii. So my support of SB1 is for legalizing this marriage. I am not trying to force churches who don't believe in same sex marriage to officiate them.

But the government should not be keeping me from my legal rights.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renie Lindley
66-627 Haleiwa Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: [Cathy Granholm](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:20:44 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.

I am disgusted that my own state senator, Ron Kouchi, is substituting his personal religious beliefs over the civil rights of all citizens of the United states. I will never vote for someone who does this.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cathy Granholm
3617 Keoniana Rd.
Princeville, HI 96722

From: [Vince Ng](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:26:43 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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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.

Vince Ng
33 Kamaiki Cir
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [Charlette Harmon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:28:05 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.

Charlette Harmon
94-1455 Waipio Uka St
Apt N106
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: [Vince Ng](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:28:40 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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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.

Vince Ng
33 Kamaiki Cir
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [Caryl Burns](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:30:31 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.

It's unfair to restrict basic rights from gays and lesbians.

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

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

From: [T. J. Davies Jr.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:34:03 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 support Marriage Equality for all of Hawaii's citizens. Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 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.

T. J. Davies Jr.
909 Kapiolani Blvd # 601
Ste 601
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Banmala Hayes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:44 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.

Banmala Hayes
417 Namahana Street #3
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [wong keng](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:17 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.

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.

wong keng
1720 Ala Moana
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Paul Lillie](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:24:50 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.

Paul Lillie
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
539 Kapahulu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Jenna Long](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:23:51 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:

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.

Jenna Long
16-1172 Moho Road
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: [Susan Wurtzburg](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 by an educator
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:20:42 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. I teach at the University of Hawaii, and endorse equal rights for all my students.

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.

Susan Wurtzburg
Kawailoa St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [jade maglanoc](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:20:44 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.

jade maglanoc
1946 ala moana blvd #328
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Joel Johnson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:18 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.

Joel Johnson
98-099 Uao Place
APT 2109
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Harold Kameya](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:56:33 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 California, after the US Supreme Court ruling of June 26, 2013, LGBT persons could marry people of their choice.

THE SKY DID NOT FALL! Everyone appreciated being treated equally, finally!

Harold Kameya
480 Waiehu Beach Road
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Diliaur Tellei](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:48:12 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.

As a person of faith, I've been taught all my life that every person has an innate dignity. This holds true no matter what faith you may identify with and if you don't identify as religious. Every single person in the world deserves equal rights, and I believe that now is the time for Hawaii to do its part to uphold this idea.

The right to marry the person you love is one of the most basic rights a person has, and the fact that not everyone is covered by the current law is incomprehensible to me -- but now we have the opportunity to change it.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families, and demonstrate respect for every person's innate dignity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Diliaur Tellei
1810 University Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Anderson O'Mealy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:46:54 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.

My husband and I are already married in California and and a dozen other states that recognize it. We just celebrated our 5th anniversary. The federal government also now recognizes our marriage. There is no logical or legal reason for our marriage to not be recognized in our home state . It is only a matter of time before the courts will rule AGAIN that it is unconstitutional to deny us our right to marriage. So do the right thing before the lawsuits start piling up. Pass marriage equality now.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anderson O'Mealy
2410 Cleghorn St #1702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Paige Yamamoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:37:14 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.

Paige Yamamoto
1540 Auld Lane Apt. C
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Darlene Rodrigues](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:31:40 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. I write as a Roman Catholic who believes that every citizen no matter one's sexual orientation has a right to the same rights to marriage 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, 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.

Darlene Rodrigues
94-338 Ulukoa St.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Allison Fong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:47 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.

Allison Fong
1000 Pope Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Michael Zucker](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:15:52 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.

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 was the first. Let's not be the last. Marriage equality is the future, and the future is now.

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 Zucker
2515 Lai Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Carolynn Griffith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:10:12 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.

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.

Carolynn Griffith
83 Nawiliwili St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Thelina ODaniel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:09:59 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 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.

Thelina ODaniel
92-8876 Leilani Parkway
OceanView, HI 96737

From: [Sharon Ortiz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:35:03 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.

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.

Sharon Ortiz
1013 Alahaki Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Joseph Ferraro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:57:12 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.

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 and the reason for marriage. The current statute as I recall is for procreation. This even exempts my wife and I who have no children together. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I implore you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's citizens .

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joseph Ferraro
2703 Terrace Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Joseph Ferraro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:57:16 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 and the reason for marriage. The current statute as I recall is for procreation. This even exempts my wife and I who have no children together. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I implore you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's citizens .

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joseph Ferraro
2703 Terrace Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Nickey Robertson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:24:54 PM

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee on Judiciary and Labor members:

My name is N. Tod Robertson. I am a 23 year resident of Hawaii who strongly supports SB1. I ask you to support SB1 also.

Now is the time to grant same-sex couples their full Civil Rights. Same-sex individuals deserve the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Please recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex by supporting SB1.

Thank you for your support of SB1

N.Tod Robertson

620 McCully Street #507

Honolulu, Hawaii.

--

NTR

From: [Kimble Mead](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:13:18 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.

Kimble Mead
760 South Kihei Rd.#603
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [julie dagenais](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:15:25 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.

julie dagenais
1617 miller st #3
honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Tiffany Clarion](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:15:32 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.

Tiffany Clarion
3003 Ala Napuaa Apt 304
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Antonia Barnhart](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:20:38 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

While I am not gay, many of my friends are and have been together in committed relationships longer than I and my husband. Why can't they have the same rights we 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 love and commitment I see in my friend's relationships is inspiring to me. Do the right thing for our people.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Antonia Barnhart
523 wainaku st.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Jacqueline Tripp](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:58:18 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.

Jacqueline Tripp
1214 A 14 A 14 Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Aaron Ohama](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:04:31 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.

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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.

Aaron Ohama
421 Nahua
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Raymond Potts](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:15:33 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.

Raymond Potts
1720 Ala Moana
#B508
Honolulu, HI 98620

From: [Sherill Kearns](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:27:34 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.

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.

Marriage Equality cannot have a negative impact on heterosexual marriage or on families. All families and all loving couples deserve equal protection and support under the law. As a heterosexual person in a happy marriage, I want to extend the rights that I enjoy to everyone.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sherill Kearns
1141 Kaluanui Rd
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Blain Stark](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:05 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.

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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.

Blain Stark
1522 Bertram st
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [roy tran](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:29:59 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.

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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.

roy tran
2569 Cartwright
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Jeanne Marie Iorio](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:29:20 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.

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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.

Jeanne Marie Iorio
3029 Lowrey Ave
Apt D1215
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [katherine hartwig](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:33:20 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:

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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 hartwig
wheeler aaf
Wahiwa, HI 96854

From: clayton.langeneckert
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:33:51 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:

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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.

clayton langeneckert
126 neff st pmb1119
wheeler aaf, HI 96786

From: [Jason Ford](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:15 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:

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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.

Jason Ford
2327 Liloa Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [pacer lee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:31 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:

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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.

pacer lee
45535 luluku rd apt c5
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [tianna byrne](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:41:40 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.

tianna byrne
74th eod box#142
schofield barracks, HI 96857

From: [keale baclig](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:35 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:

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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.

keale baclig
1303 liliha st 206
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [keale baclig](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:43 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.

keale baclig
1303 liliha st 206
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Gabriella Lopez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:44 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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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 all deserve equality!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabriella Lopez
1303 liliha st apt.206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Erric Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:47:33 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.

Erric Odom
1088 biship st
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Erric Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:47:33 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.

Erric Odom
1088 biship st
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Erric Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:47:37 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erric Odom
1088 biship st
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Anna Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:26 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:

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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.

Anna Odom
1088 bishop st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Anna Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:27 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

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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.

Anna Odom
1088 bishop st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Anna Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:36 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

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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.

Anna Odom
1088 bishop st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Anna Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:37 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:

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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.

Anna Odom
1088 bishop st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Anna Odom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:38 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.

Anna Odom
1088 bishop st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Siobhán Ní Dhonacha](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - Vote Yes For Democratic Constitutional Rights!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:54:07 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 both as a matter of American democratic constitutional equality and simple decency and integrity. Rights should never be for sale or be piecemeal, and if they are, that undermines an economically stable society that can move forward together to achieve common goals that improve life for 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.

Siobhán Ní Dhonacha
Mott-Smith Drive
#1112
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Jack Law](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:55:57 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:

Victor Hugo, the great French poet and author, stated, "Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come." This certainly applies in Hawaii for same-sex marriage.

Same-sex marriage, in the State of Hawaii, with religious exemptions, will go the way of fourteen of other U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Canada, many states in Mexico, many South American countries, most of Europe, and The Republic of South Africa. Polls show that same-sex marriage is a non-issue for those under 30 years of age.

Our conservative leaders on same-sex marriage, should look to the future when same-sex marriage will be commonplace everywhere in Hawaii, and the rest of the world, as it is now in the places already mentioned.

If a legislator votes against same-sex marriage, how will their legacy stand the test of time? How will they feel ten, even twenty years after the vote, to have to say they voted against the equality of their fellow men and women? Will they say to their children and grandchildren, "My human right principles were the same as Russia's and Uganda's"?

To the Hawaii legislators, vote for the future, vote for an idea whose time has come, it will be your legacy.

Jack Law

Jack Law
4690 Sierra Dr.
Kaimuki, Honolulu,, HI 96816

From: [Barbara Service](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:56:59 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.

Please pass this bill to allow individuals to marry the person they love. Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for the same reason that heterosexual couples want to marry, that is, to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity. This basic freedom should not be denied to anyone.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. There is no compelling reason for same-sex couples not to marry.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Barbara Service
4172 Keanu St. #4
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [carlos hernandez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:59:22 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.

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.

carlos hernandez
827 kinau st
honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Shih-Wei Ma](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:14:09 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.

Shih-Wei Ma
1288 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 3806
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Matthew Mitchell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:14:19 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:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My name is Matt Mitchell. I was born and raised in Kailua on O'ahu and I am a proud graduate of Kailua High class of 1982.

I have never submitted testimony before regarding this issue, nor have I ever attended any hearings nor have I ever really gotten involved in the political process until now. This issue is very important to me and your decision will have a direct impact on my future.

I have been in a loving and committed relationship with a Brazilian citizen for the last five years. He is the love of my life and we are committed to each other for life and would like to have the same opportunities that are afforded to heterosexual citizens, including the right to marry each other and to enjoy the benefits that come with being lawfully married.

My partner lives and works in Rio De Janeiro and as you can imagine, the long distance commute for us has been difficult.

Please pass this Marriage Bill. Please stay on the right side of history. Please allow my partner and I to be treated as equals. Please make me proud to live in the Aloha state!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Matthew Mitchell
1123 Akipola St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Adam Ma](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:15:13 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.

Adam Ma
1448 Young St Apt 1103
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Fred Baysa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:17:48 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.

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 Baysa
1177 Queen St Apt 4507
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [George Grace](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:27:59 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.

My daughter is in a long-term (25 years or so) lesbian relationship that I have at times thought of as the best relationship of any couple I know. They live in California, where now, fortunately, they're legally married despite the evil (I can think of no more suitable word) efforts of some religious ideologues.

I was very proud of Hawaii when it was leading the nation in the freedom to marry. Since, I've felt ashamed as it's fallen behind one state after another. Let's get this evil cured!!

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

George Grace
1212 punahou
#2108
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Adrian Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:30:18 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.

Adrian Jones
94-385 Kaholo St
Mililiani, HI 96789

From: [Michael Moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:34:38 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 sent a previous letter (identical to this) which i forgot to sign. This is the signed version.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

I believe that if the gay parents of these children are allowed to marry it can only strengthen society by giving these children a happy, stable, nurturing home, thus bringing forth more well-adjusted children. This would be in sharp contrast to the other end of the spectrum - children who have been brought up to believe they aren't as good as others and consequently relate to the world from their tension around that issue. This scenario would only create conflict for these children - conflict in their interpersonal relationships as well as conflict with society in general.

Marriage for same sex couples has many other benefits too numerous to mention in this brief testimony, the economic boost to tourism being only one. But when you get down to the nitty gritty of it, this issue is most importantly about basic human rights - the right to marry the person you love, create a family and find some happiness in a world that is not always a very happy place.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Forrest Moore
Kailua Kona

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: [Michael Moore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:34:46 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 sent a previous letter (identical to this) which i forgot to sign. This is the signed version.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

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Marriage for same sex couples has many other benefits too numerous to mention in this brief testimony, the economic boost to tourism being only one. But when you get down to the nitty gritty of it, this issue is most importantly about basic human rights - the right to marry the person you love, create a family and find some happiness in a world that is not always a very happy place.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Forrest Moore
Kailua Kona

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: [Joe Jackson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:44:26 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.

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.

Come on! Do the right thing. It's about time.

Joe Jackson
1611 Hoohiamoe St
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [TBill808](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Support Testimony; Mon 10/28
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:47:46 AM
Attachments: [SB1_Support10'28'13.docx](#)

Attached is my testimony in support of SB 1, relating to Equal Rights.
Teresa Bill

From: [Pat Gozemba](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR: SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality).
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:50:09 AM
Attachments: [CFER Memo 10.11.13.docx](#)

I fully support SB 1 and attach and include within this message my response to Brian Camenker's negative attack on marriage equality: "What Same-Sex Marriage Has Done to Massachusetts."

Patricia A. Gozemba
17 Sutton Ave.
Salem, MA 01970
978.744.9141
pgozemba@gmail.com

To: Tambry Young, Chair Citizens for Equal Rights (CFER)
From: Dr. Patricia A. Gozemba, co-author of **Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages** (Beacon Press, 2007). Contact: pgozemba@gmail.com
Re: "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts" (2012) by Brian Camenker of MassResistance
Date: October 11, 2013

Thank you for calling my attention to the distribution in the Hawai'i legislature of Brian Camenker's "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts." I trust that the Hawai'i groups responsible for the distribution do not understand the extent of the half-truths, misinformation, and outright lies in the document. As a member of the Hawai'i Citizens for Equal Rights Board, an academic and writer on issues of concern to the LGBT community, as well as a part-time resident of Hawai'i and Massachusetts, I feel compelled to respond.

Please consider the source of "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts." The source, Brian Camenker, founder of **MassResistance**, an anti-gay group based in Waltham, Massachusetts, has persistently sought to portray Massachusetts's lead position in granting equality as detrimental. For this and other discriminatory offensives, **MassResistance** is consistently named by the **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)** as a hate group (www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map). **MassResistance** is in the company of other hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, and a variety of Nazi groups.

The **SPLC**, an eminently respected watch-dog organization, is listed under the resources section of the **FBI's** web page on hate crimes. SPLC is cited by scholars as a reliable source on right-wing extremism and hate groups. Rory McVeigh, chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Notre Dame, considers the SPLC a reliable source of information for scholars.

In addition to SPLC monitoring, **RightWingWatch** (www.rightwingwatch.org), a project of **People For the American Way**, monitors Camenker and **MassResistance**. **RightWingWatch** declares on its website that it is "dedicated to monitoring and reporting on the activities of right-wing political organizations, in order to expose the agenda of the extreme Right." Their researchers "monitor dozens of broadcasts, emails and websites, and use their expertise on right-wing movements to analyze and distill that information for the general public." Their reporting educates by "shedding

light on the activities of right-wing organizations” and exposing “the risks that their extreme and intolerant agendas present to our country.”

On the **RightWingWatch** website there are 85 published investigations of discriminatory and hateful actions taken by Brian Camenker and **MassResistance**. The research indicates the ways in which Camenker strives to engender intolerance towards the LGBT community.

MASSRESISTANCE HOT BUTTON ISSUES

Rather than attempt to dispute all of the distortions in Camenker’s piece, I’d like to focus on a few hot button issues.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Camenker incorrectly insists that courts are mandating that Massachusetts public introduce literature portraying gay families and teach about same-sex marriages.

He points to cases filed in 2006-2007 by David Parker and Robb and Robin Wirthlin of Lexington, and distorts the First Circuit Court decision in *Parker v. Hurley*, claiming, “Because same-sex marriage is ‘legal’ federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!”

Camenker’s interpretation of the decision of the ruling of the First Circuit Court in *Parker v. Hurley* is incorrect, according to **Nima Eshgsi, Esq. of Gay, Lesbian, Advocates and Defenders** (www.glad.org). Eshgsi notes that the court “**did not mandate the teaching of any subject or course material, nor did it say that the school had any duty to teach about marriage or any other subject. Rather, in response to the claims by the Wirthlins and the Parkers that their free exercise rights had been violated, the Court found that ‘the mere fact that a child is exposed on occasion in public school to a concept offensive to a parent’s religious belief does not inhibit the parent from instructing the child differently.’ Overall, the decision found that including a few books with depictions of same-sex couples in the curriculum did not violate the constitutional rights of students or parents - NOT that those books must be included or taught.**”

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BOSTON AND ADOPTIONS

Camenker states that because of marriage equality in Massachusetts, “Homosexual ‘married’ couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children—through any agency.” He then implies that Catholic Charities of Boston was forced out of the adoption business. The truth is that because Catholic Charities received taxpayer funding, it was required to follow the state’s non-discrimination policy and evaluate all people, including LGBT families, as potential parents. Had Catholic Charities been willing to continue its program without taxpayer funds, they could have chosen to only work with heterosexual couples and could still be handling adoptions.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In a convoluted argument, Camenker asserts that “Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual violence.” He reaches this conclusion based on his assertion that “Massachusetts has one of the highest proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country.”

RightWingWatch deconstructs Camenker’s argument, noting:

“Experts say that domestic violence has increased nationwide, likely connected to economic stress, Massachusetts included.

But Camenker says gay couples are responsible for the increase, arguing that “the rates of domestic violence among homosexual couples is many, many times that of heterosexual couples,” which he

alleges is a manifestation of “the dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships.”

However, Jane Doe Inc. The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence writes, “Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals are abused at approximately the same levels as heterosexual couples, but the abuse may be exacerbated by social isolation caused by societal oppression and discrimination.” The Center for American Progress also notes that “studies have found that domestic violence occurs among same-sex couples at comparable rates to straight couples,” not “many, many times that of heterosexual couples” as Camenker claims (<http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/brian-camenker-blames-gay-marriage-spike-domestic-violence>).

SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND CENSORSHIP

Camenker notes that, “A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state. Titled *Courting Equality*, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization.” He implies that the book was forced on school libraries because of marriage equality.

As one of three authors of *Courting Equality*, I know first-hand the back story on this assertion. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) donated our book to Gay and Lesbian Straight Alliances (GSAs) in public schools. Some of the GSAs then donated the book, pending their librarian’s acceptance of it, to the school library. Some school libraries bought their own copies. In no instance was our book forced into any school library.

In donating the book, PFLAG noted that *Courting Equality* tells the story of how LGBT people and their allies across the state used the democratic political process to expand civil rights for LGBT people. The donors thought this book would inspire teenagers to become active participants in democracy. They “offered” the book as a gift, and no high school GSA or library was forced to accept it.

Both school and public libraries remain free to accept as a part of their collections books that librarians (representing their communities) deem to be educational for their patrons.

CONCLUSION

As Hawai’i approaches another opportunity to extend marriage equality to all of its citizens, I hope that the nearly 10 years of marriage equality in Massachusetts will inspire legislators in Hawai’i to grant the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of marriage to all of its people. Marriage equality is a great success in Massachusetts. Do not be deceived by Camenker’s distortions of the truth.

From: [Kevin Fraser](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:51:28 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.

I firmly believe that families are the bedrock of our society, that's why I'm dismayed about the so-called 'pro-family' groups that are working so hard to make it difficult for some to form families with those they love.

Same sex couples deserve the same rights as everybody else - to marry the one they love. This right is so basic that - in my mind - it shouldn't even be a question.

It is time for Hawaii to stand up for equality - it's that simple.

Thank you

Kevin Fraser
300 Wai Nani Way
Apt 201
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Marilyn Seely](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:16:05 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.

As a heterosexual I enjoy the freedom to marry and devote my life to whomever I choose. I strongly support these same rights for all folks no matter their sexual orientation. Increasing numbers of my age cohorts(70+) share this same viewpoint. This is clearly the right thing to do and will not in my opinion in any way damage the institution of marriage or the integrity of the family.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marilyn Seely
46-402 Haiku Plantations Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [David Deges](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:16:54 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:

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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.

David Deges
P.O Box 492350
Keaau, HI 96749

From: [Willy Shum](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:16:57 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 a same sex partner of 26 years to a Vietnam veteran, who is living with Agent Orange presumptive disabilities: Parkinson's Disease and ischemic heart disease, and combat-related disabilities: PTSD, back injuries among others. The every day care which I have been providing is no less than any other provided by straight spouses to their disabled love ones. It is vital for us to be protected as equal to straight surviving spouses. However, time is against us, and no one can tell what tomorrow will bring. Further time consumes in passing the Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill will in no doubt put our lives in the later years in question. Why deny the gay spouses over 1000 justified federal benefits already available to straight spouses? Did my partner not make the same life threatening sacrifices as his straight comrades?

President Obama had just made an executive decision on Sept 4, 2013 to dismantle federal barriers to same-sex marriages, announced that the Department of Veteran Affairs would immediately begin spousal benefits to gay men and lesbians despite a federal statute that limits such benefits to veterans' spouses who are of the opposite sexes.

Equality for all citizens is not a matter of majority rules, and civil rights are not matters that can be defined by religion. Marriage licenses are issued by the state not the church, which is precisely why America was founded on the separation of church and state. The bill as presented to you by the Governor has, to my belief, fairly protected the religious rights. This is a just bill which protects all concerns to the greatest degree possible. There will not be a perfect bill which offers 100% protection from future legal challenges. Thriving for that will only further delay the due process.

I urge you to follow our Commander-in-Chief's example in executing a speedy special session to legalize same-sex marriage. Stand up and be counted, vote for equality for all. Do the right thing. The time is NOW.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Willy Shum
Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Willy Shum
1200 Queen Emma Street
Apt. 3101
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Janaka Dillon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:20:51 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:

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.

Janaka Dillon
4178-c Bougainville circle
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Judy Kern](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SUPP0RT Marriage Equity!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:29:24 PM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Committee Members,
I am writing to urge passage of Senate Bill 1 during the 2013 Special Session of the Legislature.
The time is long overdue for Hawaii to take this step toward treating all people with fairness and equality under the law.
Please pass the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013.

Respectfully,
Judy Kern
1205 Kahului Street
Honolulu, HI 96825
jkern@hawaii.rr.com

From: [John Kimmell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:30:28 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 never thought, in my life time, that I would see such a sweeping change in public attitude and government policy regarding LGBT issues. First, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" followed by gay men and women serving openly in our nation's military. Then, in June of this year, came the big 1 - 2, the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on DOMA and California's Proposition 8. These rulings prompted changes in federal government policies, where more than 1000 benefits became available to same sex married couples that were previously enjoyed exclusively only by heterosexual married couples. The problem for us in Hawaii is that the federal government requires that you be legally married. Not in a domestic partnership, civil union or common law relationship, but legally married in the state in which you live and that state must allow and recognize same sex marriages.

I am a 70 year-old gay retired military officer in a 26 year same-sex relationship. My partner and I have been through the good times and the not so good times that all relationships, straight or gay, go through. We laugh; we cry and have our disagreements. We truly love each other and entered into a civil union last September. As could happen to any married couple, we are going through some of those more serious challenges that present themselves as we travel through life's journey together. A few years back I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and survived a heart attack. My partner has taken it upon himself to willingly see to my care and has been there by my side as my conditions worsen and as these diseases progress to their inevitable conclusion.

The Veterans Administration attributes these conditions to my exposure to the defoliant spray Agent Orange during my two combat tours in Vietnam where I served as a helicopter pilot. I am 100% disabled and fortunately receive medical care and a disability pension. Married couples in similar situations receive additional disability compensation and a life long survivor's pension when the veteran passes on. As you know, presently, under Hawaiian Law, we cannot marry. As a result, my partner and I are completely cut out of receiving any of these benefits. The same goes for Social Security and over 1000 other federal benefits that opposite sex couples enjoy that same sex couples do not unless they are really married. Is this equitable? NO, it is not!

Evaluate the irrational rhetoric; religious bias has no part in this issue no matter how loud they beat their drums. Please keep the church out of the debate. Remember the "tyranny of the majority" where "might does not make right". The issue is not what the Bible says but it is about civil rights as guaranteed under our Federal and Hawaii State Constitutions.

For those of you who favor the Relating to Equal Rights Bill as presented in the coming special legislative session, I urge you to hold your ground. Stay strong. Do not sway.

For those of you who are undecided or opposed to it, I urge you to reconsider your position and do the right thing. Stand up and be counted. What's fair is fair. What's right is right. Please, make your vote, YES for Equal Rights.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
John A. Kimmell II

Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

John Kimmell
1200 Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Peter Pomeranze](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:33:36 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:

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.

The argument that gay marriage threatens the sanctity of so called traditional marriage just does not hold water.It is a hidden homophobic comment used as an excuse.If "straight" marriage is a sanctity than nothing could possibly harm it.The Supreme Court agrees,The President agrees,it is time Hawaii took a leadership role and reflects all of its people.

Peter Pomeranze
POB 842
Kapaau, HI 96755

From: [Taresa Roy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:39:47 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.

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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.

Taresa Roy
94-260 Leowahine St #48
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: [Shannrae Isabel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:44:33 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.

Shannrae Isabel
68-3831 Lua Kula Rd, Fwy Terrace
#M102 - PO BOX 383762
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: [Joshua Michaels](#)
To: [JDL Testimony-Written Only](#)
Subject: I support marriage equality, and you should too!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:44:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Re: Marriage Equality, Equal Rights

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1. Marriage equality in Hawaii is long overdue. Given our state's long history of promoting civil rights and equality for all people, we must act now and give Hawaii's gay and lesbian families the same rights which we all enjoy. From John Burns to William S. Richardson to Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, we have recognized that the government's first responsibility is to make sure we hold fast to our nation's founding creed – "all men [and women] are created equal". Our entire Congressional delegation, as well as the vast majority of our state leadership, supports gay marriage. Some have called for a referendum – "let the people decide." That is a dangerous thought. Civil rights and equality for the minority should not be left up to the whim of the majority. We have seen throughout American history that such decisions can have devastating consequences.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Some people claim that marriage equality will harm the "sanctity of marriage." As a straight person, I find that notion laughable. Gay marriage will only affect gay people who get married. If you think gays getting married will harm your marriage, your marriage probably has bigger problems.

Marriage equality is correct from a moral, political, and civil rights standpoint. It will bring us among the ranks of the 14 states and the District of Columbia which have already come down firmly on the right side of history. Plus, it will help the perception of our state and provide a boost to our economy. According to a study by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, "...marriage equality is likely to lead to substantial increases in Hawai'i visitor arrivals, visitor spending, and state and county general excise tax revenues due to pent-up demand for same-sex marriage. Over the 2014-2016 period, [it is] estimate[d] that additional visitor spending due to marriage equality would amount to \$217 million. The additional gains in visitor spending are time-sensitive: Spending by U.S. same-sex couples and their guests on honeymoons and marriages will be diverted to other states until Hawai'i recognizes marriage equality."

Moreover, opponents of same-sex marriage base their position only on fundamentalist theology and unverified pseudoscience. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. Marriage equality will not harm society. It will not harm children. Children need love and support. As Justice Kennedy pointed out when the Supreme Court struck down DOMA, children with gay parents who can't get married are discriminated against because the government is telling them they are not a "real" family. Civil Unions are also not enough. We rightly abolished and condemned the notion of "separate but equal" several decades ago.

None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Remember, not even 50 years ago, interracial marriage was still illegal in many American states. Today, those opponents of interracial marriage are rightly and widely condemned as backwards, bigoted, and racist. Like opponents of same-sex marriage, they based most of their justification on religion ("that's the way God intended it") and pseudo-science (race-mixing hurts children and families). Let's hope we don't look back on Hawaii the same way in 50 years.

The way some people have dedicated their lives to opposing marriage equality is truly frightening. Working so hard to make sure some people can't have the same rights you cherish is not only un-American, it is un-Christian.

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

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Aloha,

Josh Michaels

Joshua Michaels
PO Box 2005
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Tom LaBelle](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:49:41 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.

I am tired of Congress picking and choosing when they want to serve their constituents. When it came to extended background checks, 85% of the country was in favor yet Congress voted overwhelmingly against it. And do I need to remind you what recently happened with the recent government shutdown (yes, I was affected).

Please listen to the people now. 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 LaBelle
1090 Ala Napunani
105
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Hala'ikai Patterson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:02:28 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.

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.

Hala'ikai Patterson
PO Box 383762
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: [Julie and Thomas Pasquale](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:05:59 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.

This is a basic civil rights issue.

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

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 issue is no different than past laws outlawing marriage between couples of different races or religions. It is the role of government to assure equal rights for all couples who want to make a marriage commitment.

It is time to put this issue behind us and allow equal rights to marry to all couples.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Julie and Thomas Pasquale
PO Box 743
Naalehu, HI 96772

From: [Roy Burt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:22:09 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.

My partner and I have been in a loving committed relationship for almost 35 years. Do we not deserve equality?

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.

Roy Burt
415 Dairy Rd E-225
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [Catherine Clement](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:28:05 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.

I am a heterosexual mother of 3 heterosexual adult children. I'm also a relative and friend of several gay and lesbian couples whom I love dearly. It matters to me that my family members and friends have the same rights to marriage that my children and I do - the very same rights.

It matters to me that Hawaii stands at the front of the line of states that are legalizing marriage equality, rather than falling to the back of the line with the bigoted states.

It matters to me that Hawaii opens up the doors to the economic opportunities that will follow when all people are welcome to marry 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.

Catherine Clement
PO Box 1450
Kilauea, HI 96754

From: [c.wittke](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:29:33 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.

c wittke
53 Pu'unene Ave
kauloi, HI 96732

From: [Robert Walls](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:50:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

"Beware of false prophets" and "What would Jesus do?" are better guides for our Representatives than the Pastors Roundtable's highly presumptive and negative statement of "God's plan."

In fact, marriage equality will allow all of us to live our lives as loving families.

My family, like many others now and in decades past, was torn apart by needless discrimination and prejudice.

When I was 12, and my caring big brother Don was only 17, he was driven out of the family by fear and ignorance - despite his kindness and many talents. Nearly 50 years passed before his death, after which I finally learned of his amazing life from his loving lifetime partner. What was taken from my family was priceless and can never be reclaimed.

NO, our loss was not according to God's plan! Hawaii's legislators and citizens must beware the highly funded false prophets who are now so stridently predicting doom. Yes, NOW is the time for equality!

Robert G. Walls, LCDR USN (RET)
46-420 Hololio Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744

Robert Walls
46420 Hololio St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Robert Walls](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:44:01 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.

Robert Walls
46420 Hololio St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [David Dodson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:53:53 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 is currently in direct violation of the US Constitution's "equal protection" clause as well as several others. Never mind the unfairness of it all. We are forced to pay extra for the same things... taxes, health care, memberships etc, solely because we can not legally create a family in the eyes of the Federal Government.

What bothers me the most is the errant belief that we don't have children. In fact we do. I raised 3 foster children and would have adopted another had I had the financial support of a partner at the time to take the time off for the process.

Our children are being disadvantaged because of the added expenses as well as the lack of stability afforded by legal marriage. Our families are being hurt solely because a group of people decided we didn't deserve recognition even though the state supreme court ruled otherwise in '95. I testified before the committee hearings at the time and I can honestly say I have never been more disappointed in the political process as I was then. After all, when did I ever get the chance to vote on YOUR marriage.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Dodson
12-4761 Old Kalapana Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [troy abraham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:57:54 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.

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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.

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

From: [Vanessa Ott](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: PLEASE Support SB1 - Equal Rights for Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:01:35 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 to ask that you support, and encourage others to support, SB1, the bill that will allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Long before we were married, my husband and I registered as domestic partners as an act of solidarity with the GLBT community. If they couldn't marry, why should we? We finally compromised our ethics and got married because of the many benefits that marriage offers, but we continued our fight for marriage equity for everyone. Much like ending Jim Crow laws that prohibited people of different races from marrying, the time has come to end this discriminatory practice.

Please put Hawaii at the forefront of this nation's struggle for equal rights under the law and pass SB-1. Hawaii's ohana and aloha should be real, legal, put into practice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vanessa Ott
94-5879 Kau Wela Place
#2901
Naalehu, HI 96772

From: [Mariah Ancona](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:12:21 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.

Mariah Ancona
73-1059ahulani st
kailua kona, HI 96740

From: [Shelly Bonoan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:14:14 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.

As a partner in a binational couple, the only way we are able to stay together in the United States and be with our ohana is through marriage. However, we must marry outside of HI in order to legalize and validate our commitment. Our families cannot join us, as the expenses are beyond everyone's means. Inequality in HI not only hurts us, but our extended family too.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shelly Bonoan
PO Box 1251
Honolulu, HI 96807

From: [Mark Levin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In strong support of SB1 (testimony attached as .pdf file)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:20:04 PM
Attachments: [10.28.13 MAL testimony on SB1.pdf](#)

Please see my testimony, attached as a .pdf file.

--



Mark Levin

Professor of Law

P (808) 956-3302 | **F** (808) 956-5569 | **E** levin@hawaii.edu |

SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/author=624452>

University of Hawai'i at Manoa · William S. Richardson School of Law · 2515 Dole Street, Room 245 · Honolulu, HI 96822-2328

* Affiliations are given for identification purposes only. Opinions presented here are personal views and not the official views of the University of Hawai'i or any other organization or entity.

From: [M.Yano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:19:50 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:

For couples and families in Hawaii to have benefits that legal marriage entails, they have to fly to another state or country (this costs thousands of dollars, plus time off work/school for the kids, extra planning etc.) and have a ceremony where family/friends are unlikely to attend, in a completely foreign environment alone or without the support/celebration they might normally get at home, to get those rights. It would be much easier, less costly, and emotionally taxing if all LGBT could get married at home (in this case, Hawaii), or anywhere they please.

Until all states grant the recognition of LGBT marriage, people will still be uprooted or have to travel, even if temporarily, to get that recognition. Some LGBT families also are economically disadvantaged, and may not even have the means to travel to get married. Some people, due to ill health or disabilities, are also unable to travel beyond the islands to marry the ones they love, even though they may already live with them in this state.

Also, HI is losing a tremendous amount of profit that could be made because LGBT couples are flying to the mainland to have their ceremonies, and LGBT tourists are choosing other states as well.

Therefore, from 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.

M Yano
PO Box 1251
Honolulu, HI 96807

From: [Eliza Goodhue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:24:52 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.

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.

Eliza Goodhue
17a Nana Pono Pl.
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Eliza Goodhue](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:24:49 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.

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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.

Eliza Goodhue
17a Nana Pono Pl.
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Douglass Bartlett](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:37:34 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.

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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.

PS

I testified in person in favor of marriage equality in 1994 before senator Tom et. all at Kahakai El. School in Kailua Kona Big Island. It took a lot of courage to do this because we were outnumbered about 50 to 1. Most testifiers were born again Christians saying outrageous, hurtful things about us. We had to sit and listen to this for hours before we were allowed to speak. My lover had just died the month before so this is what emboldened me to expose myself to the hate and vitriol and possible discrimination in my job. How dare anyone say that I should not have been allowed to marry the wonderful person that I had just lost!

Douglass Bartlett
PO Box 861
Kailua Kona, HI 96745

From: [Valerie Wickert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:48:50 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.

I find it difficult to believe that we, here in the State of Hawaii, in 2013, must pass a bill granting our citizens basic human rights.

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.

Valerie Wickert
1330 Wilder #103
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Johnathon Hawley-Molloy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:03:26 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 writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I have been Kailua residents for six years. Two years ago, we got married in Washington, DC, because we wanted the marriage license that is offered there--NOT a civil union. Civil unions do not have the same federal benefits as marriage, which is important to us as a military family. More importantly, the term "civil union" lacks the history, meaning, and recognition that comes instantly with a marriage license. We want the state to put its stamp of recognition that our family is equally important and equally valued!

The importance of our marriage has increased hugely for us this year, when we became the parents of our beautiful 7-month old daughter, Kylie. She deserves to grow up with a family that has all the rights, benefits, responsibilities, and recognition of any other. There are thousands of keiki in Hawaii whose families deserve no less.

To those who oppose our marriage on religious grounds, I would like to reassure you that we have no desire to impose our values on you, your family, or your church. We hope you would show our family the same consideration, and let the state give our family equal status under the law as is constitutionally guaranteed. The proposed law offers appropriate protections to religious organizations, within the bounds of well-established public accommodations laws. If marriage equality comes to Hawaii via a court decision, as is likely if the legislature fails to act, there will be no such protections in the law.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Johnathon Hawley-Molloy
739A Kahoa Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Joshua Hawley-Molloy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:04:29 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 have been Kailua residents for six years. Two years ago, we got married in Washington, DC, because we wanted the marriage license that is offered there--NOT a civil union. Civil unions do not have the same federal benefits as marriage, which is important to us as a military family. More importantly, the term "civil union" lacks the history, meaning, and recognition that comes instantly with a marriage license. We want the state to put its stamp of recognition that our family is equally important and equally valued!

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joshua Hawley-Molloy
739A Kahoa Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Steven Olivieri](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:38:41 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:

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.

Steven Olivieri
Po box 532363
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Amy Agbayani](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:39:33 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 respectfully urge you to support Marriage Equality SB1. This is a civil rights issue for equality and fairness and also separation of church and state.

Our society must not discriminate against any individual or group. I was raised a Catholic and I believe, like our Pope, that we must be inclusive, kind and fair. This bill provides adequate accommodation to religious institutions. Religious facilities will need to meet same protections and anti-discrimination requirements in current law for rentals.

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.

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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.

Amy Agbayani
3432 B-1 Kalihi St
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Angelica Calaro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:41:41 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.

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.

Angelica Calaro
4207 Keaka Drive
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Carol Puette](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:42:21 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.

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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.

Carol Puette
3363A Keanu Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Barry Ayers](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:43:52 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:

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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.

Supporting SB1 is a vote for equal rights. The Supreme Court has recently ruled against discrimination. The great State of Hawaii should not discriminate either.

Barry Ayers
3136 S. Kihei Rd.
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Kandi Rothbaum](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:56:20 PM

To the elected officials of my state of Hawaii

I am writing to add my voice to the support of marriage equality for all residents of Hawaii.

I believe that people should be judged by their humanity, their contributions to society, commitment to family, children and community.

What gives anyone the right to claim their way is the only way, the RIGHT way. I have many gay and lesbian friends and love them for the same reasons I love my straight friends. They are good people, trying to do their best everyday.

Money streaming in from the mainland to defend traditional marriage, really? I'm sorry, these people are no better as human beings, parents, citizens than our gay and lesbian citizens.

For the religious right wingers fighting to the death to give these people the same rights they I would just like to say. Do unto others. Maybe next time there will be a bill to deny rights to fat white guys.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion. Please follow your heart. Maybe some day your own children will be denied such a basic right.

Kandi Rothbaum

Sent from my iPad

From: [Christine David](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:53:42 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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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 David
1180 Mokuhano St
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Susan Gouveia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:16 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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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 married for 27 years to my husband, whom I love and feel my son, Kyle, and all others who love someone, should have this same opportunity, whether they are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Gouveia
2440 Lilikoi Road
Haiku, HI 96708

From: [Suzette Gavin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:58:13 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:

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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.

Suzette Gavin
1371 Kukana Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [T Gillespie](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:09:20 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:

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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.

T Gillespie
73-4398B
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Tanya Guting](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:23:08 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tanya Guting
1485 Kaumoli St
Pearl City, HI 96782

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: [Thomas Mahon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:51:07 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. I think all couples in Hawaii should be able to marry and receive the benefits that the Supreme Court and federal government now provide to gay and straight married couples. It's both fair and inevitable.

My son and his classmates are watching this special session with interest. There is a lot of support in his age group for gay marriage. Some of them will be voting in the 2014 elections and all of them will be voting in 2016.

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.

Thomas Mahon
2119 Kaloa Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Tiana Dole](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:56:35 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:

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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.

Tiana Dole
837 Waiaka Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Tiana Fontanilla](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:19 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:

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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.

Tiana Fontanilla
1649 Kewalo St
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Timothy McCormick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong SUPPORT for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:33:18 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 SB1.

With the recent US Supreme Court on DOMA, pending legal challenges, and rapidly changing public opinion on the issue of marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, it seems clear that it is simply a matter of time that, one way or another, gay and lesbian couple will be permitted to marry in Hawaii.

It is also an important issue of fairness to allow people to marry without regard to gender.

With 14 other states and DC already allowing same sex couples to marry, Hawaii missed the opportunity to be a true leader on this issue. It is not, however, too late to ensure that Hawaii is on the right side of history on this question of fairness and equal treatment. Please pass SB1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Timothy McCormick
4326 Aukai Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [TL OSHELL](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:01:50 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

This is me now...

You know what? I am really getting sick and tired of BEGGING "godfearin' folk" for my Civil Rights to be acknowledged. Are we living in the Dark Ages?

My partner and I have been together for 22yrs. We have had a business in Hawaii for 20yrs. We have paid our taxes faithfully for that entire time...both business and personal. We are NOT second-class citizens, we do NOT pay second-class taxes so we are NOT interested in second-class, "SEPERATE-BUT-EQUAL" status like the state offered crumb of "civil union".

Unlike the churches who sponsor the smiling hate-groups lathered up against the reality of our EQUALITY as guaranteed under the FOURTEENTH Amendment of the United States Constitution. We are taxed and NOT represented. The Church industry is represented and does NOT pay taxes! This has been a classic case of "Taxation WITHOUT Representation".

The Hawaiian Islands have a deep and shameful history of disenfranchisement of many of its people by the foreigners who colonised here. Let this NOT carry into modern times. Respect that this is NOT a THEOCRACY. This is not Vatican City or Mecca. This is a democratic republic that respects its founding documents and their amendments to include EVERY American citizen. Never is it correct to put the Rights of a MINORITY group up for a MAJORITY vote. THAT WOULD BE CRAZY, regressive, and entirely disengenuous.

Over a third of the states DO respect our U.S. Constitution and the June 26, 2013 SUPREME COURT RULING in regards to WINDSOR vs. U.S.

(<http://www.marriageequality.org/national-map>)

It is truly amazing that the so-called ALOHA State is not among these. Hawaii is currently in legal conflict with that ruling and therefor vulnerable to lawsuits challenging the error. The state logo would have to be changed to reflect this; "The Aloha State for Some".

Back in 1992 when we were the most forward-looking state in the union and we really WERE the Aloha State...and then the fundamentalist missionaries came pouring in with their hate-filled rhetoric and tons of MONEY. Now the Catholic church among others, is pouring out-of-state cash in to once again with acrimony target a part of our island ohana. Bigots thrive from division and blacklisting of people they do not even know. Why are they trying to ruin our lives? Why will they not be happy until we are miserable? What did we ever do to them? Because hate binds together the haters. The churches should find their passion and unifying force elsewhere. Perhaps like Jesus, in GOOD deeds. They should also PAY TAXES if they want a voice in government. To do otherwise is actually UNCONSTITUTIONAL. (if you care)

So, if you are waiting for us to humble ourselves, and to bow and scrape before you for our guaranteed CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FORM A CONTRACT WITH OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PERSON WE LOVE like everyone else....forget it. I have grown old waiting for you all to do the right thing.

We have waited over two decades. We are weary of defending our very right to exist. We are weary of ignorant, hateful and very un-American wealthy mainland church-groups who deny Jesus message of Love thy Neighbor in favor of Old Testament fire and brimstone and 'Kill the Gays' legislation in other countries. We do not tell them how to worship or not eat shellfish (Lv 11:9-10), they should not tell us how to love. It is not their kuleana.

No longer stand for exclusion over inclusion. No longer stand in the way of progress and OUR HUMAN CIVIL RIGHTS. It would be a waste if as in some other backward states your misdeed has to be corrected in the Courts with an expensive lawsuit.

p.s. no person wants to be married in an unloving church that does not welcome them...so that is a strawman argument.

TL OSHELL
POBOX1124
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Travis Knott](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:37 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.

I am a strong believer in the benefits of marriage. I grew up in a Christian household and attended more weddings than I could possibly count. I have witnessed the strength that comes to families where a marriage is involved. To stand before your family and friends and God to declare your love for someone, to declare your eternal commitment and support is indeed a spiritual moment in one's life. However this does not mean that it is a religious moment. It does not belong to any one religion or faith. It cannot be owned by Christians or Buddhists or Muslims or Atheists or any other secular religion. It is owned by the people involved, the two who are publicly declaring their commitment to each other. It is this public and legal commitment to stick together to build a family, a unit, which gives the union its strength.

This bill to allow people to create strong families is not a religious one. It simply cannot be. Some churches allow it, some religions frown on it. There is no consensus, therefore it must be removed from the equation. It only leaves the reality that these families already exist. No amount of sign waving and phone banking is going to stop people from forming these strong family units. We are simply asking for the dignity to protect the families we have already created.

My partner and I have been together for nearly 20 years. We do not have children. We are a part of the community where we live; we own our home, we are known at the bank, at the grocery store, at the restaurants that we frequent, we pay taxes (a lot of taxes!). The fact that we are together has no impact on our community other than to strengthen it.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Travis Knott
1109 Kalihiwai Pl
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [troy abraham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:38:54 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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: deptofsmurfology@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:52:08 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
Vera Neckermann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I hereby testify that I support equal rights and the right for marriage for gay and lesbian people of Hawai'i and the entire planet. Mahalo.

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From: [William Copeland](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:26:27 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.

Nothing Says Family Like Marriage

This month we celebrate two anniversaries, the day we met 37 years ago and began to fall in love, and the day 22 years ago when we moved to our adoptive home of Hawaii. We would love to add a new anniversary date to our calendar this year – the day we can finally marry.

Over 37 years of life's ups and downs, we have come to rely upon each other. We've both had some health scares that remind us that time is precious. Of course, we still sometimes argue – usually about who takes out the trash. But most days, when we are cooking together, simply hanging out in our yard or playing with our cats Mai and Tai, we look at each other and can't believe how lucky we are to have that special someone to spend our lives with. Along this journey, through the good times and the bad, we have never ceased wanting to be recognized as a legitimate family. We do, of course, have a civil union. And that's nice. We appreciate that recognition. But it's simply not the same. We were both raised in Texas with traditional families, so for us nothing says family like marriage.

Marriage would allow us access to all sorts of federal rights and benefits, like being able to file joint taxes. But more importantly, it would allow us to say to our friends, our families and our community "this is my husband," and for people to instantly understand just what that means.

We've witnessed many friends, family, neighbors and coworkers reconsider their position on marriage equality over the years. As they've gotten to know us and other same sex couples they've come to realize allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry does not change the definition of marriage for anyone else, it simply allows more caring and committed couples to access marriage.

When we met 37 years ago, we didn't know what our futures held. We did not foresee a day when so many states would vote to approve same sex marriage. We didn't anticipate a ruling from the US Supreme Court or the opportunity to marry in our adopted home state. We simply knew that we wanted to go through life together.

It's our sincere hope that our elected leaders will support the freedom to marry during this month's special session.

We know that we could travel to California or other states to get married. But this is our home, and this is where we want our relationship to be recognized for what it is.

If the Legislature approves marriage equality, we will be adding one more very important anniversary to our calendar.

Wil Copeland and Dale Smith

William Copeland
494-A Hoala Drive
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [William Haines](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:18:10 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 were both born and raised on Maui, and my partner is Native Hawaiian. We both feel this bill is extremely important, providing basic freedoms that have not been available to us in the past. Civil unions were an incredible step for Hawaii, providing the same rights as marriage on the State level. We felt very honored, proud, and touched that our legislature supported them. However, the one limitation with these unions is that they are not recognized on the federal level. Marriages would allow same sex couples the same federal protections that heterosexual couples receive, now that DOMA has been repealed. This is especially important when it comes to immigration law. When one partner in a gay relationship is not a US citizen, they do not have the option of marrying their partner in order to remain together in one country. This is heartbreaking when one of the partner's home countries has policies that vilify or criminalize homosexuality.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Haines
1541 Dominis St. #905
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Sen. Clayton Hee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FW: Support for SB1 - Justice Delayed is Justice Denied
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:32:45 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: William Musick [<mailto:wcmmb@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:19 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Support for SB1 - Justice Delayed is Justice Denied

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: [William Schmidt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:24:55 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.

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
55 South Kukui St
202
honolulu, HI 96819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: nalikotea@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:36:58 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
Liam Ball	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I see this issue as an issue of taxpayer's rights. I believe all couples who pay taxes should be entitled to equal treatment under the law. It's also clear to me that religion should not have any control over government. Thanks for considering my point of view. Aloha from Maui.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: brienm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:31:55 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
Brien Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support marriage equality. This is a legal rights and a human rights issue, and it is tragic that some of my friends, co-workers and relatives don't have the same rights that I do.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: ericnkristy@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:40:30 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
Eric Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jrkeoneakapu@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 3:46:32 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
JR Keoneakapu Williams	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jankuester1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:03:30 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
Janet Kuester	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: 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. According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example: • A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union. • A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections. • The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a \$6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship.” • Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions. This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious. For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSITION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Sincerely, Janet Kuester Kea'au

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kahunakerry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:52:31 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
Kerry Petersen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The current Act as written has poorly chosen language guaranteed to subject the State of Hawaii to a discrimination lawsuit that can easily be rectified with a better choice of wording. The Act does have good religious institutional protection written except for one clause dealing with religious facilities. To qualify for indemnification, the facility must meet three qualifications, two of which are "non-profit" and "use for religious purposes." This is great, however, there is a third clause [572-G (a) 2] that says the facility has to be restricted to the use of only its members. This in effect says that if a religious institution has any outreach to the community (even if non-profit and for religious purposes) such as blood drives, voting stations, care for the helpless and needy, proselyting of new adherents, emergency shelter, youth activities, etc. -- then that institution has no exclusion nor protection under the law. To include this clause would in fact abridge the freedoms of religion and assembly enshrined in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. A vote for this flawed waiver will irresponsibly open the State up for lawsuits. Since the desire for sexual liberty, right or wrong, is now put into conflict with religious and assembly liberties -- the Act in effect discriminates against religion by unreasonably ignoring redaction of this offending clause. Unfortunately, clause 572-G (a) 2 is specific and not broadly written in its intent nor language. Clause 2, as currently written is very strict when it says: "For solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members." Notice the absolute restriction only to the facility's members. Technically one non-member crossing the threshold of the facility waives the facility's waiver per the Act. Many representatives have responded to the language of this clause with comments similar to the following: "If, for example, a religious organization allowed the public to use a meeting room for community meetings, allowing these community meetings does not mean that the space must be open to the public for all other potential uses (like weddings). It is also possible that some buildings or spaces may be open to the public while others are not." Accordingly, may I please ask for the Legislature's consideration of inclusion of language similar to the following: "Occasional use for blood drives, scout meetings, etc., does not make the church a 'public accommodation' facility. Only if the church rents out their hall routinely to any public event, then it falls under the public accommodations rules, where the facility

cannot discriminate. If a church uses its facilities primarily for church-related activities, then it will be able to choose not to allow use for same-gender marriages." This language strengthens the resolve to protect the rights of all citizens of the state of Hawaii. To enact a "non-discriminatory" law for our gay neighbors that in fact goes too far by discriminating against another is disingenuous at best. Someone's freedom to swing their arm ends where another's nose begins. This is a "win-win" for everyone. It will also protect the State of Hawaii from lawsuits from conflicts with the First Amendment Rights of the Constitution.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: ekeawe@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:58:58 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
Eric K. Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: hwndiver@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:14:27 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
Daron Makaiwi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Committee Members, Regarding SB1 relating to equal rights and marriage equality, I urge you to please NOT support this bill. I ask you to consider making amendments to this bill to protect religious freedom rights. Thank you, Daron Makaiwi

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: cms23@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:28:13 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
catherine kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, please protect our religious freedom. Christian churches like ours are adamantly opposed to same sex marriage. It is not our attempt to be cruel to those with other lifestyle choices, but a belief that has been taught from the beginning of time. Society changes do not warrant a doctrine change in Christianity. Churches should be exempt from this law as we have a doctrine that we hold dear that marriage is ordained of God and reserved between a man and woman.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: prado.eric@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:30:06 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
Eric Prado	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that marriage equality is a secular issue and not a religious issue. Our government is set up to protect the minority from the majority based on rights guaranteed by the constitution and not the bible. Hawai'i should join the wave sooner rather than later of states who support marriage equality. This would make Hawai'i a more valuable market for wedding tourism and bring more money to the state.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tardend@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:34:48 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
Thomas A. Dickey	GLBT Caucus	Support	No

Comments: Our Declaration of Independence says that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed with the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our Constitution is an imperfect document. It took a bloody civil war to affirm that all men are indeed equal. It took 130-some years after the Constitution was written for an amendment to allow women to have the right to vote. I believe that marriage is a pursuit of happiness issue and that it is the right of all citizens. I support marriage equality and urge the legislature to pass SB-1 as soon as possible.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: cms23@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:44:34 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
catherine kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am oppsed to this bill, marriage is ordained of god, this is such a crucial issue and shouldn't be expedited through the legislature. Let the people decide, representatives to the legislature have differing moral views from their people. Protect our religious rights, it is fundamental to my beliefs and to the foundation of our society.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tonga7@go.byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:06:46 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
Latu S. Tonga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a citizen I oppose the Same-Sex Marriage Bill

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: ulutonga@go.byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:10:56 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
uluakimata tonga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a citizen of this country and resident of Hawaii, I oppose the Same-Sex Marriage Bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: lyano1@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:12:55 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
lori yano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I feel everyone should have a chance at true happiness

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: abthornock@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:21:01 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
Ann Thornock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am very much against legalizing same gender relationships as "marriage." I firmly believe that marriage is a sacred obligation between a man and a woman. Those who choose a same gender relationship have protection under the civil unions law why now is marriage necessary other than to force those who do not agree with same gender relationships to be forced to accept them.

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: surfer48@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:22:51 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
Joyce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a citizen of Hawaii I believe in the democratic process; it is my hope that you do as well and will give the people of our great state a chance to vote on this important issue. This is a great burden/decision that you will be making for the people that will effect many generations to come. Please do not decide this yourself get the voters involved so that it will truly be a decision by and for the people. Thank you!

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: soccertriple624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:24 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
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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Cc: soccertriple624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:25 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
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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Cc: soccertriple624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:26 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
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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Cc: soccertriple624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:31 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
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jokamura@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:32:20 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
Justin Okamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support Equality for all in Hawaii.

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: hawaiian.affairs.caucus@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:35:54 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
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Since I know you folks rarely read testimony, i'll keep this short. I am writing to express my full SUPPORT for marriage equality. Native Hawaiians have historically and traditionally embraced the concept of relationships among all people, including between members of the same gender and sex. I urge the committee to support this measure. me ke aloha, Kuhio

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: vanessa.curtis@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:44:15 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
Molly Curtis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in opposition of SB 1. In my faith, an article of faith states "we claim the privilege of worshipping almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience and allow all men the same privilege. Let them worship how where and what they may." We believe in this principle in word and in deed. We have fought for our religious freedom before ... Passing this marriage act too hastily infringes upon the freedom of religion in allowing us the option of carrying out our business practices in a way that reflects our religious beliefs. In following the constitution, we believe that all men are free. In our 13th article of faith, we assert "if there is anything virtuous, lovely, of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things." But there are certain actions that would lead to a breakdown of the fundamental family unit, which would cause greater consequences than we can fathom at this time. I believe that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and watches out for us and that He has ordained as sacred marriage between a man and a woman for a reason. That is the most effective, efficient and positive way to live and grow and be successful and happy in this beautiful world He has given us. I acknowledge that, in the past, the people of Hawaii have voted to allow the legislature to vote on this issues without opening it to the public as a referendum, but I would ask that you open it once again for public vote. I believe it is the will of the people that marriage remain between a man and a woman.

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: robinsoncastro@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:51:57 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
Danny Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the passage of SB 1. As someone who has been in a same sex relationship for 38 years, I believe I am entitled to equal rights as guaranteed by the U.S. and Hawaii State constitutions.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: dwatase@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:54:12 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
Deneen Watase	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Deneen Watase

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tammiecullen@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:59:36 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
tammie cullen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Tammie Cullen

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: deborah.arendale@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:02:47 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
Deborah Arendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tarashiro@atahawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:05:07 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
Terrance Arashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to SB 1 re: Marriage Equality. I am disappointed in our leaders for considering this measure without letting the people decide as was done in '98. I do not agree with the statement "Justice delayed is justice denied" in this particular case. Justice not well considered is not justice at all. I am also not for the bill being brought up in regular session until the people decide because our legislators handling of the civil union bill approved at the 11th hour with limited public debate. Let us petition our Federal government to clean up the Federal benefits for social security, veteran's benefits and others. Please vote "No" so we can have better dialogue. This is far too important to Hawaii's future to decide in a week or so.

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Cc: ghthornock@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:09:07 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
George H. Thornock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill. I believe that marriage should be only between a man and a woman. Civil rights issues have already been addressed in the civil union bill.

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Cc: allendcastro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:10:48 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
Allen Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1. I believe that all our citizens regardless of sexual orientation deserve marriage equality under ALL State and Federal laws. Allen Castro

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: silverhonu77@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:11:05 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
Anjanette Naganuma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am gainfully employed by State DOE. I am a college graduate; a mixed ethnicity female, married with one child, and heterosexual. I stand in support of the bill that "Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive." Thank you.

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: mokihana1958@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:15:51 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
besilluan wa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Holy Matrimony is a holy ordinance that includes only one man and one woman. Marriage equality may appear as politically correct, but it is morally wrong according to the holy bible. Let the People vote! What is the rush to pass this bill? Put it on the ballot and let the people vote!

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: mokihana1958@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:15:51 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
besilluan wa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Holy Matrimony is a holy ordinance that includes only one man and one woman. Marriage equality may appear as politically correct, but it is morally wrong according to the holy bible. Let the People vote! What is the rush to pass this bill? Put it on the ballot and let the people vote!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: hnjon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:17:40 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
Jon Chilcote	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Gentlemen, I know that most of you have already made up your mind on how you will vote on bill 1 this session. I ask you to reconsider your vote, and vote for what you know deep in your heart is right. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. Our country and our great state of Hawaii has been founded on Christian principles. The Christian definition of marriage has always been "One man and one woman for life". Please do not allow the sentiment of the minority to influence you to vote against what you know in your heart of hearts to be right. At the very least, allow the people of Hawaii to decide this issue. It is your responsibility as representatives of the people, to know what the majority of the people you represent desire. It has already been determined that the majority of Hawaii's residents do not favor same sex marriage. Please reconsider to do what is right, and defeat this bill.

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: artist@jeffmerrill.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:19:43 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
Jeff Merrill	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to this Legislation because it violates my religious rights and undermines the foundation of families and society. Further it undermines the rights of children. Secondly, I am opposed to this legislation because it proposes to overturn the voice of the people regarding this issue as they spoke their voice to establish and define marriage as between one man and one woman. Please defer this legislation to see if the voice of the people has actually changed and not be changed by an activist governor and legislation. Let the people decide.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mmmarumoto@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:20:29 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
Mandy Marumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose S.B. No. 1, known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because: • A five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time, and no amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of. • A 'yes' vote during the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five day special session, especially if that voice is 'amend the bill.' • The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carved out. • The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 - if the polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage, why not let the people vote? Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles: • The people believed they addressed the issue in 1998, and should be the ones consulted again. • Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. • A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input. It is my belief that the governor's current bill will NOT protect church leaders' and individual rights. As a Christian I believe marriage is a holy covenant between a man and a woman before God. Like other Christians, my beliefs are centered on the Word of God. However, I also agree with Doug Mainwaring when he writes, "While religion and tradition have led many to their positions on same-sex marriage, it's also possible to oppose same-sex marriage based on reason and experience." In an article written in March 2013, he shares: "Our nation's individual state legislatures and courts—including the Supreme Court— need to apply the brakes. Now. Same-sex marriage will not expand rights and freedoms in our nation. It will not redefine marriage. It will undefine it. This isn't the first time our society has undefined marriage. No-fault divorce, instituted all across our country, sounded like a good idea at the time. Its unintended consequence was that it changed forever the definition of marriage from a permanent relationship between spouses to a temporary one. Sadly, children became collateral damage in the selfish pursuits of adults. Same-sex marriage will do the same, depriving children of their right to either a mom or a dad. This is not a small deal. Children are being reduced to chattel-like sources of fulfillment. On one side, their family tree consists not of ancestors, but of a small army of anonymous surrogates, donors, and attorneys who pinch-hit for the absent

gender in genderless marriages. Gays and lesbians demand that they have a “right” to have children to complete their sense of personal fulfillment, and in so doing, are trumping the right that children have to both a mother and a father—a right that same-sex marriage tramples over. Same-sex marriage will undefine marriage and unravel it, and in so doing, it will undefine children. It will ultimately lead to undefining humanity. This is neither “progressive” nor “conservative” legislation. It is “regressive” legislation.”

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: kaymie.arendale@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:24:15 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
Kaymie Arendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for allowing me to submit strong support on behalf of equal rights in Hawaii. This bill is not about religious beliefs or the sanctity of marriage, but rather is about equal rights for all people in the state of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: carol_hoomana@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:25:05 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
Carol Hoomanawanui	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chairman Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am opposed to SB 1 relating to same sex marriage. This bill will change centuries of tradition within a short period of time without allowing sufficient time for input from the people of Hawai'i. Please vote no on SB 1. Mahalo. Carol

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jodiletra@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:39:54 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
Joni Tanuvasa-Letisi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My name is Joni Tanuvasa-Letisi and I oppose the same-sex marriage bill being proposed. I believe in equal rights for all, but not when measures to achieve it infringe on the rights of others. This bill is not only about affording everyone the right to join in matrimony, it is about the right for everyone to have religious freedom and the right to exercise their beliefs. In the bill's current wording, my church would be bound by law to marry individuals of the same sex upon request. We do not believe nor support this and should not be forced to do something that contradicts our beliefs. Must enabling some violate the sanctity of all others' beliefs? The answer is and should always be NO. Thank you for your time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: bill@retiredinparadise.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:39:59 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
William Simonsma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, Please pass SB1. This is a clear civil rights and civil justice issue. The separation of State and Church must be upheld. All Americans must have equal protection of the laws. Mahalo, William Simonsma

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: koloheboy@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:43:31 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
John	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill will greatly affect my personal and religious beliefs. I feel that the decision should be made by the people, and not dictated by someone who does not share the same beliefs. This is a democracy not a dictatorship. This violates my constitutional rights.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: devenengli@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:46 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
deven english	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/13 Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process. I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process. Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process! Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I am a Christian man, and I must make a stand for my God and my family.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: nathaliastrickland@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:54:49 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
Nathalia Strickland	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Hawaii Senators and Representatives, I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am writing on behalf of my family to oppose Same Sex Marriage. We believe that this bill will affect many aspects of our lives, our religious lives especially. We understand that people should be equal, however this bill, instead of ensuring equality, will limit our religious freedom. Religious freedom is a First Amendment right. If this bill passes, it will affect directly all churches that refuse to support same sex-marriage on religious grounds and it will bring many lawsuits against good, upstanding organizations, individuals and businesses who believe that marriage should be between man & woman only. We hope this bill will be rewritten in order to protect religious rights as well as those of individuals who choose to lead their lives contrary to our beliefs. Thank you for your consideration. Concerned,
Nathalia Strickland

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: allysen@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:57:01 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
Allysen Manding	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jaymerryweather@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:57:32 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
jay merryweather	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: Jjjilei@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03:42 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
Loida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Loida Ramos 1121 Ala Napunani Street 201 Honolulu, HI 96818

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jerandmona@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03:44 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
Jerry Burrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This special session is in direct opposition to the will of the people of the state of Hawaii. The people have spoken and in your arrogance your chose to ignore then at your own political demise. Second your starting a trend toward an extreme minority way of life that has no place in this on any other God centered Christian society which this is. Do not vote for this ramrod legislative action instead let the people who will be affected speak. Mahalo and God bless you and God bless America Jerry Burrell

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tjcheung@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:05:52 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
Teri Cheung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a special session on any same-sex marriage issue. I am a mother of 2 children. I am a Chinese, also I am a Christian. I worried about how my kids will be in the future. There will be a difficult choice for them to see the world. They won't know how human been exactly comes from. They will be confuse to accept the Hunan beens. Also, sex disease will be around the state. The society will be mess up. Hawaii is paradise island, lots of Asian love to travel to this island. If the law passed, I am afraid the tourism might drop. Our economic is really depend on the tourism. Please take a serious consideration. Please let the people decide the marriage, let God in charge of this issue. Sincerely, Teri Cheung

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: lokelani86@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:19:36 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
Mary	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I won't write a whole essay on why I support this measure as I am sure a lot are received. I only want to add to my voice to the others that are calling for equal marriage rights for all men and women in the state of Hawaii. This is an issue of civil rights and it is the role of the government to ensure that ALL people have equal rights and protection in the United States. As a place known for its great Aloha, Hawaii needs to extend these rights to all people.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: konacondo328@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:50:38 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
Barbara Goles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Marriage is between 1 man and 1 woman. This is God's creation and procreation is only possible with opposite sex marriages. Do not dilute this precious relationship for the interests of the minority and the VERY FEW...God cannot be mocked without consequences. Beware!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: gomama808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:52:03 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
Carolyn Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need SB1 on Marriage for All in Hawaii because we need State and Federal benefits and privileges. Thank you very much!! Gwen Abella PFLAG-Oahu Member PO Box 37658 Honolulu, HI 96837

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From: [jkn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Please do not allow same sex marriage in Hawaii
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:47:25 PM

Hello,

I am a mother of 5 children all grown up in Hawaii. This same sex marriage issue is my biggest concern for the future of all our future generations. I hope you realize the extent of the consequences of allowing same sex marriages. The right I concern is not right for everyone to get marry but the right to protect the sacred idea of marriage. The people of Hawaii already voted to ban the same sex marriages in the past. The same sex marriage ban should not be amended by just passing a bill by law makers. Once the law to allow the same sex marriage exists, many things will be changed and fundamental views of our lives will be effected. For example, in Canada, the 3rd graders are taught about the same sex marriages in the class rooms. The high school students are mandated to listen to gay activists promoting same sex relationships in the assembly. I personally very concerned about the adaptations by the same sex couples as well. It is not fare for a child to raised in the environment that he/she does not have any choice, he or she will never have an opportunity to feel the love from a mother and a father. That will have a lasting affect of the child to live in this world. The US as a nation should think of the consequence of our action at large now and future. The issue is not the equality of people as many of you proclaim, the issue is that we have the right and responsibility to perverse the traditional marriages for our future generations. As you are well aware marriages between one man and one woman are the fundamental principle that humankind are designed for. Please respect what the people in Hawaii want. Please do not get influenced by the mega ad/campaign of all the G&L associations mostly organized out side of this state, advocating as the right of equality,

Keiko Nakama

From: [Jerald Ulmer Jr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:32:33 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.

Jerald Ulmer Jr
924-A Emmeluth Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [David Taylor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:26:04 PM

On Oct 26, 2013, at 5:17 PM, David Taylor wrote:

> Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey

>

> Here are some points to consider when defending marriage:

> _ In states across the country, citizens have repeatedly voted in favor of one-man, one- woman in marriage. In fact to date, each time the question has gone to the ballot box, voters have affirmed this long standing definition of marriage (the voters of Hawaii have voted NO, why do Government Representatives not honor the results?)

>

> _Numerous studies show that children do best when raised by their own married mother and father.They are less likely to engage in violence,do drugs,be idle by dropping out of school and not working.(not good tax payers)

>

> - The most important vote you and other Representatives of the state of Hawaii have is allowing the citizens the freedom to vote on issue that impact our inalienable rights to life liberty,free speech,freedom of religion,and to vote.

>

> Thank You for allowing for the marketplace of ideas.

From: [John Condrey](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:22:08 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:

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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.

John Condrey
99-1440 Aiea Hts Dr #42
#41
aiea, HI 96701

From: [Samuel Grunblatt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:19:59 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.

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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.

Samuel Grunblatt
Kahaloa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Ryan Mae Sweeney](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Submitting Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:17:10 PM

Aloha,

I am writing you to express my views and opinion on passing the bill to legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii. As a progressive young woman who has many friends who are gay, and a concerned mother who grew up here it is NOT my heart to see us make same sex marriage legal. And I believe it is also NOT the heart of this community.

It is not about equal rights...let the rights of our brothers and sisters who choose this lifestyle have equal rights. It is about the sanctity of marriage and the undeniable rights to religious beliefs that this country was founded upon. Marriage is a religious act and not a social right. To treat it any differently would blur the lines so irreparably as to indelibly change the fabric of our society. Legalizing same sex marriage refuses the people their right to their religious beliefs by rewriting the very definition of marriage and influencing society and the next generation.

I'm perplexed by the way the true definition of marriage continues to be diluted and dismissed. To me it is akin to a person who is an atheist demanding the right to go into a catholic church and be baptized---if that is not your belief, why would you want to be part of and define your very person with such a ceremony? Marriage is no different.

Please, I implore you to treat this matter with the deepest consideration and care. Thank you for your public service.

Ryan

--

Ryan Mae Sweeney
Ph: (808) 393-7740

From: [Jacqui Marlin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:17:10 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.

Additionally, voting on a bill in accordance with some religious basis is against the first amendment and is also not even a religion followed by all of the people of this state! I would hope our legislators will exercise some common sense and vote for love over false belief.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacqui Marlin
16-1113 Moho Rd.
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: [Heather Mills](#)
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: S.B. 1 Written Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:07:14 PM

Heather Mills
1638D Oo Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, based on the fundamental principle that marriage is an institution created by and solemnized by God; and as such, should be based upon the standards that He has established. Namely, marriage is reserved for one man and one woman and is to be observed with complete fidelity. Stating otherwise is offensive to God and to those of us that choose to follow Him.

I oppose S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 because it seeks to change a law which is based upon God's law for the creation and nurture of families. I strongly believe that families, consisting of a righteous and wedded father and mother, who love and respect their children as they raise them, are the foundation of our society and the strongest hope for a secure future.

As elected officials of our society, it rests upon you to protect the vital institution of traditional marriage between one man and one woman and in so doing, protect the core family values upon which our country was founded and preserved, and which will help to preserve it in the future. Additionally, as elected officials of our society, the responsibility rests upon you to protect the rights of those who believe in marriage between one man and one woman.

As such, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. However, if you choose to vote "Yes" or "With Reservations" it is imperative you first protect the rights of those who do not believe in same-gender marriage adjusting the proposed legislation as follows:

-protect the religious freedom of individuals who work in either the private or public sector from violating

any of their religious principles by being allowed to decline providing services to a same-gender marriage solemnization, celebration and/or any associated service rendered

- strengthen exemptions for religious clergy, institutions and any facility associated with a religious organization from solemnizing and/or hosting/housing same-gender marriage ceremonies
- create exemptions for religious clergy, institutions and any facility associated with a religious organization from making any religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for any same-gender marriage ceremonies or associated celebrations.

It is imperative you remember the rights of those who are morally opposed to same-gender marriages. Their religious beliefs and freedoms must be protected.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Heather Mills
Hawaii Voter

From: [Bobbie Ward](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:06:39 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.

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.

Bobbie Ward
po box 330637
Kahului, HI 96733

From: [Bobbie Ward](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:06:37 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bobbie Ward
po box 330637
Kahului, HI 96733

From: [Mary James](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:05:32 PM

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Please pass legislation to give same-sex couples the same rights and benefits enjoyed today by opposite sex couples in marriage.

It is important to do it during this special session both to:

- Give same-sex couples gain full recognition and marriage benefits before year's end;
and
- Prevent this issue from taking valuable time from the 2014 legislative session.

There are many other issues to work on during the regular session, so completing this discussion before session begins would benefit all of the other issues and their stakeholders, issues such as the budget, schools, consumer protection, the environment and so many others.

Thanks for hearing this bill and hopefully getting it through the process, making it law.

Mary James
felinitous@yahoo.com

From: [Robert Rameyer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:05:04 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.

It seems like a simple request to be treated equally and with respect. Hawaii is one step away from granting equal rights to loving gay and lesbian couples. Civil unions were a good start, but once DOMA Section 3 was ruled unconstitutional - gay and lesbian couples here and across the country were left without the rights and protections afforded by the federal government.

It is time to make things right. I've been with my partner for about as long as this fight for marriage equality has lasted - about 20 years. I think we've waited long enough for rights that most straight couples take for granted.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for me, my partner and all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Rameyer
3006 Pualei Cir #209
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Juan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:40:12 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I'm writing to you in opposition to a special legislation on SB1. There is not enough time for the democratic process to occur in properly hearing the people out on such a controversial issue as same sex marriage. I'm urging you to move this bill to regular session in the new year for appropriate deliberation to happen as we, the people, are given the time to testify for/against this bill.

The people we put into office represent the people that sent them there, that's the democratic process. It is not a popularity vote and whomever gets voted in chooses what he/she wants- no. Our Representatives represent the people. All I'm ask as a loving husband and father, is for this committee to take the time to appropriately discuss this bill in the regular session.

Much Mahalo for hearing the people out on this issue,

Juan Balila Jr.
623 N. Kuakini St. #203
Honolulu, HI 96817

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jean Trapido-Rosenthal](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:37:25 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.

Jean Trapido-Rosenthal
3615 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Judy Taggerty](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same Sex Marriage, Let the People Decide Please: Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:30:55 PM

Same Sex Marriage is such an important issue it should not be done in Hast. This is something that will have a lasting impact on Hawai'i Nei, our Ohana and Keiki. Same Sex Marriage can not be taken lightly, as this is changing something that has been tradition for thousands of years, one man and one women. Kind of pulling the rug out from underneath us.

The Bill for an Act Revised 09/09/13 connected to SB1 only benefits Same sex couples, NO ONE ELSE. Everyone one in the state will be walking on egg shells so no one upsets the gay community or possible law suites which this Bill will give them legal rights to take action against anyone they are not happy with.

A few months ago we had another huge AIDS outbreak in Kona within the Homosexual community, this is a serious Health Concern.

The gay movement has been trying to get the Dept of Health to accept a gay persons blood, as they have not up til now. If the DOH accepts their blood then the gays will be deemed normal and acceptable, the same label they want for Same Sex Marriage, when it clearly is not the same.

Civil Unions give benefits. If a gay couple really wants to wed then they can go to a state that does Same Sex Marriages, and come back with the total package.

There was a gay pride parade in Kailua-Kona a few years ago where the gay participants gave condoms to little children whose parents were OUTRAGED. I don't think the gay parade will be coming back to Kona unless Same Sex Marriage is passed.

These are a few concerns, the main concern is to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN. Adults have choices, they can chose the life they want to live, our children should be PROTECTED, allow them to be innocent children.

Mahalo for your time. I believe you will do what is best for Hawai'i and it's people.

I'm a Registered voter and legal resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Judy Taggerty
73-1065 Loloa Drive
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 325-6551

From: [John Fargason](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:25:39 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.

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 Fargason
415 Dairy rd.Ste E #225
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [David Abraham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:22:12 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.

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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.

David Abraham
480 Kenolio Rd #23-103
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Van Law](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [All Senators](#)
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:20:34 PM

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

I am writing you to express my strong support for SB 1. I feel that you should pass marriage equality because Hawaii is ready, now is the right time, and it honors the traditions of marriage.

Hawaii has never been more ready to embrace same-gender marriages – all recent polls show a shift towards acceptance both locally and nationally. This trend should continue until those who hold on to old values and old ideals of treating their neighbors unfairly become a very infinitesimal minority.

Now is the right time to extend Federal benefits to same-gender couples – the United States Supreme Court's ruling that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional only affect married couples. Unless we recognize same-gender marriages in Hawaii, we will continue to have a two tier system. Extending Federal benefits to Hawaii same-gender couples will cost the State nothing.

Love and Commitment are the true traditions of marriage – if two people want to share their lives together, and they love one another and are committed to one another, why should anyone try to stop them?

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 1 immediately.

Mahalo,

Van Law

3274 Loke Pl

Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Kara K.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:17:30 PM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor regarding SB1 and the hearing to be held on Monday October 28, 2013 at 1030am. I will not be able to testify in person.

My name is Kara Kuba and I grew up and have lived in Hawaii for most of my life. I am emailing you to ask that you vote No in regard to SB1. I really believe that this subject deserves more time and also community involvement/education, before being voted on. What's the rush? Please, I ask you, please, let the voters, the ohana, the kama'aina, the people of Hawaii have a louder voice in this matter. It is too important and influential to push through so quickly.

Thank you very much and best regards,

Kara Kuba

From: [Ailina Alfonsi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:18:32 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.

Ailina Alfonsi
124 Miner Place
Makawao, HI 96768

From: [Lisa Alano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:16:36 PM

Lisa W. Alano
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because of the following reasons:

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
7. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
8. It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
9. It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.
10. It is in blatant opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and

one woman exclusively.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Alano
Hawaii Voter

From: [Han Nguyen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:02:35 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.

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.

Han Nguyen
430 Lewers Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Ka`anohiokala Pe`a](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Legislature Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:01:04 PM

Aloha mai kakou,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to all of your efforts in performing righteous endeavors to our family and community. All of you are granted by the people's votes to perform your office duties. And I feel that my vote made an impact to you! I also know that this letter will make a statement to declare the righteous endeavors in our community and state.

There is a higher law that exist and it's been clear to us that marriage is between a man and a woman. So, therefore, I support traditional marriage!

Why are we not following this law? It is not man's law; it's God's law. Whether you understand it or not, I know why, Lucifer is deceiving man's mind and heart.

Every oath that we make as citizens of this great nation, we solemnly accept God in our decisions. In the office positions, court house, creating laws of the land, we place an oath on the Bible. Therefore, we recognize the existence of God. The money we use states. "In God We Trust."

All I ask is that you make a righteous decision! Because YOU WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE!!!

Aloha nui,

Na Ka`anohiokala Pe`a

LMT: MAT-9551
AMTA member
1-808-333-7890
okalapea@yahoo.com

From: [Julie Ireland](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FW: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:20:28 PM

Julie Ireland
1011-B Maunawili Road
808-388-0074
wonireland@hotmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear **JDL committee,**

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public,

just as
others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Julie Ireland

From: [John Roco](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Written testimony on Gay marriage bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:31:14 AM

John P. Roco, M.A., M.A., Counselor

National Provider Identifier: 1831340223

Post Office Box 11272

Honolulu, Hi 96828

[Be Cool Now TM](#) Class

Waikiki Landmark Building

1888 Kalakaua Ave, Suite C312 :

at Intersection of Ala Wai & Kalakaua Ave.

Johnny Rock Piano: "I Expect being Sued Twice if Gay Marriage is law."

Saturday, October 26, 2013

I am a pianist on Oahu, Hawaii who has a passion for music. There was a time, after a car accident years ago, that piano & music was all I could do; it became my therapy and became life-giving not just for me, but for all who listened. Even my supervisor, after listening while eating lunch at the cafeteria, later encouraged students to go, listen & relax- to relieve stress. There was much stress as they were interns in Loma Linda University's Ph.D. clinical psychology program, many seeing clients for the first time.

I never finished the Ph.D. due to his disabling TBI (traumatic brain injury), instead obtaining a 2nd psychology masters degree, and eventually opening private practice in Honolulu. My clients are usually individuals in relationships and with families; after individual therapy, we may at times convert to marital therapy. My concern stems from the record of lawsuits in other states where business owners with religious convictions, have been sued for not recognizing a same-sex couple as being 'married' (click links of a Washington state florist's experiences of being sued by the attorney general and countersuing: a) http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020743969_floristlawsuitxml.html b) <http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattlepolitics/2013/04/09/ag-sues-florist-who-refused-flowers-to-gay-wedding/> c) http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021001123_apwagayweddinglawsuit2ndldwritethru.html d) <http://www.king5.com/news/local/Richland-florist-sues-state-207743671.html>).

Last year, an individual called me, asking if I could see her for gender conversion therapy. Since I know no referrals for such therapy, I referred her to call the administrators of counseling

associations. But if someone called me asking for marital therapy, and I refuse to see a same-sex 'married' couple, then the same as what happened to the Florist, will happen to me. They are imposing a 'world view' and that is what it is all about, conform or be sued- Governor Abercrombie's bill is intended to withstand a supreme court challenge. I am a counselor, and what this amounts to is 'bullying' into submission. However, I, as a business owner, am in double jeopardy because I play piano for events, and if someone asked me to play for their wedding reception, for a same-sex couple, and I refuse, I will twice be sued, just as the wedding florist. This is 'bullying.' And I will be doubly sued, because of this imposition of a 'new world' view on all of us.

Sincerely,

"Johnny Rock Piano" John Roco

phone: 808.721.9845 | johnroco.weebly.com

From: [Chad Udani](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: SSM Special Session
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:32:21 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

As a registered voter from the Ewa District, I hereby submit a written testimony in opposition to the special session regarding and the passing of the proposed Same-Sex Marriage Bill. This bill should not be passed for many reasons. First off, it is non-democratic. The voice of the people, who had previously voted against same-sex marriage, would be silenced. A 'yes' vote during the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people would not be heard. Furthermore, Hawaii is the only state rushing into a special session. If the need was truly dire, why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?

Sincerely,
Chad Udani

From: [Darroll Kahuena](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:33:10 AM

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Why is this Bill being RUSHED through with a Special Session? What happen to the Regular Session?. When & Where are the Public Hearings. Will folks throughout the State have a say in this due-process and vent our concerns (will aunty & uncle out in the boonies on the outer islands get a chance)? Let's be fair to all in this process.

Have you spoken with religious leaders from each sects? Catholics, Baptist, Buddhist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Methodist, LDS, Presbyterian, Jewish and Islam about the effects of this Bill. This is who you will be affecting with your vote. The exemptions and everything about this bill can and will open up law-suits and then what? It goes to the courts?

If the state wants to allow a particular issue, like same sex marriage to be performed by state workers, then that is between the state and the people. But crossing over into the religious sector, and even the private business sector, will have a lot of issues. Don't force it down on each of the above and each of us. Let the people vote their conscience.

In 1974, my single-mom said, "Eh, take off my slippa's, don't be a mahu!! dats for girls" My mom was teaching me 'gender'. The word 'Mahu', like the word 'Housewife' may derogatory. But my mom taught me that way and I'll be honest I've said the same things to my son, "Don't be a mahu". I didn't say, "Don't be a Homosexual". I used a traditional way of teach my son and children learned from my mom, who learned it from her parents and so on. I was born in 1966, Hawaii was a State, my mom was born in 1934, Hawaii was a Territory, My grand-parents was born when this was the Kingdom Of Hawaii.

The polls say things, but it really doesn't matter; because it comes down to the actual vote. Your vote as our senator counts. We the people, should have the same opportunity to vote, let's really see where the majority is? It happened in 1998. Let put it to vote again, so folks can stop the effort of taking away our religious liberties. PLEASE VOTE IN OPPOSITION OF THIS BILL.

Mahalo,

**Darroll & Christine Kahuena
55-606 Iosepa St.
Laie, Hawaii 96762**

808-216-2715

From: [Lucy and Steve](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:11:34 AM

Stephen R. Meek
PO Box 982
Pepeekeo, Hawaii 96783

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

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

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush! At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share>)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Stephen R. Meek

From: [Eileen M. Tweedy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:03:41 AM

I would like to urge members of the Hawaii State legislature to support marriage equality.

More and more, as I listen to stories of same sex couples, those who have been together for 25-33-40+ years, I know in my heart that the only thing that stands between their rights and those of the general population, is their legal right to be married. No harm would come to the general "Marriage between a Man and a Woman" population should same-sex couples be given this right. Religious views should not stand in the way.

Thank you for hearing my views.

Eileen M. Tweedy
Koloa, HI 96756

From: [Lynn Sawyer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Hearing, 10/31
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:54:31 AM

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I am writing to protest the Special Session on same-sex marriage. I think that this issue needs to be dealt with in a regular session and include the vote of the people. We believe that the people voted on this issue in 1998. If the polls show that Hawaii favors this law, then why not let the people vote? We are the only state rushing into this, and a 5-day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

It is our Legislators responsibility to respect and insure fundamental democratic principles. Since the people addressed this issue in 1998, we should be the ones consulted again.

Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input. *Please do not make a mockery of our democratic rights and procedures!*

In addition, the governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (i.e. preschool, community group meetings), by definition, your church is a *public accommodation* and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if requested. ***This is in direct violation of First Amendment rights!***

PLEASE ALLOW OUR VOICE TO BE HEARD!

Loretta L. Sawyer
2629 Kinoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Lynn Sawyer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Hearing, October 31
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:52:46 AM

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I am writing to protest the Special Session on same-sex marriage. I think that this issue needs to be dealt with in a regular session and include the vote of the people. We believe that the people voted on this issue in 1998. If the polls show that Hawaii favors this law, then why not let the people vote? We are the only state rushing into this, and a 5-day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

It is our Legislators responsibility to respect and insure fundamental democratic principles. Since the people addressed this issue in 1998, we should be the ones consulted again.

Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input. *Please do not make a mockery of our democratic rights and procedures!*

In addition, the governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (i.e. preschool, community group meetings), by definition, your church is a *public accommodation* and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if requested. ***This is in direct violation of First Amendment rights!***

PLEASE ALLOW OUR VOICE TO BE HEARD!

Loretta L. Sawyer
2629 Kinoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Aunty Lucy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:46:27 AM

Lucille J Meek
PO Box 982
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

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

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

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share>)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Lucille J. Meek

From: [Aunty Lucy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:46:03 AM

Stephen R. Meek
PO Box 982
Peppekeo, HI 96783

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

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

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

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Stephen R. Meek

From: [Robin McCulloch](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:33:33 AM

TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
CVOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

SUBJECT: Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 1

Senator Hee and Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Robin McCulloch. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. The preamble to the 2011 bill that enabled civil unions stated: "The Legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." If the people chose to do that in 2011, the Legislature has to ask us if we've changed our minds.

This important subject deserves to be submitted to a public referendum for action. I therefore respectfully oppose Bill 1, and testify in opposition to its passage.

These are matters of great concern to the religious community and your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of these serious issues, and thank you for your service to our State as Senators and Representatives.

Gratefully,

Robin McCulloch

P.O. Box 202

Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: [Sheldon Lacsina](#)
To: JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#); [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:28 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I oppose this bill due to the lack of the democratic process. The majority of Hawaii DOES NOT WANT SAME SEX MARRIAGE as a law. The ramifications of this law has not been well thought through, religions are not protected fairly, businesses are not protected fairly, and rushing this bill through will have negative consequences for sure...just do the research with the states that have passed this law.

Yes, in 1998, we voted to "grant the Hawaii State Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples," only because that's what was worded. It should've said, "Marriage in the state of Hawaii is reserved between one man and one woman." But it was worded that way so that you could do what you're doing today, which is not how our constitution works.

This is not the best way to go about the most critical issue facing our time. You know as well as I do, the way it's being done and the way the bill is worded, VIOLATES THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sheldon Lacsina
Kea'au, Hawaii 96749
DISTRICT 4

From: [James Long](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:10:49 AM

Email submission of written testimony

Re: SB 1

Monday October 28, 2013

10:30 a.m.

I will not be testifying in person.

Senators,

I believe it is the right thing to do, to pass SB1 and allow our same-sex, married island brothers and sisters federal recognition and be treated equally under federal law. It is not only the right thing to do, it is the right time to do it.

Thank you,

James Long
PO Box 521
Naalehu, HI
96722

From: judyarthuronmaui@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB NO 1 AND SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:50:44 AM

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL AND SAME SEX MARRIAGE! JUDY ARTHUR

From: [GEOFFREY M FELLS](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:46:22 AM

I support marriage equality
Geoffrey Fells

Sent from my iPhone

From: [tkeliikoa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: No to same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:31:45 AM

To Senate/Representatives/Governor,
Please No to same sex marriage, no to special session and allow freedom of religion!

Respectfully Yours,
Marites Keliikoa

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE DeviceGg

From: [Shayna Kaneko](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:04:55 AM

Aloha!

As a resident of Hawaii, I would like to take this time to ask you to stop the Special Session on Marriage Equality and let the people vote on marriage. We are only 2 months away from a Regular Session, so what's the rush with this Special Session? Also, marriage is not equality and it does not need to be redefined! When they changed the law about race, they didn't change the definition of race, When they made a law that women were allowed to vote, they didn't change the definition of women or voting. So why change the definition of marriage? I heard polls shows that majority of Hawaii wants same-gender marriage, but I was never asked about that! So if that's what they say, why not let the people vote? Do you know what will happen if this bill passes? If you don't, read about what happened to Massachusetts and how their state is falling apart. It will also happen to us, if we don't do anything about it. Our children will be learning from kindergarden how to have gay sex. I'm not a parent yet, but I do want kids, and I would not want my children to learn about sex at such a young age. Please consider to kill this bill or let the people of Hawaii vote on marriage!

Thank you for your time!

Mahalo,

Shayna Kaneko

From: [Joyce Lyon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:00:19 AM

I very much appreciate those of you who have chosen to give your time to serve our Island in your position of responsibility. The rest of us need you to represent us, and I'm sure you feel the pain and strain and the impossibility of pleasing all the people all the time.

Therefore, I would like to suggest to you a way you can know fulfillment and even experience joy. That would be to follow the One Who created our universe and each one of us here today. What is written in the Bible holds true. One man and one woman constitutes a marriage. And simply, anything other than that will create havoc. We can trust this most reliable source and in doing so preserve our Island motto. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

Thank you. Joyce Lyon 614 Kaimalino St., Kailua, HI 254-3883

From: [Leonard Mukai](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:49:49 AM

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

I am against legalizing same sex marriage in Hawaii and encourage you to allow the people of Hawaii to decide this important issue. As a father, grandfather, and parent educator, I understand the importance of a father and mother to a child.

Aloha, Dr. Leonard Mukai 27 Hualilili St Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Peter Lau](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 relating to Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:33 AM

Dear Honorable Legislators:

From: [Mamasonruhland](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:59:59 AM

Please cancel this session and Vote NO and let the people decide on marriage. Less than 1% of Hawaii residents support gay marriage. Please listen to your constituents. Let the people decide on marriage.

Aloha

Marie Ruhland
28 Makakai Place
Hilo
HD 1

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia Kawachi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session / Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:54:09 AM

Aloha,

As a Registered Voter in the State of Hawaii I ask that the Proclamation for the Special Session be rescinded because this is not following the Democracy process.

The Bill for Same Sex Marriage should be killed and never brought up again.

I have grandchildren and family members including myself want to live a wholesome life and in the best environment everyday. Also, let the Voices of the People be heard as we all Stand for what is RIGHT for now and in the future.

Mahalo,

Patricia
Big Island Resident
& Registered Voter

From: [Michael Wilson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:08:38 AM

Hi All,

I believe that gay marriage is missing the point about what marriage is about. Marriage is to protect families. Same sex couples cannot create children. You cannot pass a law that will make this possible.

The legislature is supposed to represent all the people. It is not supposed to make laws against the will of the majority of the people. Put it on the ballot again if you need to go forward. Do not strong arm the bill thru.

Also the bill as written is contrary to freedom of religion. If the church allows a marriage between a non member and a member, it must allow marriage between gays at their church. This despite the fact that the church members do not believe in gay marriage. It also forces individuals to perform services at gay marriages despite their beliefs.

I believe this is an abuse of power by the governor to even call this special session.

Regards,
Mike Wilson
82-6275 Puuhonua Rd
Captain Cook, Hi 96704

From: [LAURA TORRES](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FW: Special Sessions
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:07:32 AM

From: lwtorres@msn.com
To: senruderman@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: FW: Special Sessions
Date: Thu, 24 Oct 2013 09:06:02 +0000

From: lwtorres@msn.com
To: repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Special Sessions
Date: Wed, 23 Oct 2013 19:06:00 +0000

Dear Sir;

It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the passage of Same Sex Marriage.

I want to know why you would consider destroying the foundations of our church and culture by impelmenting the accomodations bill in which we do allow families with little or no income to have funeral services, feeding of the homeles, hoopono sessions to help our communities that would otherwise be a burden to the state.

If the accomodations are allowed we will now have to allow same sex marriages into our churches without prejudice which would be against our conscios or we would be sued. I don't understand.

Also, with the high statistics in Massachusettes in regards to HIV among young men of ages 13 to 28, Why are you supporting the early death of my grandchildren. I don't understand.

I thought you represented the people of almost 2 million, not just a handful 1/5 of 1 percent. Please give me something to take back to our congregation of approximately 200, because we all want to know.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Laura Torres.

From: ClifChoy@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:47:43 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am a retired gay man, 64 years old, born and raised in Hawaii. I am also a father, grandfather, brother, cousin, friend, neighbor, and before retirement someone who worked for city in the field of social work for over 30 years. One of my greatest joys in life is being a grandfather!

I value my family, friends, and the people I come into contact with daily. I have always been proud to live in the State of Hawaii, where there is Aloha, Ohana and a true spirit of sharing and caring.

It is time that Hawaii accepts equality for all and tolerance and acceptance of everyone.

Please make the right decision and support Marriage Equality. A decision should not be based on sexual preference. Love is not judgmental and is about acceptance and respect for everyone. Those are values I want my grandson to grow up with and to see exemplified by others.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Clifton Choy

From: [Mamasonruhland](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:45:28 AM

My name is Marie Ruhland. My address is 28 Makakai Place Hilo. I vote and I live in District 1. I am against Same Sex Marriage. It is not about equality. SSM is not a civil right. There is no court in America that has ever declared marriage to be a civil right. It is an institution that has been the cornerstone of our very culture. It is not the right of 76 legislators to change marriage. This special session is a travesty and a mockery of the rights of the people. This special session is about forcing the will of the government on the people and we will fight this battle until the bill is dead.

Please vote NO and dismiss this special session and Let The People Decide on Marriage. We promise that we will work hard to replace every legislator who forces SSM upon the people of Hawaii. This is a disgrace and a shameful example of the tyranny taking place in America today.....goverment out of control and legislators who are not listening to their constituents. Thank you for hearing our voices and doing the "right thing at the right time."

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Thomas Hema](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** Opposition to the Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (Bill #SB1)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:04:50 PM

October 25, 2013

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

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

I am strongly opposed to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (Bill #SB1) that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Why should a few elected officials be the determiner of whether or not the Act passes? The majority of Hawaii residents (9 out of 10) are heterosexual. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of voters feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But put it to the vote of the people. **I want to exercise my right to vote on this important legislation!**

After the vote of the people, if the majority feels that same-sex marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then it would be important that safeguards be put in place to protect the religious rights of people. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. The bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It's a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It's a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Even though society is changing, the teachings in the bible have not, and many people still adhere to its principles. It is their religious right to do so. It is my 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 the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (Bill #SB1).

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas D. Hema
13-3489 Oneloa Street

Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

/tdh

From: [Jane Pascual](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:03:46 PM

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton 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, 2013-10:30a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS
--

I will not testify in person.

Written Testimony for SB1-Equal Rights (Marriage Equality)

**From: Jane Pascual-Voter in Senate District 13 (Chinatown); House District 29
For Hearing on Monday, 10/28/13-Special Legislative Session**

I am writing to encourage your SUPPORT (and YES vote) on Marriage Equality/Same Sex Marriages during the Special Session. Though I am heterosexual, I have several gay/lesbian friends who live here, and/or have ties to Hawaii and want to live and (legally) marry here. I have not seen or heard of any statistics or proof, anywhere around the world that shows Same Sex Marriages have ever brought adverse results to any community's economy or existence. Therefore, I see no reason to disallow Same Sex Marriages/Unions (especially for Survivorship/Inheritance reasons). I would rather have people (even of the same sex) loving one another (especially if it's not harming anyone) than hating each other or tearing each other down. I'm asking you to **consider that** when you hear debate on the issue of approving same sex marriages here in our beautiful State.

Please ALLOW Same Sex Marriages in Hawaii and let's (put this issue to rest once and for all, after at least 20 years of continuous debate) move on to all the other important issues (i.e., the economy, homelessness, hunger, education, mental health, etc.).

Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. But I would like to be on record as SUPPORTING Marriage Equality in Hawaii. I support everyone's right to marry, whether they're straight, gay, or *whatever*...As long as they're in love, they should have a right to marry, regardless of their sexual preference. I especially sympathize with partners who have been together for many years, but currently in Hawaii, don't have the full benefits of "being reciprocal", as do heterosexual couples.

Please consider the civil rights of these individuals as you hear debate and take your final vote in the Special Session. Please vote YES for Equal Rights (regarding Marriage Equality in Hawaii).

Thank you,
Jane Pascual
Voter in Senate District 13

House District 29

From: [Laurie A Kawasaki](#)
To: [Rep. Jessica Wooley](#)
Cc: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:58:09 PM

Aloha Representative Wooley-

Thank you for serving our community. I live in your district on Alaloa Street in Kaneohe.

I have always believed that I have a legitimate right to let my voice be heard by our elected officials whom we the people put in office. As such, I would like to ask you to vote NO to the legalization of same gender marriage during the special legislative session on October 28th, 2013.

I believe that this issue is too important to be left to a few. Put this issue to a vote by the people; the very people you represent. I am sure you are well aware and the other legislators are aware that a majority of the people do not pay attention to the types of laws that you and your fellow legislators pass until its too late. Many don't understand what rights the law will take away or what beliefs the law will impose on them or their children.

I don't believe in same sex marriage but I do believe people have a right to their own beliefs . However, by making this law, you are taking away rights of one group and giving it to another group. The provision for religious exemptions will only apply to churches and does not protect an individuals right to religious freedom in the sense that we will not be able to express ourselves and our beliefs in public. This "law" would affect and discriminate against me. There are legitimate discrimination in place today. We have minors and adults, we have teachers and students, etc. If you allow same-sex marriage, how could we continue as a society to keep a man from marrying more than one woman? Why would you stop an adult from marrying a minor or having sex with a minor? Our discriminatory laws in place protects our minors and protects women. You put our children of the future at risk. How do we expect children to process what they are taught in a mother- father environment and what they hear from their best friend who lives with two mommies and has no Daddy? I ask that you think of the years ahead.

This is a first amendment right that you would be taking away for one group and giving to another. Give the gay community their rights but don't take away the religious communities or their congregations individual rights to

believe and carry out their beliefs. Our founding fathers came here for religious freedom. Please don't take this away.

Again, I ask for your kokua and your NO vote.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Laurie Kawasaki

From: [Neal Kawamoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Written Testimony Vote NO
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:56:37 PM
Attachments: [SB1 written testimony.doc](#)

Forwarding our written testimony.

Neal & Teresa Kawamoto

From: [Susan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony AGAINST the gay marriage bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:02:04 PM

Hello. We are Charles and Susan Kanehailua from Nanakuli. We are against the "gay marriage bill" because to define marriage as a union of two people of the same gender goes against God's definition of marriage. God made us in his image and made man and woman to be together to procreate.

Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice. I hear a lot about how discrimination against homosexuals is like racial or age discrimination. It absolutely is not. Race or age cannot be changed. Living as a homosexual can be changed.

There is no reason why the few who have chosen this lifestyle should define how this state will define marriage especially when the people of Hawaii have already made it very clear to you all that the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

I urge you not to submit to the pressure of the gay rights lobbyists. Let this very important matter be decided by the people of Hawaii.

In the meantime we continue to keep all of you folks in prayer that God bless you and your families and that he open your eyes to his truth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Donna Charles](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Freedom of Religion
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:08:45 PM

My name is Donna Charles and I reside at 73-1202 Hamo ST in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

I am writing you to ask that you amend the Marriage Equality Bill. Specifically **section 572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances** lines 6-10, that would require churches that are open to the public to perform same sex marriages. My church regularly host community events and is open to all the public. We welcome people from all walks of life. We ask that you respect our right not to solemnize a particular marriage based on our religious conscience. If this law is passed, as written you are forcing us to shut out the community and to practice our religion under ground. I know this can't be what you attend to accomplish with this bill.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would preserve our nations great history of religious freedom as well as address the marriage equality issue. I believe you can pass a bill that will accomplish marriage equality without eroding our religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Donna Charles

From: [Joanne McCollum](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: State Motto
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:58:07 PM

Our state motto states that "The LIFE of the land is perpetuated in RIGHTEOUSNES! PLEASE, be PONO in how you handle this issue. As with Adam, ALL succeeding generations will be affected!
Joanne

From: [Kevin Charles](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: 572-G Religious
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:29:30 PM

My name is Kevin Charles and I reside at 73-1202 Hamo ST in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

I am writing you to ask that you amend the Marriage Equality Bill. Specifically **section 572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances** lines 6-10, that would require churches that are open to the public to perform same sex marriages. My church regularly host community events and is open to all the public. We welcome people from all walks of life. We ask that you respect our right not to solemnize a particular marriage based on our religious conscience. If this law is passed, as written you are forcing us to shut out the community and to practice our religion under ground. I know this can't be what you attend to accomplish with this bill.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would preserve our nations great history of religious freedom as well as address the marriage equality issue. I believe you can pass a bill that will accomplish marriage equality without eroding our religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Charles

From: [Katherine Benson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I Am Opposed to Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:48:37 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Katherine Benson and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Katherine Benson

From: [DAWN PATTERSON](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:46:42 PM

Please hawaii representatives. I am not supporting same sex marriage in hawaii. The people of hawaii need to have more time and look at the bill and have time to think about this bill. It is our legal right to have more community mtgs and meet with representatives. Mahalo for your service and dedication to hawaii's people. Mahalo.

From: [Darryl Willis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:44:29 PM

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

THE SENATE

INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

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

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, and other members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Darryl Willis, and I live at 340 Kapii Place, Hilo, HI 96720.

I would like to voice my opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality.

This is an important issue that should be taken up with a lot of time, thought and input from the people. This is how our democracy was meant to work. However, a special session treats the issue lightly in the sense that it is a rush job, and does not give ample consideration that other bills receive in a regular session. This bill at the very least needs the full consideration that a regular legislative session would provide. It is so important, it would even be better to put it on a ballot, and let the people decide directly. This is not a civil rights issue as the proponents say. It is about changing the definition of marriage.

I have 2 grandsons, both innocent and beautiful little boys, not yet in school, but that is not far off. It is a horrible thought that someday if this bill passes, they could and probably would be taught in school that same-sex relations are OK. It is wrong and clearly violates nature. The picture of my grandsons sitting in class learning instructions about homosexual acts is very distressing. This is the future if this bill passes. It's already happening elsewhere. This is about the proper definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. It is about our legacy of raising our families in a civil and moral society. Government has an obligation to the people to protect and maintain a society that is optimal for families and raising children. Changing the definition of marriage will cause this to decay.

Government can still find a way to provide benefits to same-sex couples. The alteration of the

definition of marriage is not necessary.

Please protect our religious freedom. Most churches are open to public functions and events. Government should not force churches to marry same-sex couples against their religious beliefs nor force into law doctrine that is so against the traditions of our country.

I urge you to stop this bill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darryl D. Willis

Registered voter: Senate District 1 and House District 2.

From: [adrian matanza](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:37:50 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.

adrian matanza
739a kahoia dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Mandy Gonce](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:35:45 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mandy Gonce
435 seaside ave. apt 907
honolulu, HI 98615

From: [Heather Gonce](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:35:18 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.

Heather Gonce
435 Seaside Ave
Apt 907
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Stacy Fujieda](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:33:42 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.

My name is Stacy Fujieda and my partner, Rebeca, and I have been together for almost 13 years. We have two daughters, Isa who is 6 and Maya who is 4. More than anything, we want to get married in order to protect our family. We want to be able to show our daughters the strength of their mothers' commitment. We want that piece of paper that says that we belong to one another. That we have chosen to be responsible for each other for the rest of our lives. Please help us bring marriage equality to Hawaii.

Stacy Fujieda
130 Uuku Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Rebecca Sabalones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:31:45 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Rebecca Sabalones and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Rebecca

From: [Greg Cooper](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:31:14 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.

Greg Cooper
2115 Ala Wai Blvd.
702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [michael cox](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:28:46 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 cox
444 niu st apt 36028
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [James Wyatt](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:27:56 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.

James Wyatt
2115 Ala Wai Blvd.
#702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Norene Machida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written Testimony on Senate Bill S B 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:27:23 PM

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I stand firmly opposed on calling a special session and legalizing same sex marriage. In addition, I would like to recognize several gay couples, who are my dear friends, that have been together for over 20 years, who are also opposed to legalizing same sex marriage! I can only pray, they along with more same sex couples, will rise up to testify of their opposition. Not against the choice they have made of being together, but of changing what we in America have stood by and defined marriage as one man and one woman. I presume their testimonies would be highlighted and better listened too, then from someone who is speaking from a religious stand point or moral view.

Somethings should never change, and this one tops the list. Change should always be for good, and for the good of most, not just some. Once you agree that this change is for good, you will become responsible for all the generations who will come under this law. This will re-identify a family unit by acknowledging parents as same gender, it will affect and radify sex education taught in schools. Has any research or studies been done on the effects of this law in states or countries that are now under this law? I would hope in the last 3 weeks before this special session convenes our representatives and senators have been traveling or studying affects good and bad.

As a parent born and raised in Hawaii with 3 generations born and raised here, I am opposed to our Legislators voting on this critical decision. When the question was put on the ballot, of who should make decisions based on marriage, I ignorantly believed it was best left in the hands of our government and could not conceive an issue of this magnitude would arise that could change history in 5 days! The lesson i learned through all of this is NEVER allow any law to be decided by our elected officials. The people of Hawaii should be given the opportunity to vote because this issue has too many detrimental short and long term effects that will impact future generations. Why does it seem so easy to call a special session to pass this bill and so hard to do the same for Hawaiian people to be recognized as a separate nation? The Hawaiian people have been struggling as long, if not longer, with changing and passing laws that gives them rights?

May God bless you and the people of Hawaii,

From: [Chantel Vunipola](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:26:38 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Chantel Wright and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature. As a recipient of the blessings of this great nation, which was founded for the purpose of religious freedom, I will not have this rite taken away from me.

Thank you,

Chantel Wright

From: [Randy Erekson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: #SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:18:56 PM

October 28, 2013, 10:30a

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,

Randall 'H' Erikson

16-2088 Pukalani Drive
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Shawn Reed](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:07:21 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Shawn J. Reed and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Shawn J. Reed

From: [Dave DeCleene](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: "Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality"
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:27:14 PM

- * Do not take upon yourselves, you politicians, the power to change the definition of marriage
- * Let all of the people of Hawaii make this momentous decision
- * Let the governor come up with the wording, and then get 2/3 vote in each chamber, and then put it as a Constitutional Amendment on the 2014 ballot
- * DO THE RIGHT THING FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII, INCLUDING THOSE NOT YET BORN!

From: [Colleen Doi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: voice of a registered voter
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:22:42 PM

Aloha, my name is Colleen Doi of 1250 Kumukoa Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720, a registered nurse at Hilo Medical Center Emergency room, mother of 2 and a registered voter. I am writing you today deeply saddened about Governor Abercrombie's decision to hold a special session to discuss same sex marriage. I feel that this is a violation of the democratic process due to the format of the special sessions. Please considered the option to **vote no** to same sex marriages during this special session and have this discussion of the same sex marriage bill held during the regular session due to the sensitive topic and the outcomes that will follow if this bill is passed during a special session. Let the people of Hawaii vote on this topic. **You hold this power.** I have recently discovered the outcomes of what has happened in Ontario Canada and Massachusetts USA in respect to the dramatic impact that same sex marriage being legalized has had on their educational system. If you know and care about any child in our future generations, please look into this matter closer to see if this is what you want for the Keiki of Hawaii. I am a supporter of Traditional Marriages.

Mahalo for your time,
Colleen Doi

From: [teri.wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:20:25 PM

Herman and Mae Won

3758A Manini Way

Honolulu, HI 96816

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 26, 2013

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL Committee Members :

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. We truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. Therefore, We ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very

important issue. We urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

Our primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on our First Amendment rights, to express our freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii.

Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, we also stand to lose the right to express our religious views on traditional

marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

We believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.

We strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, we ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

We trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Herman and Mae Won

From: [Richard Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:19:57 PM

Richard W. H. Wong

46-150 Nahiku Street

808-203-3878

richter.wong@gmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL Committee Members:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our Hawaii. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. Therefore, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I

strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.
Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,



From: [Veroncia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:04:11 PM

I am against same sex marriage. This is something that should be decide by the people and not left to those who have other motives for having a special session. It's a waste of the tax payer money.

A same sex partner is the choice of an individual. Don't make it every ones problem. Marriage is between a man and a woman. As is stated in the bible. Some how you have forgotten that our country foundation was based on the bible.

Veronica Chang

From: [teri.wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:56:49 PM

Terilyn Wong
46-150 Nahiku St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
235-2593

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 26, 2013

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL Committee Members :

you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life.

Therefore, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

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I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Terilyn Wong

From: [Emmons Connell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:43:29 PM

Dear Legislators,

God is love. God wants ALL people to come to Him in faith and believe that His Son Jesus Christ is the Savior of all the world. Once God's Holy Spirit works in your heart to repent and believe this, you become one of his children. Out of thankfulness you do what God, who is a just God, wants you to do, as in, follow His rules joyfully. God's rules become your rules.

The bill as read condones homosexual acts in direct opposition to God's rules!

How can I go against my God?

Please vote NO on Same Sex Marriage.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Emmons and Mary Connell
208 Hooahale Place
Kihei HI 96753
875-1267

From: rosemary.sam.fong
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: S.B. NO.1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:41:29 PM

I a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of this the State of Hawaii, strongly OBJECT to this Bill regarding Marriage Equality. There have been longitudinal studies done case and point Canada and Massechusets and the affects of Same Gender Marriage on their communities. According to their studies the results were devastating on every level (the school system, parent rights, and what means more to you as law makers BUDGET).

Now, why do we have to address this subject again.

The Civil Union Bill already address what u are addressing on this Bill. WHY is it resurfacing again? I STRONGLY OPPOSE and OBJECT to this BILL. WE ARE THE MAJORITY, NOT THE MINORITY.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. Rosemary Sam Fong.
Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: miki.fumie@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB 1 relating to Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:10:39 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee of Judiciary and Labor,

I would like to voice my opinion that I am against any special session on the issue of same sex marriage.

It is my opinion that the issue of same sex marriage should be voted on just as it was in 1998. The use of a special session limits my and the people of Hawaii's right to express our opinion on this issue. It may result in legislation that does NOT represent the will of the people. Please let the people exercise their rights as citizens to have their voice be heard on this.

Thank you for your time,

Miki Uyeda

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Rita O'Hara](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:08:51 PM

I stand on written testimony in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1

Giving equal rights to all is something our constitution is based on. It is time to extend it to all couples.

Thank you in advance for passing this bill for it is long over due.

Sincerely,
Rita O'Hara
95-050 Hokuwa St.
Mililani, HI 96789

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lily Ong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB1 (Same Sex Marriage Bill) and Special Session on Oct. 28. 2013 at 10:30 am Honolulu, Hawaii
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:08:43 PM

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

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

From: Lily Y. Ong

Dear Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First of all, I strongly oppose to this special session being called for the issue of Same-Sex Marriage (SB1) in this economic hard time and spend taxpayers' money unnecessarily.

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because of the following five reasons to be stated briefly, most certainly there are still many other reasons:

- 1.) A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.
- 2.) No amendments can be made to the legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery.
- 3.) Hawaii is the only state rushing into this special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why have not the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so?
- 4.) A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-day special session, specially if that voice is to "amend the bill".
- 5.) The people of the beautiful Aloha State voted this same-sex marriage issue in 1998 and had opposed same-sex marriage, why not let the people vote in regular election and uphold democracy?

Respectfully submitted,

Lily Y. Ong

From: [Willard Samfongsr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:02:56 PM

From: [Kathy Uyehara](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Committee on Judiciary & Labor: SB1 10/28/13 10:30am - Same Sex Marriage Special Legislative Session
Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:29:17 PM

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
Senator Clayton Hee Chair,
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
All members of the committee

re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights
Written only testimony

Thank you for accepting this testimony:

I respectfully request a "no" vote on the same sex marriage issue because of the process in which the decision making is being held.

A short, special legislative session does not allow for adequate review and discussion, nor adequate time to hear the majority voice of THE PEOPLE of Hawaii to understand their will, and then to thoroughly vet this controversial and important issue.

The decision on same sex marriage can have far reaching future impact on the state of Hawaii and should not be rushed. The current bill does not appear to have adequate protection of current rights of churches, which are an important part of the foundation of our people of the state. Again, please allow adequate time to review and vet all of the points in the bill so the rights of one group are not removed or restricted, which would be an unintended travesty of the democratic process.

The Supreme Court did NOT say they allow same sex marriage unconditionally, rather that they leave the decisions to the States to decide, so Hawaii is NOT doing something unconstitutional by not allowing same sex marriage immediately.

THANK YOU for accepting this testimony and for caring enough about Hawaii and it's people to be willing to serve in an elected office capacity. You have a tremendous responsibility on your shoulders and you are appreciated.

I will not be testifying in person, but intend to be at the hearing if space allows.

Sincerely,
Katherine R H Uyehara
Registered Voter
Newtown - Aiea, Hawaii

From: [Joeysmom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 - Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:16:26 PM

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My testimony opposing same-sex marriage in Hawaii is as follows.

Legalizing marriage for homosexuals is such an important issue that you should let the people decide.

Clearly, the governor of Hawaii and most of the legislators are imposing their will upon the people of Hawaii by calling this special session as if same sex marriage were the most important thing in the state. Forget about the homeless problem, unemployment, hungry children... Whatever rationale is behind this push for gay marriage, it is greatly offensive to all of us who feel compelled to defend traditional marriage and we would like a say on whether it should be legalized or not.

Moreover, those of us who believe in the preservation of marriage between one man and one woman are being vilified and called intolerant by those promoting same-sex marriages. Is this tolerant and all-embracing on their part?

Incredibly, we are being forced into a position to protect the institution of marriage which is a historical foundation of all civilization!

As aforementioned, I am opposed to this most contentious social issue in Hawaii being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Esther C. Gefroh

Honolulu, HI 96814

--

[A Catholic Mom in Hawaii](#)

[Spiritual Moms Apostolate Blog](#)

[Prayers for Our Pets](#)

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit to defend all that is holy;
Guard me then O Holy Spirit that I always may be holy.

From: [Michel Walls](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:09:49 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 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.

Michel Walls
Ke st
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: ldmuraoka@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: re: same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:05:37 PM

Dear State Legislature,

Please consider my request to allow the people of the State of Hawaii to vote on Same Sex Marriage. We need the opportunity to make our personal preference known. Allowing only seventy legislators to change the sanctity of marriage for a million people is a very un-wise move. I ask each of you, personally, "Are you sure that it is something you want to have weighing on your life?" For certainly, there will be negative consequences. Negative effects may not show up soon but eventually it come to the demise of "healthy American families". I suppose for most of you, who do believe in what is right, when you see the future havoc caused by a "pro-vote" you will wish that you had listened to wise counsel. Except it will be "too late"!

Ideally, studies of cause and effect could help shed light whether this is right or wrong. But since that is not an option at this time then it only seems fair that the public should have a say about changes wanting to be made to this very sacred institution of marriage. The union between Man and Woman was given to us by God himself for the benefit, preservation and good of mankind.

Thank-you for hearing my request.

Sincerely,
Darelyn Muraoka

From: [Kimberly Langley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1, Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:02:34 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 1. I believe there is no legal or moral reason to exclude gay and lesbian couples from the legal institution of marriage and the protection the law provides.

There are many people focused on the religious exemptions in the bill. There are already established guidelines for determining permissible private prejudice and illegal discrimination in providing public accommodations. I do not believe there are any legal reasons for including the language on religious exemptions.

However, if including this unnecessary language aides in providing marriage equality, then it is needed.

Please, pass SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Kim Langley

Kahaluu, Hawaii

From: [Dean Miyamoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Fast forward 5 day session = democracy in reverse
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:56:47 PM

Honor Democracy in Hawaii

Please Vote **NO** to Same Sex Marriage So Hawaii's Voice Can Be Heard With More Time

Hi. As a registered voter I am very concerned about how this session is being processed. You were recognized and voted for your integrity and hard work. You are entrusted with the great responsibility to hold democracy in the highest respect and honor what the people will stand for. You are expected by the people to research different views and how a bill would change Hawaii. Thank you for taking on such a courageous difficult task. I know you will not disappoint Democracy in Hawaii.

1. Exercise Democracy. Vote **NO** to allow adequate time for sufficient public input.
2. Rushing five/six days is too little time to hear the voice of Hawaii. Lets face it, in a suffering economy, everyone is busy and needs more time for any issue to be voiced.
3. This is **not** an emergency bill amendment. Why Fast-forward it?
4. Five/Six days is not enough time to discuss or research such serious effects and changes this would lead to in beloved unique Hawaii.
5. Rushing will lead to buyer's remorse (society remorse/voters remorse)
6. According to the Supreme Court, marriage is not a civil right. It should be decided by the people. This requires ample time to voice concerns.
7. It is fundamental that a constitutional amendment should be decided by the people rather than an elite few within a quick inadequate five/six day session.
8. This is not a religious issue. This is a Democracy issue.
9. A "yes" vote is actually a "no" to democracy
10. Homosexuals should be respected just like everybody else, not given specially privileged quick bill amendments.

Why is democracy pushed aside to rush a non-urgent yet very serious amendment?

From: [Judy Kanbe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 Special Session 10.28.13
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:37:22 PM

From: Judy M. Kanbe
45-620 Keneke St.
(808) 247-5015
judyk@hawaii.rr.com

To: Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Date: October 26, 2013

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my Senator, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional

marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public,
just as
others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of
Hawaii, as

was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.

I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate
opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not
be

given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow
lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their
existing right to

express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Judy M. Kanbe

From: [kenji_andrade](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: DO NOT PASS S.B. 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:36:01 PM

I am a citizen of Hawaii, born and raised. I am a registered voter, a husband, a father, a county of Hawaii employee and a Christian. I stand firmly AGAINST this hasty and quick special session called to pass senate bill 1. The governor decided that in a mere 5 short days, we can determine the fate of Hawaii and all the repercussions that will come from passing same sex marriage? Really?!

This bill does NOT adequately protect my religious freedom. While the gay people cry for their rights to be protected, I am standing up for mine. By passing this bill, you strip me of my religious freedom. What right do you have to impose churches to face the consequences of this bill, and furthermore, private businesses, run by Christians who DON'T believe in same sex marriage. Why can you force us to abide by what we DON'T believe?

It has been pointed out to me that in these areas, this bill is flawed:

(1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

(2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

(3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

The Senate Bill Does NOT Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage

The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs:

(1) The Senate bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

(2) The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

The Senate Bill Does NOT Protect Parents

The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

You are NOT allowed to teach my children YOUR morals of same sex marriage. That is MY job to teach them. I insist that I be able to RESERVE the RIGHT to REMOVE my child from the school when lessons regarding ANYTHING that deals with same sex marriage. Teach my children math and reading, but DON'T you dare tell my child that same sex marriage is "normal".

This bill is flawed in so many ways. Let us vote on this bill. Let me have a voice. Don't be my voice, when your voice may be different than mine. Don't assume I'm okay with this bill, because I'm not.

Thank You,
Kenji

From: [Joy Kuraoka](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:28:22 PM

Joy Kuraoka
46-1009 Emepela Way #20D
Kaneohe, HI 96744
jgirl03@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Joy Kuraoka

From: [Yolanda Abad](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:17:03 PM

October 26, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Yolanda Abad
Re: In Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 a.m. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

To Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

My name is Yolanda Abad, I am a resident born and raised in Hawaii, and currently work in the admissions office of a private school. As a concerned citizen, I am testifying against and oppose SB 1 for the following reasons:

1. The five days allotted for this special session is too short and does not allow a reasonable period for "we the people" to exercise an "equal right" in the democratic process, to voice concerns, problems, and issues concerning a highly sensitive and controversial matter.
2. The people of Hawaii voted in 1998 and legislation was passed to define marriage as between a man and a woman; an amendment **cannot** be made to legislation.
3. The "religious exemption" entitlement is nullified by the public accommodation clause and leaves the church vulnerable to lawsuits. The First Amendment states that government may neither establish a religion nor prohibit the free exercise of religious practices. When government says "it doesn't matter what you believe or practice, you must adhere to solemnizing a same gender union (a sin) and call it marriage", it denies and prohibits Freedom of Religion as provided in the First Amendment of our U. S. Constitution.
4. I deplore and object to the forthcoming indoctrination of Homosexuality and the effects of the homosexual behavior upon our young children, families, the educational system, our parental rights, and church if, same gender marriages are legislated into law.

Please, I urge you to vote **NO** to **SB1** and allow the people of Hawaii to decide and vote on this important and far-reaching issue.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Yolanda Abad

From: [Richard Nettell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: equality in marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:41:39 PM

as someone with many non-heterosexual friends in (very) long-term relationships, i would like to express my wholehearted support for the proposed (so-called) gay marriage bill. it is absolutely incredible that hawaii has taken this long to grant all of our citizens equal rights to legalize, through marriage (if that be their choice), their relationship with another person regardless of the biological gender stated on their birth certificate.

as various supreme courts in the us have already ruled, there is absolutely no legal justification for continuing to uphold a caste system that denies a substantial proportion of our fellow citizens equal rights...

please pass this measure!

Richard Westbury Nettell, Ph.D.
Asst. Professor
English Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

(808) 956-3036

From: kellitenille@aim.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality Act Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:20:26 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Kelli Wood and I live in the town of Laie, here in Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, i would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Kelli Wood

From: [Richard S. Miller](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:18:51 PM

To: Senate Committee

From: Richard S. Miller, Prof. of Law, Emeritus and former dean, WSRSL

Senate Committee hearing Same-Sex Marriage bill

Dear Senators,

Kindly consider the following testimony:

ANY LAW DENYING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL , LACKS COMPASSION, AND IS UNNECESSARY

In a front page headline in the Star-Advertiser of Tuesday, October 22nd, the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable is credited with declaring that “God’s word is the highest law of the land” and urging the Hawai’i Legislature “to uphold traditional marriage.” Furthermore, “[t]he pastors cited the Book of Genesis for God’s plan that marriage is a life-long commitment *between a man and a woman.*” (Emphasis added.)

First, the Book of Genesis does not say anything about marriage. Here is what it says:

Chap ²⁷ “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

Chap.²⁸ “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

It did not say anything about marriage and it certainly did not say that those who cannot procreate, like a man and woman couple one of whom is sterile, or same sex couples, cannot marry.

But even if it did prohibit marriage between same-sex couples, it would violate our Constitution to impose such a religious rule on same-sex couples who disagree and wish to marry. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” And the Fourteenth Amendment, which has long been understood as making the Bill of Rights applicable to the States as well as the federal government, provides “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States”

Happily for those citizens who believe in and rely upon the Constitution's protection for freedom of religion, the pastors have made very clear that, at least in their view, the opposition to same-sex marriage that they are urging is a biblical/religious concept. Enforcing that upon those who are not in agreement with a biblical directive opposing same-sex marriage, if there was one, or with the religion that requires such opposition rather clearly constitutes an "establishment of religion." And further, making that religious requirement mandatory inhibits others whose religion disagrees and interferes with "the free exercise" of their religion.

Thus, while they may indeed be well-intentioned, the pastors of the Roundtable have provided strong support for the principle that those who seek same-sex marriage are protected by the Bill of Rights from religious commands which they do not share. And while it is easy to understand why the pastors might feel that the Book of Genesis, *if it were applicable*, takes precedence, it is truly difficult to understand how they can ignore the need for empathy for those persons of any faith, or none at all, who truly and dearly love their would-be same-sex spouses as much, and maybe even more, than the pastors themselves loved their spouses. If, indeed, same-sex marriage troubles God – and there appears to be no evidence of that – then the Pastors, at least, should believe that God can provide an adequate punishment, now or in the afterlife, and that they should be compassionate and keep their hands off.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

R. S. Miller, Prof. of Law, Emeritus and former Dean

Richard S. Miller, Prof. of Law, Emer.
315 Iliaina St. Kailua, HI 96734
E-mail: rmiller@aya.yale.edu
Phone: 808-254-1796

From: [Sosefina Tuimalealiifano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SAME SEX MARRIAGE IS A SIN
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:46:06 PM

I'm a citizen and a resident of Hawaii. I'm so happy to voice my opinion online since I'm away from the island of Oahu. There are so many signs around our environment and all nations of this world that tells us that the end of this world is right at the door. People should confess and repent from their sins but what? The king of the demons; Lucifer has distracted their hearts by materialistic things they see, the lust of the eye and the heart grows in them and that they forgot the love of God through His son Jesus Christ who died for us because of our sins; to save you and me. The same sex marriage and homosexual thing are in Hell and they belong there; just like Sodom and Gomorah.

I don't want to live in a place that our children grew up and witness the evil ways of the devil and how these people live - a man kissing a man or a woman kissing a woman, it will just make our kids confused and follow these evil ways. We're trying to teach our kids how to live right and clean before God. Same sex marriage - you say this is love, I don't think so, its sick and you need to read your bible. The devil is winning you to his world and that is Hell.

Jesus is the Way, the Life and the Truth. He's waiting for you to repent and come to Him. The Kingdom of Heaven is your home for God is love. For God so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son, for whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting love.

God bless and have a good day.

Sosefina

From: [Pauline](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:15:06 PM

PLEASE consider the people of Hawaii and not rush or feel pressured to make such an important decision in one week. This will affect our future. Let the people's hearts and voices be heard. Let the voters make the choice.

Mahalo!

Pauline Spencer
Paulineguy@yahoo.com
Hilo, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: gfeast@hawaii.rr.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:11:16 PM

I am in GREAT and FULL SUPPORT of marriage equality! It's about time that ALL people have the SAME rights!!!

From: [Laura Battad](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:59:44 AM

Neil & Laura Battad

#(808) 306-7007/ (808)216-9160

E-mail: nbattad@hotmail.com / lbattad@gmail.com

Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage

Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative:

As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue.

As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process.

It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

God Bless,

Neil & Laura Battad

From: [Donnette Tew](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#); [Donnette Tew](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:56:54 AM

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

We are opposed to S.B. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. If enacted, the bill ends the definition of marriage as has been followed for centuries. The traditional definition of marriage respects and protects the marriage relationship as one built to protect children by promoting that the ideal family is one in which children live with their parents, their mother and father, who have covenanted with each other, the state, and with others, to take responsibility for their family. If this longstanding definition of marriage is stopped to one in which is based mainly on an agreement between adults, we believe it will result in the continued denigration of the family with results that will harm individuals, families, communities, and societies for generations to come.

If the legislature does still pass the bill, we urgently request that the wording be changed so that it does not force upon individuals and churches who oppose the law to take actions directly in opposition of their religious beliefs. For centuries, this country has held that one of our most cherished and protected liberties is the liberty to have one's religious views respected by law. Individuals who oppose same-sex marriage for long-held and cherished religious reasons are not bigots. But according to this bill, they would be forced to act in support of marriages to which they are sincerely opposed. Those who work in the wedding service industry (e.g. wedding planners, bakers, photographers) would be required to serve same-sex weddings even though they are religiously opposed to them. No one should be required to do that.

In addition, it is very likely that churches would be required to open their doors to same-sex activities or else deny the use of their facilities to all but the most formal religious ceremonies of their own people. Churches should never be required to do this. We sincerely hope that our First Amendment religious freedoms will not be restricted to this.

Some may argue that if people are not required to serve same-sex marriages that those planning same-sex marriages will not have access to wedding services or places for their ceremonies. This is undoubtedly not true. There will be more than plenty of businesses and facilities willing to provide the services; it is more likely that those who serve same-sex marriages will be extra profitable. Those who oppose same-sex marriages may suffer

financially, but they should not be required to act contrary to their beliefs or end their business.

We respectfully request that you vote in opposition to S.B. 1, which would have such a negative impact on our state.

Sincerely,

Glade and Donnette Tew
55-629A Iosepa Street
Laie, HI 96762

From: [Janell Yim](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:42:23 AM

JANELL YIM
3270 PAWAINA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present at the hearing, therefore; I am submitting my written testimony

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom.

Dallin H. Oaks, a former Utah Supreme Court Judge, in 2013 awarded the prestigious Canterbury Medal for his lifetime of service in promoting the cause of religious freedom and presently a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stated.

Those who favor homosexual marriage contend that “tolerance” demands that they be given the same right to marry

as heterosexual couples

Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another's differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one's standards or one's opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.

The Church does not condone abusive treatment of others and encourages its members to treat all people with respect. However, speaking out against practices with which the Church disagrees on moral grounds – including same-sex marriage – does not constitute abuse or the frequently misused term “hate speech.”.. But today's politically palatable definition insists that unless one accepts the "sin" he does not tolerate the "sinner". We can express genuine love and friendship for the homosexual family member or friend without accepting the practice of homosexuality or any re-definition of marriage.

Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place “church and state on a collision course.”

The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they exclude same-sex couples from club membership.

Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished." ("The Divine Institution of Marriage"-Dallin H. Oaks)

INTERESTING RESEARCH FINDINGS SHOW LACK OF "TOLERANCE" WITH GAY MEN TOWARDS TRANSGENDERS OF THE MALE TO FEMALE POPULATION:

WHILE WORKING ON MY SOCIAL WORK MASTERS DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII- ANOTHER COLLEAGUE (MY CLOSE LESBIAN FRIEND-AFTER YEARS IS STILL MY CLOSE FRIEND) AND I DECIDED TO DO OUR RESEARCH ON THE TRANSGENDER POPULATION. SHE INITIATED WORKING WITH THIS POPULATION. THIS WAS BASED ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH. TO OUR SURPRISE, OUR FINDINGS SHOWED SOMETHING QUITE TROUBLING. HERE IS WHAT WE DISCOVERED.

ALL OF THOSE WE HAD INTERVIEWED, PASSIONATELY EXPRESSED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED THE MOST AMONGST GAY MEN THAN ANY OTHER POPULATION (HETEROSEXUAL, WOMEN, STRAIGHT MEN). THEY CONTINUED BY EXPRESSING HOW SOME OF THESE GAY MEN WOULD AT TIMES LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE A DISGRACE TO THE MALE

GENDER AND WERE ALSO TREATED WITH HATE, MALICE, CRUELTY, EMBARRASSMENT AND SHAME.

WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THIS FINDING IS THE FACT THAT THESE GAY MEN, HAVE ALSO FELT AND EXPERIENCED THE HARMING EFFECTS OF INTOLERANCE, YET THEY WERE NOW DISPLACING THIS SAME TYPE OF INHUMANE BEHAVIOR ON THIS TRANSGENDER POPULATION. YOU WOULD THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME EMPATHY AND "TOLERANCE" TO WHAT THESE GAY MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED.

IS IT REALLY ABOUT "EQUAL RIGHTS" AND THE ISSUE OF 'INTOLERANCE"? SOMETHING TO REALLY PONDER AND EXAMINE.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Janell Yim

Hawaii Voter

From: motonagav001@hawaii.rr.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:42:23 AM

Aloha Everyone,

In behalf of my family, the Motonaga-Hauanio Ohana, we oppose the SSM (Same-Sex Marriage) passing in this Special Election. Please Let The People Vote in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Venus & Paul Motonaga, Keren & Shalom Motonaga, Ronson & Ryan Hauanio\
1265-E Kaumana Dr
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Dawn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:41:38 AM

Dawn and Peyton Daido
46-056 Ipuka Street
235-3698
Dawn-dca@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers our position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as

was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.

I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be

given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to

express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Dawn and Peyton Daido

From: [Janell Yim](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: RESEARCH FINDING SHOWS GAY MEN INTOLERANT TO TRANSGENDERS
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:35:44 AM

JANELL YIM
3270 PAWAINA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present at the hearing, therefore; I am submitting my written testimony

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom.

Dallin H. Oaks, a former Utah Supreme Court Judge, in 2013 awarded the prestigious Canterbury Medal for his lifetime of service in promoting the cause of religious freedom and presently a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stated.

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Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another's differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one's standards or one's opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.

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Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place "church and state on a collision course."

The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they exclude same-

sex couples from club membership.

Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished." ("The Divine Institution of Marriage"-Dallin H. Oaks)

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IS IT REALLY ABOUT "EQUAL RIGHTS" AND THE ISSUE OF "INTOLERANCE"? SOMETHING TO REALLY PONDER AND EXAMINE.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Janell Yim
Hawaii Voter

From: [Lucy and Steve](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:11:34 AM

Stephen R. Meek
PO Box 982
Pepeekeo, Hawaii 96783

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

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

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush! At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share>)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Stephen R. Meek

From: [Jo-Ann Adams](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1 by Rev. Sky St. John, Senior Minister, Unity Church of Hawaii (See attached)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:12:05 PM



3608 Diamond Head Circle, Honolulu, HI 96815

October 26, 2013

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

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 will not testify in person.

To the Judiciary Committee:

I am the Senior Minister at Unity Church of Hawaii, located at the base of Diamond Head. It has been my privilege to lead this congregation for the past eight years.

At Unity Church of Hawai'i, we believe in the Oneness of God and that God's love flows equally to all beings. We support equal rights and justice for all.

Included in our welcoming brochure is the following diversity statement: "We believe in celebrating the rich diversity of humanity. All people, regardless of class, color, ability, age, or sexual orientation are encouraged to share their gifts and talents in the life and leadership of our church."

We are grateful that by passing this equal rights bill, we will finally be able to marry all couples within our congregation who wish to enter into a lawful marriage.

We thank you for your consideration of this bill and your respect for religious diversity.

Very truly yours,

Rev. Sky St. John

From: [Tiffany Turner](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:11:44 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.

Tiffany Turner
746 Pala Circle
Kahului, HI 96732

From: [ISRAEL ROSA](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:08:57 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.

ISRAEL ROSA
1925 KALAKAUA AVENUE #2802
HONOLULU, HI 96815

From: [Terry Takaki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support of Traditional Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:07:27 PM

To whom it may concern:

I would like to add my testimony for the support of traditional marriage, and to have absolute exclusions (no exceptions) for religious organizations and religious affiliated organizations in this bill under consideration.

Laws should be designed to protect the well-being of the human race. That well-being happens only as people abide by laws that were given to us by a wise and loving Heavenly Father. This is evident throughout the course of human history. Part of those laws are that a man and a woman unified in legal and lawful marriage become one and replenish the earth. Any deviation from this sacred union is not of God and is easy to see. If we did not follow this at all, the whole human race would cease to exist in the space of a single lifetime. If the whole of us were in same sex unions or marriages the same extinction process would happen. Same gender unions can't bear children, it is not a matter of rights, it is by divine design and can't be changed by legislation.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to voice my opinion.

Terry Takaki

From: [Augusto Tulba](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:06:47 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.

Augusto Tulba
2420 Kuhio Ave. Apt. 106
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Todd Luckey](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:06:38 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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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Todd Luckey
2420 Kuhio Ave 106
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Lee McIntosh](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:04:22 PM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

SB 1

Monday, October 28, 2013

10:30 a.m.

I will not be testifying in person.

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I am not in favor of SB 1, which legalizes homosexual marriage. This important issue should be decided by the people through a constitutional amendment, just as it was in 1998. Whatever your interpretation, its purpose was to prevent the courts from instituting homosexual marriage. If the Legislature believes that public opinion has changed since 1998, then another constitutional amendment should be presented for us to vote on in 2014. This is not a civil rights issue. If it was, then no exemptions would be necessary. The exemptions in SB 1 are weak and fail to provide adequate religious protection for individuals following their beliefs. There is no reason to rush this matter, especially in a special session which prevents amendments and adequate debate. Please do not redefine marriage out of fear of reprisal because it is a plank of the Hawaii Democrat party. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1.

From: [JERRY ALERTA](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:04:21 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.

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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.

JERRY ALERTA
01-1040 Hoohilu St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96796

From: [Corey Koruan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:02:41 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.

Corey Koruan
47-675 Lamaula Rd. Apt. L
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Michael Vargas](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:02:32 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:

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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.

Michael Vargas
2444 hihiwai st apt 604
honolulu, HI 96826

From: [betsy kositwongsakul](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:01:38 PM

My name is Betsy Kositwongsakul and I am opposing the bill named "SB1" that would be affecting traditional marriage and rights.

I love my gay friends and believe that everyone should receive and benefit from the same constitutional rights. I feel that legal benefits should occur between domestic partners and such. However, I do believe that marriage is ordained of God and should be between a man and a woman. This is marriage. We can not redefine this. It is not up to us.

Also, if this bill passes, families, private organizations, religions and so on will be at risk. They, by law, will have to honor same-sex marriage and have no legal rights about the issue. This is unconstitutional. Do not legally tell me what I have to believe.

Please make the decision to let the people vote on this bill. It is not up to the lawmakers on this one. It needs a democratic vote.

From: [giovanni marone](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:01:27 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:

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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.

giovanni marone
1856 king hall 80k
hickam afb, HI 96853

From: [Glenna Maikui](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:58:51 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:

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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.

Glenna Maikui
1635 Kewalo St
Apt 201
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Stephanie Ferante](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:57:59 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:

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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 Ferante
1720 Ala Moana Blvd Apt G208
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Joyce Tamayose Quinn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Committee on Judiciary and Labor re: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:56:20 PM

For the hearing on Mon., October 28, 10:30 a.m.

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please do not pass the law on your own but let the voters decide. This is a very sensitive issue which will affect our children in public schools. If the law is passed, they will be forced to accept that gay marriage or relationships are normal and natural and will be called bigots for their beliefs. They will be told to read books which depict the gay lifestyle as normal and natural. In fact, the media seems to promote or insist that gay characters are portrayed and that they be openly gay.

Respectfully,

Joyce Quinn

From: [JUAN ROSARIO](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:56:11 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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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.

JUAN ROSARIO
400 HOBRON LANE #3607
HONOLULU, HI 96815

From: [Derek Camacho](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:54:55 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

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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.

Derek Camacho
400 Hobron Lane Apt 3607
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Phil Gagnon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:54:51 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:

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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.

Phil Gagnon
1437 St Louis Dr
honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Annalee Herrera](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:53:13 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:

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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.

Annalee Herrera
731 Maluniu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [kayla.ponce](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:52:26 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:

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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.

kayla ponce
731 Maluniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Michael O'Shaughnessy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Michael O'Shaughnessy](#); [Kanai](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Against Same Sex Marriage Law
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:46 PM

Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and women. What are the proponents of same sex marriage trying to do, rewrite the Holy Bible and Hawaii Centuries old History? That would be wrong! Let the people of Hawaii decide on this important issue of marriage and not the Legislature.

Furthermore, to grant special benefits and privileges to a certain group of people is discriminatory towards heterosexual males and females. The issue of same sex marriage is not like race in which a person has no control over the color of his or her skin of which they were born. Same sex is a matter of choice and life-style not to be confused or associated with class or race. Homosexuality is a life-style, which is harmful to the family and society as a whole.

I strongly urge Governor Abercrombie and the Legislature to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on Marriage. The public will support whatever the outcome will be.

Sincerely,

Ava O'Shaughnessy

From: [scott ford](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:26 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

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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.

scott ford
1151 Nuuanu Ave
PT 207
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Charlene Cuaresma](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:46:13 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

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have relatives, friends, colleagues and co-workers, who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Their dignity and humanity, and that of their respective families, hinge on this bill, as they, like others, strive to engage in society as responsible, contributing family and community members.

By upholding this bill, you as lawmakers can champion a win-win situation that is laid forth by the "separation of church and state". While the personal religious beliefs of individuals are protected under the constitution, matters of equality in the public domain should be protected to avoid someone else's religious practices to be the basis for legislation that would determine the legal status of people's choice of who they can and cannot marry.

Likewise, my son is "hapa", as is nearly half of all children born in Hawai'i. Had unjust and flawed laws, based on racism, not been overturned in the past, inter-racial marriages and inter-racial children would be illegal today.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlene Cuaresma
Private Citizen whose family members are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight

Charlene Cuaresma
728 Nunu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: nona_fuller@yahoo.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:44:40 PM

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

I want to thank you for the many years you serve as a politician for the people.

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people.

When I voted against same sex marriage in November 1998, I thought this issue was over and done with. Little did I know that there was a clause stating that the legislature had a right to revise what I had voted against. How deceiving it was to me. Twice, we the people voted against same sex marriage and both times we won. Isn't anyone listening to us?

This bill does not protect churches, schools and businesses. Please, let the people vote on this bill.

Mahalo,

Winona Fuller
225 Kapalu St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please, let the people vote on this bill.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tante Urban jr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:44:27 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:

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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.

For equality! All Humans deserve Equality.

Tante Urban jr
755711 Lamaoakeola street
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Melvin Hayase](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:37:10 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

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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.

Even if the majority of the electorate upholds "traditional" marriage, it still does not make it right to limit marriage between a man and a woman. We know that from our experience with civil rights for racial equality.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melvin Hayase
95-375 Ikaloa St
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Kevin Rosinsky](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:34:39 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

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kevin Rosinsky
1219 Ala Alii St
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Kaainanui Simon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:33:26 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

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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.

Kaainanui Simon
1845 Kaikunane Loop
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: stintonrw@gmail.com on behalf of [Rick Stinton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposed to Same Sex Marriage Bill for reasons of Democracy
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:33:02 PM

I am opposed to the Legislature legalizing gay marriage at their Special Session because it does not honor government by democracy. The Special Session does not allow the time for citizens on both sides of the issue to present their cases. It does not allow for amendments. It appears to push through an agenda on a divisive social issue that will change the basic definition of the social unit of society, rather than allow the normal democratic process to work. To my knowledge, no other State in the Union is holding a Special Session on the issue. It is not necessary.

If the democratic process affirms gay marriage in Hawaii, then so be it. But the voice of the people should be heard and the issue fully vetted. The Special Session does not allow for that. Furthermore, the language of the Bill at points is problematic, and will lead to future law suits and problems. It needs more work and clarification, rather than being rushed through.

Personally, I believe that the people of Hawaii should vote on this issue. The Supreme Court has not ruled that gay marriage is a right, only that States who grant gay marriages must give equal benefits. So please do not participate in the deception that the Supreme Court has sanctioned gay marriage as a right. A person may hold this conviction, but this is the value of a democracy - issues should be discussed, debated, and voted on.

I urge you to hear the people of Hawaii. Do not legalize gay marriage at the Special Session.

Yours truly,

Rick Stinton
733 Mokapu Road, Kailua
808-225-6941

From: [Val](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: opposition to the gay marriage bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:32:22 PM

Testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill.

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill. This issue is so divisive that our legislators should let the people of this State decide via a vote in 2014.

The main reason I oppose this bill is that I feel the LGBT community should be taking their fight to the US House of Representatives. They say they want equality under the tax laws. They should lobby to have the Federal Tax Code changed so that the IRS will recognize civil unions and allow those couples to file jointly on their Federal Tax Returns so that they may receive the same tax benefits that heterosexual couples receive. If the tax codes change, there's no reason for "marriage", since by their own admission, the reason they want marriage is to enjoy the same economic benefits that heterosexual couples receive; to be treated equally. Their efforts to change the marriage laws in 50 States create contention, discord and divide communities.

Secondly, they were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional "right to marry", they clamor for the "right" to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will move to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum. They'll be asking for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education text books. Research of those states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for our State?

Thirdly, saying they should be able to marry whom they love, they are really saying that they want society to validate and affirm their lifestyle and choice of sexual partner.

Lastly, to elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race.

To pass a gay marriage bill without putting it to a vote by the people is underhanded.

Let the people decide; put it on the ballot in 2014.

Thank you,

Valerie Pedro

From: [gagan brar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:32:03 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.

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.

gagan brar
1219 ala alii street
honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Lester Noa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:30:29 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.

Lester Noa
1219 Ala Alii St APT 102
honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Steven Oyakawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:30:05 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.

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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.

Steven Oyakawa
2421 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 606
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Val](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: testimony opposed to the gay marriage bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:46 PM

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill.

I find it outrageous that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators.

This bill would affect **ALL** the people of Hawaii. Why are we catering to a small group of people. They ARE NOT being discriminated against. They hold jobs, eat at restaurants, shop where ever they want, go to the movies, travel, rent and buy houses, go to the church of their choice, chose whatever medical they want, etc. Since there is no constitutional right to marry, there is no discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples were being discriminated against by the **Federal government**. The lesbian and gay community need to stop fighting for marriage in the States. They need to take their fight to the Federal government via the U.S. Congress; get the Federal Tax Codes changed to recognize civil unions. Stop dividing communities.

Since our governor is so sympathetic to their economic situation, he should write and submit a bill to our representatives in Washington, D.C. on their behalf, to change the Tax Code so that Civil Union partners can file jointly on their Federal Tax Return.

In 1998, the people decided. If that constitutional amendment accorded the Legislature the right to **“redefine marriage”** as necessary, then the amendment on the ballot must have purposely been written to mislead the people.

Do not be disingenuous. Let the people decide if the legislature has the right to redefine marriage. Take this issue to the polls again. This time be very clear and offer two options:

- 1: ***“the legislature again defines that marriage is between one man and one woman. This definition may not be changed except through constitutional amendment.”***
- 2: ***“the legislature redefines marriage as being between two individuals of the opposite sex OR of the same sex, who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood.”***

Thank you,

Valerie Pedro

From: [Travis Munguia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:28 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.

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.

Travis Munguia
Box 29C
1852 Clay Hall
Hickam AFB, HI 96853

From: [tyler Cole](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:58 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tyler Cole
648 bishop pt JBPHH
pearl harbor, HI 96860

From: [Derek F. Cabarloc](#)
To: [JDL Testimony-Written Only](#)
Subject: Oppose Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:56 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The current proposed bill is not adequate to protect religion.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marleen I Cabarloc
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Thomas Hall](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:20 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.

Thomas Hall
2205 Aulii St
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Duval Harris Jr.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:10 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:

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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.

Duval Harris Jr.
1316 Loko Dr.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Brandon Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:24:37 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

The ramifications of passing this bill will be far reaching, further deteriorating society marriage and the family. The GDP and tax base will be affected by giving non-traditional marriage tax exemptions that were reserved for traditionally married couples; and a decrease in births. Religious institutions will be affected and not protected if this bill passes. How are we to practice our religious freedom if we are restricted by laws? This bill needs to be examined carefully and objectively and not rushed because of the unknown full effects on society and family.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

A very concerned wife, mother, taxpayer, citizen, and constituent,

Stacy Wong
Honolulu, HI, 96813

From: [michael du](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:24:32 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:

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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.

michael du
718 10th ave.
honolulu, HI 96816

From: [brian libunao](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:38 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.

brian libunao
718 10th ave
honolulu, HI 96816

From: [P. Charlene Matsuzaki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:22 PM

Perrine Matsuzaki
1720 Huna Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It denies the most core institution of society, marriage between a born-man and a born-woman.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
7. It trashes Native Hawaiian ethnicity by extending the parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
8. It will tax Hawaii taxpayers with costs for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings of same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii returning to Hawaii courts to do those proceedings.
9. It will debilitate our children and youth with new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to schools.
10. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
11. It does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law because of its effective date of November 18, 2013.
12. It does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person because of its process is fast-tracked.
13. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian

Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

14. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties.

15. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

16. It disintegrates the core unit of our society namely the family defined with a father, a mother and their children.

17. It corrupts the individual's thoughts and actions.

18. It putrefies our society to its downfall.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

signature upon request

Perrine Matsuzaki

Hawaii Voter

From: [Derek F Cabarloc](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:10 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Derek F Cabarloc
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Ceitte Smith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:19 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:

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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.

Ceitte Smith
431 Nahua St
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Michael O'Shaughnessy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Michael O'Shaughnessy](#); [Kanai](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Against Same Sex Marriage Law - NOT GOOD POLITICS!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:14 PM

“Marriage” between a Man and a Women is the basis of God’s fundamental unit of a “Family”. To change “Marriage” to any other definition is an abomination of God’s Law (The Holy Bible) and the original Constitution from which this great Country was founded and blessed by God for following His Laws.

EIS (Environmental Studies) are accomplished to study the affects of major changes to our Communities. Has the Hawaiian Legislature accomplished and EIS on the long term affects on our future generations which this major legal shift in the definition of a Traditional Family will cause? This Law will force teachers to teach a new Non-Traditionally Family believe system to our Children in our Hawaiian Public School System at a very young age. It will impede on our rights to speak freely of faith on our streets or inside our Churches. Has the Hawaiian Legislator or our Governor even considered the negative affects of the Same Sex Law presently in Massachusetts, Canada and Europe, where parents no longer have the rights to opt out their own children from school when Public Schools teach against the Traditional Family? Where people and Pastors, Priest and Rabbis are arrested for speaking of their faith, once protected by the First Amendment, but now is a “hate crime”? Where tax payers, consumers and business will be forced to subsidize homosexual relationships? Where freedom of conscience and religious liberties are threaten? Where there once was a Democracy and now a Dictatorial State of the few???

I, and many others do NOT hate gays and lesbian. This is a matter of my FAITH and standing up for Traditional Marriage which is good, healthy and normal in our State and Country for generations. Has anything bad has ever come from Traditional Marriages? Absolutely not! Traditional Marriage is sound and true!

If this is legalized, WHERE DOES THIS STOP?! The flood gates will flow to whomever minority who also wants their “rights”, “what is fair for me” and “it is because of love I should be granted this”. Why should we denied their rights of these other minorities, all of them? Immoral, unhealthy, why should it matter? Then cries to eliminate Marriage and the Traditional Family altogether. You bet! Then what is our Country really founded on? Absolutely nothing that was once good, wholesome, holy and sacred! We will fall for anything.

Hawaii already has a law for the rights of same sex unions! To Legalize a Same Sex Law is now going too far! THIS LAW WILL BE AGAINST THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AS WE VOTED IN PRINCIPLE AGAINST IN 1998! This law will go against the majority of Hawaiians rights and will! A case of a small minority rights overruling the majority because of powerful

special interest groups. A case where the minority will impose a law over the majority of the traditional values and believes of what makes Hawaii great; the Traditional Family. NOT GOOD POLITICS! And not good for the majority of Hawaiians who want a REAL Democracy!

If there is any doubt that I am NOT speaking for the majority of the views of Hawaiians, any doubt at all, THEN LET THE PEOPLE'S VOTE AND INDIVIDUAL VOICE DECIDE; NOT A SPECIAL INTEREST SESSION OF A FEW TO OVERCOME THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII ON SUCH A SENSITIVE AND FUNDIMENTAL ISSUE AS THIS!

Thank you, and may God Bless YOU for standing for principle for the Hawaiian Traditional Family!

Respectfully,

Michael O'Shaughnessy
(A Concerned Citizen)

From: [P. Charlene Matsuzaki](mailto:P.Charlene.Matsuzaki)
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly@capitol.hawaii.gov; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:13 PM

Perrine Matsuzaki
1720 Huna Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

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2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
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8. It will tax Hawaii taxpayers with costs for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings of same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii returning to Hawaii courts to do those proceedings.
9. It will debilitate our children and youth with new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to schools.
10. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
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13. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian

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14. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties.

15. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

16. It disintegrates the core unit of our society namely the family defined with a father, a mother and their children.

17. It corrupts the individual's thoughts and actions.

18. It putrefies our society to its downfall.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Perrine Matsuzaki

Hawaii Voter

From: [Brandon Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:19:56 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

The ramifications of passing this bill will be far reaching, further deteriorating society marriage and the family. The GDP and tax base will be affected by giving non-traditional marriage tax exemptions that were reserved for traditionally married couples; and a decrease in births. Religious institutions will be affected and not protected if this bill passes. How are we to practice our religious freedom if we are restricted by laws? This bill needs to be examined carefully and objectively and not rushed because of the unknown full effects on society and family.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

A very concerned husband, father, taxpayer, citizen, and constituent,

Brandon Wong
Honolulu, HI, 96813

From: [Daniel Nicolosi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:45 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Nicolosi
1653 Mott-Smith Dr #D
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [andre riveraruz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:11:38 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.

andre riveraruz
166f lakeview circle
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [peili lin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:11:16 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The bill as it is written is defective and I am opposed to it becoming law. It is not written in a way that can withstand the muster of a court challenge. For example, there is no provision for same sex divorce. No provision as to child custody when both parents are not biological parents. No provision for property settlement. Religious protection clause is superseded by the public accommodations law. Therefore the state is dictating what religious institution can and cannot do. This is a violation of the 1st Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This bill prohibits the free exercise of the churches.

I am asking that this bill be shelved until these issues can be resolved, clarified and discussed during the regular session of the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Peili Lin
1336 Laukahi St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [peili lin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:10:53 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The bill as it is written is flawed and defective and I am opposed to it becoming law.

It is not written in a way that can withstand the muster of a court challenge.
For example, there is no provision for same sex divorce.
No provision as to child custody when both parents are not biological parents.
No provision for property settlement.

Religious protection clause is superseded by the public accommodations law. Therefore the state is dictating what religious institution can and cannot do. This is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This bill prohibits the free exercise of the churches not to perform same sex marriages.

I am asking that this bill be shelved until these issues can be resolved, clarified and discussed during the regular session of the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Peili Lin
1336 Laukahi St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [dale mckinney](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:09:21 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.

dale mckinney
251 kaalawai place
honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Matt Meko](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:04:29 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. Seriously, it's a new world and I hope Hawai'i joins it.

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. Good luck.

Matt Meko
3175 E. Manoa Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [David Pham-Martinez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:04:11 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 – 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 Pham-Martinez
1303 Liliha St APT 206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Paul Figueroa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:01:44 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.

Paul Figueroa
1303 Liliha ST
APT 206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Kekoa Ahkoj](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:01:17 PM

Aloha Members,

My name is Kekoa Nakooka-Akoi and I am an openly Gay young adult born and raised in Maui. I support Gay Marriage because I believe that there should be no restrictions on LOVE every Man or Women should decide their own destiny, As a Gay Native Hawaiian I humbly ask for your support and join me in legalizing gay marriage here in Hawaii.

Ke aloha pumehana,
Kekoa Nakooka-akoi

From: [Spencer Tsui](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Spencer Tsui](#)
Subject: STRONG OPPOSITION OF BILL SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:52:30 PM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Spencer Tsui

816 Koko Isle Circle,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

(808)255-2238

From: [Tereiti Grace](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:34 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
[Monday, October 28, 2013](#)
[10:30 a.m.](#)
Auditorium, State Capitol, [415 South Beretania Street](#)

My name is **Weathirly Grace** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Weathirly Grace

From: [Brandi Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written testimony OPPOSING Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:42:12 PM

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. This senate bill is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively. I also oppose the legislation because the legislation's effective date of November 18, 2013 does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, Human Services, Finance, Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Brandi Wong
3241-A Pawaina Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Tuvili Tuisavura](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:26 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
[Monday, October 28, 2013](#)
[10:30 a.m.](#)
Auditorium, State Capitol, [415 South Beretania Street](#)

My name is **Viliame Tuisavura** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Viliame Tuisavura
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lois](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written Testimony regarding SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights on 10.28.13 @10:30a
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:00 PM

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Honored Senators and Representatives,

Unfortunately, I am working today and can't testify in person. Therefore am sending you my heartfelt wishes regarding SB1.

I am deeply concerned for Hawaii's economic, academic and social future should SB 1 bill pass and ask that you vote NO on SB1.

Up until July 2013 our Dept of Health has issued approximately 900 Civil Union licenses in state of 1.4 million people. I don't understand the urgency for this Special Session and besides doesn't Civil Union offer sufficient benefits for gay couples?

This is not a crisis, yet it's made to appear so? Why? A five day session is not enough time to vet the bill and perhaps a constitutional amendment would better address this controversial issue. Let's take our time to objectively examine this bill and ultimately LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

I am also concerned regarding the language of the bill which, contrary to what the Governor says, affects the first ammendment rights of religious organizations as well as businesses. Please take time to study the "exemption" portion of the bill.

Having read thru documents from states where Same Sex Marriage is legal, I have concluded that SSM is not healthy for Hawaii and keeping marriage between one man and one woman is. Our ohana must be perpetuated as it is naturally designed.

Abraham Lincoln said: "Nothing is politically right, which is morally wrong". I pray we don't find ourselves saying this at the close of Session.

I urge you to please vote NO on SB 1 and propose to LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

Sincerely,
Lois J Young

--

Follow Me...
2069 California Ave 19E
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Kristen Kirnbauer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:33 PM

I am opposed to same sex marriage, as li feel many people in Hawaii are. Please allow the people to make this important decision on what they value by way of a public ballot.

Thank You,

Ted Kirnbauer

From: blossommeyers@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:02 PM

I OPPOSE this special session on Gay Marriage in THE STATE OF HAWAII. “ UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO O HAWAII” I STAND FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, & I PRAY THAT YOU LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON THIS & NOT SEE THIS BILL THROUGH! if this bill pass, this state will be destructed.

MAHALO

Sent from Windows Mail

From: blossommeyers@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I truly Believe that marriage is between a man & a woman, I Strongly oppose same sex marriage here in HAWAII! Let the people of Hawaii take a VOTE on this Bill. If this bill passes through this special session, I guarantee ther will be sudden destruction
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:23:27 PM

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [a.starr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I support marriage equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:14:44 PM

I am a mother of 3, an RN, and I support marriage equality. Please know that almost everyone I know feels the same way.

Respectfully,

Adina Ingram RN, BSN

From: [Susan Kunz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:11:28 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Susan Kunz** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I understand that Governor Abercrombie chose to use my hard earned tax dollars to call an unnecessary session. I understand that our current marriage and civil union laws are not in conflict with federal law. I understand that we are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for less than 2000 people who have taken advantage of the legal civil union law. I understand that the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, a purely political group, will have the power to determine how I practice my religion if this bill passes.

I oppose this bill. There is no purpose to it other than to force societal change at the cost of our religious freedoms. I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because I believe that government is there to give us structure that allows us the freedom to make choices. This bill unconstitutionally forces each citizen -- regardless of their stance on this bill or their view on marriage to submit to the dictates of the government rather than their own conscience.

I oppose this bill because it does not protect the individual or the small business which is the backbone of our economy.

I oppose this bill because I believe that society is most stable when marriage is between between a man and a woman

I am against Senate Bill 1. Do not pass this bill into law.

Thank you,

Susan Kunz

From: [Steve Hoag](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SD 1 - Support for Religious Exemptions - Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:58 PM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Aloha Committee Members. I am writing on behalf of my family of six in support of adequate exemptions for churches and clergy in legislation to enact same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

While we are not in favor of redefining marriage -- and oppose such -- if such legislation is passed we ask that religious organizations and officials not be required to support or perform same-sex marriages, or to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities as public accommodations. Especially where clergy or the church is not receiving payment for services.

As a former bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have performed marriages for both members and non-members of our faith without payment, as required by our church. The reason our bishops sometimes perform marriages for those not of our faith is so that their martial status with their partner will not disqualify them to be baptized into the faith.

Thus, even marriages performed for non-church members are often for religious purposes as an exercise of First Amendment freedom of religion rights. These rights should likewise be protected under state law in any new marriage legislation.

Further, this bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever alter thousand of years of culture, customs, and society.

We therefore oppose this bill. However, if you decide to move this bill forward we respectfully request that it be amended to include stronger religious exemptions.

Thank you,

Steve & Heather Hoag
P.O. Box 25
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: [jan Tiffany](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:51 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:

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.

jan Tiffany
601 kaimalino st
kailua, HI 96734

From: [Arlene Larrua](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED: Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:25 PM

Dear Committee,

My name is Arlene K Larrua. I am a registered voter in District 7.

I am of Hawaiian Ancestry and Native Cherokee Indian.

I am testifying in writing today that I am strongly OPPOSED to the Marriage Equality Bill being heard in the Special Session called by our Governor Abercrombie.

As the leader of Hawaii Women of Purpose a network of 15,000 women of all ages represented across the islands whose mission and purpose is to inspire, educate, connect, honor and act to end domestic violence against women, I submit the following testimony.

The reasons I am OPPOSED are as follows:

- This Bill should have been presented in the regular session of the House/Senate. It is a waste of our taxpayers money to hold this special session. The \$4 million plus dollars spent on this act, could have been spent in air-conditioning for some of Hawaii's hottest schools.
- What is the rush? Again I say, What is the rush? In all of history throughout the nation, it has taken a minimum of 2 years of legislation to hear, allow testimony, allow all committees to hold testimony, and then a decision was reached. Why in Hawaii do we want to allow the Governor to change thousands of years of culture, Ohana, and standards of living for all in five (5) days or at the most ten (10) days). The process is wrong, and absolutely ridiculous.
- The bill does contain wording to allow public accommodations first amendment rights.
- The bill encroaches upon the religious freedom also allowed in the first amendment. There is not enough language to protect, churches, clergy and the religious freedoms provided to it's people.
- Legislators have NOT discussed this bill. This bill was not heard last year, nor the years before. The last time Same Sex Marriage was discussed was in 1998.
- Most current legislators were NOT in office when the Legislature discussed Same Sex Marriage.
- Committee Chairs WILL limit testimony.
- Members will not have the same opportunities to ask questions if the bill is referred to a single joint committee. JUD/FIN vs, JUD, FIN as with the Civil Union Bill.
- Senate President Donna Kim DID NOT agree to a special session.
- Speaker Joseph Souki also DID NOT agree.
- If the Special Session is only 5 days long the bill CANNOT BE AMENDED.
- The committee requires at least ONE (1) public hearing in the HOUSE and ONE (1) in the Senate. But this bill really should have more.
- Hawaii's Legislature will be the first elected body in the WORLD to enact Same-Sex Marriage overnight and forever obliterate thousands of years of culture, customs and traditions.
- Hawaii's indigenous values of Laulima, Lokahi and Ahonui means we are NOT the Mainland.
- Same sex couples can already gain Federal Benefits by traveling to another State that has legalized SSM and bring back those benefits to Hawaii.
- By Rushing Same Sex Marriage through in this Special Session the STATE WILL OPEN PANDORA'S BOX.

- When the Supreme Court struck down the biblical definition of marriage in June (DOMA) the minority opinion in the case, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, said the decision in effect deemed those not in favor of gay marriage as "enemies of mankind". This act/bill/law would bring more division, conflict, hostility and chaotic behavior rather than peaceful co-existence.
- Historically, Rep. Gohmert said there have been dire consequences for nations with rampant homosexuality. He specifically mentioned that happening in the military of ancient Greece before that country's fall. "It's one of the mile markers that great civilizations or great empires pass on the way to the dustbin of history."
- This bill does not protect the right of parents or children who will be influenced in schools as to the GLBT influence that will be introduced through guise of "safety" to infiltrating of this lifestyle as normal and acceptable.
- It outright contradicts our First amendment right which says, ***Amendment I***
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

In closing, may I bring to your attention the plight of motherhood. A mother's joys and dreams are birthed with each child brings into this world. She dreams of that child fulfilling their purpose and destiny. When told by this child that he/she chooses an alternative lifestyle, she does not immediately jump up and down, shout for joy or celebrate the decision by her child that she knows will harm them physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. However, after processing the disappoint, hurt, and anger through much time and much thought, she chooses to love that same child, in their own choices, accepting them in their choice as the new normal for the sake of the relationship. Take a minute and think about it.

Sincerely,
Arlene K. Larrua
Waikoloa, Hawaii

From: joshua.gutierrez
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:00 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.

joshua gutierrez
1825 east west rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Staci Kronberg](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:56:12 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.

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.

Staci Kronberg
601 Kaimalino
kailua, HI 96734

From: [Rebeca Martinez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:54:50 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.

My name is Rebeca Martinez. My partner and I have been together for almost 13 years. We have two young daughters who always ask when we will get married. I want to be able to protect my family by getting married to the woman that I love. Although we marry for love, what is also important are the numerous legal benefits that come with marriage. Please help bring marriage equality to Hawaii.

Rebeca Martinez
130 Uuku Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Mathew Bellhouse-King](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:51:13 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.

Mathew Bellhouse-King
1630 Makiki St
Unit B-301
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Ualani Mo'o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:26:45 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Spencer Tainui Temanaha Nagy

From: [Ualani Mo'o Nagy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:24:22 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Ualani Mo'o Nagy

From: [Fredrene Balanay](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:20:35 AM

Fredrene K.L.M. Balanay

94-054 Leolua Street #106

Waipahu, HI 96797

October 23, 2013

Sen. Clayton Hee

JDL Committee Chair

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street Room 407

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Committee:

I am writing in regards to SB 1 relating to Equal Rights; in recognition of same sex marriage. First and foremost I oppose to SB1 in its present form and literature.

There has been a growing concern amongst others like myself regarding the religious exemptions and/or requirements of this bill. It appears to force the use of religious facilities their adjoining affiliates or entities regardless of that said entities religious practices or stand point. I will not lecture you on the importance of maintaining religious freedom as a basic right of every citizen in this country since its birth and inception. Rather I would like to simply ask this question. If this is a bill set to ensure equal rights why would it implicate the removal of one right to ensure another?

Should the religious rights of ALL people everywhere come into question based on something such as the right to marry? I humbly ask your consideration on this matter. The question isn't whether I believe marriage should be preserved between opposite sexes but rather should this issue be part of the cause that may weaken the fabric of our American freedoms and lifestyles.

In other states similar laws have been passed preserving both the right to marry and in the same token the right to continue to practice our sets of religious beliefs as such. Despite my LDS upbringing, and Christian values, I do understand and even sympathize with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. I will not argue the definition of marriage according to the state but I will plead for the preservation of my right to practice my religion as I have always done.

I am strong in my faith and know that no matter the legal definition of marriage, I will continue to follow and adhere to my beliefs regarding such. I do not undermine your

authority or the capability of your sound judgment. Just please readdress this growing and grave concern.

Sincerely,

Fredrene K.L.M. Balanay

From: [Kevin Pope](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 Same Sex Marriage-No
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:18:38 AM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,
Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair,
Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,

We are very much opposed to the changes the proposed same-sex marriage bill, SB -1 that is going to be considered in the upcoming special session. We have read the bill and are very concerned that it will be the start of the erosion of our 1st and 4th amendment rights. Please don't put Hawaii on the slippery slope towards making religion and free speech hate crimes. We don't hate anyone. We just believe their lifestyle choice is morally and biblically wrong. As Christians we are taught to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The institution of marriage is a tradition that is centuries old, and it has always been between one man and one woman. Why change it now? Marriage equality? What's next, marriage equality for polygamists? Please forgive our being blunt, but our feelings on this subject are very strong. We believe that there are already adequate protections in place for same-sex unions, both in Hawaii and in the federal government. Do you want our children to be taught that same-sex unions are a normal and acceptable part of life? It now being done in other states that have passed this so-called "Marriage Equality" law, or some version of it.

Aside from the biblical argument, same sex "sex" is just physically unnatural. Whether you believe in creation or evolution, mens & womens bodies are physically built to come together, not men & men, not women & women.

In 1998, the people voted to ban same sex marriage, and though I was not yet a citizen of this state (I was on active duty in the Navy stationed here) I whole-heartly agreed with the ban. We believe the people of Hawaii still very much support the ban, and do not personally know anyone who is for its repeal or change.

We don't believe the changes in this proposed law has been anywhere near adequately discussed, not by the legislature, nor by the citizens of Hawaii. I urge you to vote No, so the state can get adequate public discussion and opinion on the subject.

My family & I appreciate the work you do for Hawaii. We know that your committee has our best interests in mind, and we strongly urge you to vote No on this bill.

Very Respectfully,

Kevin & Michele Pope

95-716 Kelewaa St

Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Alison Rowland-Ciszek](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:16:02 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.

I support marriage rights for all adults. I see no reason for any grown persons to be prohibited from marrying the person they love. Those opposed to equal rights in marriage for all Americans have made no logical, compelling argument to support their views.

Has anyone been able to make an argument against same-sex marriage that is not faith-based? "Because I think my religion says it's wrong" is not a valid legal argument against ANYTHING. We have a separation of church and state in this country, and for good reason. You, the lawmakers of Hawai'i need to stand up for the civil rights of the people of Hawai'i—all of them.

I'd like to point out that this same lobbying group were the ones who pushed for a ballot measure that put the decision in the hands of the legislature. Why do they now wish to go back on that decision?

With Aloha to all, I say that Hawaii should have been at the forefront of the civil and human rights wave that some states have already ridden. I'm deeply disappointed that we were not the first, but now is a good time to jump in! I will be proud of Hawai'i when we reverse the mistake of 16 years ago and all adults in Hawai'i may 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.

Alison Rowland-Ciszek
524 Auwina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [Michael O'Shaughnessy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Michael O'Shaughnessy](#); [Kanai](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Against Same Sex Marriage Law
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:04:46 AM

Dear Mr. Governor and Legislature,

I'm a senior citizen who is heart-broken over this issue. My heart breaks for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Same Sex Marriage is not a marriage blessed by God, it is a life-style birth out of sinful desires. God will not allow any nation to continue on this destructive path very long.

Governor Abercrombie and Legislature, remember this, one day you will stand before God and give an answer to your stance on this very important issue. I pray to God He will find you not guilty! I urge you very strongly to say "No" to Same Sex Marriage and let the people of Hawaii decide and vote on this.

Mahalo

Sina Owens

From: [Jesse Arthur](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:04:18 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.

Jesse Arthur
11-3192 palainui st.
Mt. View, HI 96720

From: [Sharon Toyomura](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:01:59 AM

98-458 Hoomailani St.
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 456-8198

October 27, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Same-sex marriage will produce marriage inequality rather than marriage equality. As currently defined, all citizens may marry a member of the opposite sex regardless of race, age, economic status, religion or gender preference. No one is left out. However, as soon as same-sex proponents are allowed to redefine marriage to allow themselves to gain the legal status of marriage with all of its benefits, other minority groups, such as polygamists, will want the right to marry as well. Indeed, it is already happening.

Ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Certainly this means the majority of people, not one vocal and politically powerful interest group. Marriage has benefits, but it also has responsibilities. Perhaps the most important function of marriage is to produce and raise children, and to teach them what it means to be a man or a woman. A father cannot fulfill the role of a mother, nor can a mother fulfill the role of a father. All children have a biological mother and father. They have a desire to know their parents. To know one's parents and to be loved and raised by them is the best possible outcome.

Same-sex marriage will have a detrimental effect on our children and our society in general. Please do not attempt to redefine marriage. Leave this decision to the citizens of this state if not the country as a whole. It is going to impact everyone in myriad ways, so let everyone have a say.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Toyomura

From: [Kapahu Kaulahao](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:59:32 AM

Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the adverse impact of unintended consequences it would have on the families and societal order of Hawaii. The same rationale, "equality," could be applied to any other abnormal sexual unions, even criminal ones, as legal "marriage."

Secondly, the 1998 constitutional amendment vote precludes the legislature from redefining marriage. The language of the amendment specifically constrains the legislature to hold that marriage in Hawaii is only legal between opposite sex couples. To redefine it as anything else would be a violation of the state constitution. To legalize "same-sex marriage" would be an illegal act.

Sincerely,
Kapahu Kaulahao

From: [Jeffrey Hong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 - Provides for Immigration Fairness - Strong Support
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:43:14 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 strongly support SB 1. It allows Hawaii citizens access to immigration benefits that would otherwise force unnecessary burden on our citizens as they seek relief in other jurisdictions.

In my case, I met my partner Jason Alcock in November 2002 while on vacation in Sydney. We met through mutual friends at a party thrown to welcome the out-of-town visitors. Our relationship blossomed, I was lucky that as a technology employee I had flexibility to work remotely and build a long distance relationship. After two extended passports, packed with 11 years of stamps, Jason is currently living in Hawaii as the Director of the Louis Vuitton Store at Ala Moana.

We had signed up as reciprocal beneficiaries and augmented it by completing our estate planning. We did not take advantage of entering into a Civil Union as it lacked a critical legal component; the ability for me to bring Jason into the US as my spouse.

Jason's employer has sponsored his US work visa. If anything happened with his employment he would need to return to Australia. We had to create "Plan B" for leaving Hawaii in case he could not stay permanently. I am in the process of obtaining permanent residency in Australia. Australia will grant me this immigration status based on our de facto marriage.

The recent DOMA decision eliminates the need for "Plan B". Jason and I will marry in the US soon. As part of a family spanning five generations in Hawaii I would love to have our wedding here. Marriage will allow us to ensure that Jason can choose to remain in Hawaii regardless of his employment status.

The tragedy of failing to pass this legislation is that we will be forced to fly to California to seek legal refuge for benefits our home State of Hawaii is denying,

Why should the State of Hawaii place this additional burden on members of our island community?

Please vote to make Hawaii a welcoming place for all of our citizens.

Mahalo

Jeff Hong
Chief Technology Officer
Techmana LLC

Jeffrey Hong
700 Richards

Honolulu, HI 96813

From: spiritwarrior@hawaii.rr.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Bill #SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:41:43 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB1

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Gail Sumner. I will not be present to testify in person.

I would like to offer my opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

These are some of the reasons I say NO to same sex marriage.

1. I believe a family needs a father and mother role model for the children. Fathers have distinct male attributes like being a leader and provider that boys and girls need and mothers have unique qualities like sensitivity, compassion that both male and female child need to be well balanced in life.

2. Homosexuality is unnatural for procreation. What will happen to mankind if majority of the population decided to marry the same sex?

3. Marriage between one man and one woman is a moral issue. Marriage between one man and one woman sets boundaries that protect each person in the family. It establishes sexual guardrails which are a requirement for successful societies. A man and wife committed for a lifetime was the perfect plan from the beginning of time. Children were to be loved and protected.

Sex was God's idea for consummating a marriage and joining a man to a wife as one. Incest, rape, sex with animals or sex with the same gender were taboo. Why? Because it was perversion and destructive. Societies are weakened without moral standards.

4. Traditional marriage, a union between one man and one woman is the cornerstone of society. Family is the fundamental building block of all human Civilizations. For thousands of years traditional marriage has proved to keep civilization healthy and alive. There is no public need for same-sex families.

Same sex marriage meets a personal desire of a few adults, not society as a whole.

The gay agenda will force acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone.

5. Redefining marriage will violate parent's rights to teach their children that a man and a woman are different and both are necessary for marriage and

for children. Based on recent events, state law and public school education will accuse traditional marriage as old fashion and narrow minded.

6. Redefining marriage in law means that religious freedoms are threatened because the state must promote and uphold the new definition of marriage.

Parents will lose the right to disagree from gay material taught at school or activities that conflict with their belief and values.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. In closing, I oppose gay marriage because homosexuality is a sin. Sin will corrupt and result in sorrow and confusion. Jesus came to give life and life abundantly. It will be foolish to redefine marriage. It is wise to protect traditional marriage. Please oppose Bill #SB1.

Gail Sumner
94-804 Lumi Pl

Waipahu, Hi. 96797

From: [Rob and Suzi Daley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:41:02 AM

Dear Governor Abercrombie,

As a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the State of Hawaii, I am requesting that you cancel the scheduled Special Session that you have recently called.

You do not have legislative approval to convene this meeting, and have not yet been able to establish yourself as a dictator.

As far as I know, this is still a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

This same-sex issue is not new, nor is it imperative to spend this type of money and energy, to push a 'special interest' notion, that has already been voted on, onto the majority of the people that have already said NO!, we do not want this.

The declaration that this legislation will have no effect on clergy and churches is an outright lie, and you already know this. If you and your colleagues are so sure that this is what the people want, then put it to a vote.

But you already know that it would fail, isn't that right? And that is the reason for all of this maneuvering, to actually by-pass the people.

The regular Legislative Session is due to convene in two months – wait until then to present this cloaked foist.

None of the other 34 states that do not have this kind of legislation are rushing to the rail to push this kind of issue.

Due yourself, and your colleagues a big favor, CANCEL the session!

Respectfully,
Robert E. Daley

From: [Robbin Elaine](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: EQUAL RIGHTS for marriage- Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:35:34 AM

Dear Public Servants,

This email communication is to ask you to stand for equal rights that are inalienable for each individual and included in the principle of Freedom.

I stand on written testimony in **STRONG** support of Senate Bill 1.

Warm Regards,
Robbin Elaine

From: [Pamela Lichty](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:33:15 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:

As a woman who's been married for 43 years to the same man, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. It's only right that our gay and lesbian friends in committed relationships have the same right to marry that we heterosexuals have. It's the right thing to do!

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 on this civil rights measure.

Pamela Lichty
4340 Pahoia Ave.
#20c
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Justin Mamuad](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special session on same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:30:27 AM

Justin No'eau Ka'upu Mamuad
PO BOX 62
Kualapu'u, HI 96757
[808-567-6221](tel:808-567-6221)
justin2091@gmail.com

Aloha. As a concerned native of the State of Hawai'i, I ask that you vote NO on SB1. The effects it will have on the state and mostly on our children will be "in the words of my kupuna' "not good." Moving from years and years of traditional marriage to a marriage that is unconstitutional, and unfitting in the eyes of God will be a disgrace not to only the people of hawaii, but to the nations around the world that sees Hawai'i or America in general to be a powerful nation of law-abiding and God-fearing citizens. If we are a nation and a people that says in "God we Trust", then we MUST abide by the laws of the God we trust in. God being against any type of homosexuality, In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.** I believe we should all share the same attributes as God has being the one that we trust in. Vote No for SB1. God Bless You,

Mahalo and Aloha,
Justin

From: jt@lwhilo.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I oppose SB!
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:30:25 AM

Please do not pass this bill. It is like opening Pandora's Box.

If you must pass this bill with all of its flaws, please consider adding the same 1st Amendment rights protections as the other states who have SSM laws.

i.e. Washington State:

ESSB 6239: CONCERNING CIVIL MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

*Prime Sponsor: Senator Murray (SHB 2516 Representative Pedersen) *Signed by the Governor*

- Marriage is a civil contract between two persons who are at least 18 years old and who are otherwise capable.
- **No regularly licensed or ordained minister or any priest, imam, rabbi, or similar official of any religious organization is required to solemnize or recognize any marriage.**
- **A religious organization must be immune from any civil claim or cause of action, including a claim pursuant to RCW 49.60, based on its refusal to provide accommodations, facilities, advantages, privileges, services, or goods related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage.**
- Any state registered domestic partnership in which the parties are the same sex, where neither party is at least 62 years old, and that has not been dissolved or converted into a marriage by the parties by June 30, 2014, is automatically merged into a marriage as of June 30, 2014.
- The Secretary of State must send a letter to the mailing address on file of each same-sex state registered domestic partner notifying the person that the laws relating to state registered domestic partners will change in relation to certain same-sex registered domestic partners.

What's in the SB1 will not protect others rights.

Aloha,
John Trusdell
89 Maikai St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: [CAROL K NAKATA](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In OPPOSITION TO SB-1 on Same Sex Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:30:20 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

BY: Darrel M. Sakamoto P. O. Box 1161/ 99-129 Uahi Street Aiea, Hi 96701

Dear Dear Honorable Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on
Judiciary and Labor:

This issue of same sex marriage is a recurrent one, which wastes taxpayer money by being debated repeatedly. Other important issues must also be addressed with our limited funds. Since marriage is an issue of great importance to Hawaii's people, WE should settle this issue once and for all with OUR votes, not yours. In fact, we already voted in 1998. The Legislators defy and disrespect us by trying to push this legislation through in a Special Session. Let US decide in true democratic fashion.

Also, I hope that legislators realize that by voting for this bill, they are automatically voting against traditional marriage, which most of us prefer and already voted for.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.
Darrel M. Sakamoto

From: [Joanne Silva](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: On Same Sex Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:22:30 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature:

I believe that this issue is far too important and needs more time for discussion than is being provided in this Special Session. The passing of this bill has the capacity to impact the foundation of our society and therefore warrants our undivided attention.

I therefore ask you to abstain from voting on the Marriage Equity Bill and to revisit the issue during regular session which will convene in a few short months beginning January of 2014.

Respectfully submitted by
Joanne L. Silva
35 Kapiolani St. #19
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
gardeniazito@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [June Donaghy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:59:56 AM

This is the testimony sent to Senator Lee and House Members Rhoads and Luke

TESTIMONY

Please vote NO on this same-sex marriage legislation relating to Equality.

Marriage is a covenant given to a man and woman by God. It is not a civil or equal right.

He made man and woman to come together and join as one flesh. This is not possible

with two members of the same sex. It is gift given by our creator not an equal right under a man made law.

Our rights are given to us by the God of the Universe.

May He give you His wisdom to make this decision wisely.

Our best wishes in your consideration of in this matter,

Joe & June Donaghy
1995 Paulele Place
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. 96753

From: [Debra Medeiros](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 testimony.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:20:19 AM

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor

SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013

TIME: 10:30A.M.

My written testimony is **opposing** the SB 1 Bill (a.k.a. the gay marriage bill). I will not be testifying in person.

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill SB 1. Our legislators should let the people of this State decide via a vote in 2014, just like we did in 1998.

The reason I oppose this bill is that the LGBT community say they want equal rights under the tax laws. Therefore they should be taking their fight to the US Senate and House of Representatives, and lobby to have the Federal Tax Code changed so that the IRS will recognize civil unions and allow those couples to file jointly on their Federal Tax Returns. Then they can receive the same tax benefits that heterosexual couples receive. If the tax codes change, there is no reason for "marriage", since by their own admission, the reason they want marriage is to enjoy the same economic benefits that heterosexual couples receive; to be treated equally. Their efforts to change the marriage laws in 50 States creates contention, discord and divided communities.

Since our governor is so sympathetic to the economic situation of the Gay and Lesbian community, he should write and submit a bill to our representatives in Washington, D.C. on their behalf, to change the Tax Code so that Civil Union and domestic partnerships can file jointly on their Federal Tax Return.

They were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional "right to marry", they clamor for the "right" to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will not stop, but will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will move to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum like they have in the California, where it is illegal in your own home to teach your own children only about heterosexual lifestyles even if your religion does not believe in same sex partnerships. They will be demanding for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education. Research of the states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. In addition, many teachers are trying to be "politically correct" to the point of allowing posters reflecting the homosexual lifestyle while prohibiting posters of heterosexual lifestyles. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for the children of Hawaii, your children, your nieces and nephews, and grandchildren?

I find it outrageous that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according

to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators.

This bill would affect **ALL** the people of Hawaii. Why are we catering to a small group of people. They ARE NOT being discriminated against. They hold jobs, eat at restaurants, shop where ever they want, go to the movies, travel, rent and buy houses, go to the church of their choice, choose whatever medical they want, etc. Since there is no constitutional right to marry, there is no discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples were being discriminated against by the **Federal government**. The lesbian and gay community need to stop fighting for marriage in the States. They need to take their fight to the Federal government via the U.S. Congress; get the Federal Tax Codes changed to recognize civil unions. Stop dividing communities.

In 1998, the people decided. If that constitutional amendment gave the Legislature the right to “**redefine marriage**” as necessary, then the amendment on the ballot must have purposely been written to mislead the people.

Let the people decide if the legislature has the right to redefine marriage. Take this issue to the polls again. This time be very clear and offer two options:

- 1: ***“the legislature again defines that marriage is between one man and one woman who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood. This definition may not be changed except through constitutional amendment.”***
- 2: ***“the legislature redefines marriage as being between two individuals of the opposite sex OR of the same sex, who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood.”***

Saying they should be able to marry whom they love, they are really saying that they want society to validate and affirm their lifestyle and choice of sexual partner.

To elevate civil unions to the status of Sacramental Marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race.

To pass a gay marriage bill without putting it to a vote by the people is underhanded. Let the people decide; put it on the ballot in 2014.

Sincerely,

Debra Medeiros

From: a.gobelin@web.de
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay Marriage Hawaii
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:02:47 AM

aloha,

we did our Gay Marriage in Germany 2001.

We were very proud to be one of the first couples on August 1st in Germany.

because we travel a lot to Hawai'i and because we love the Hawaiian culture so much,

we would love to be proud witnesses when gay people get the right to marry -

because love don't have a gender - it is about equality - and that for us is the true message of Aloha!

we are supporting all our GLBT friends in Hawai'i !!!

malama pono!

Angela Gobelin & Verena Lappe
Hamburg, Germany

From: [Clifford Chang](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:19:26 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.

As a heterosexual my "right" to marry in the state of Hawaii is unquestioned. Such is still not the case for my gay sister or multitude of gay friends. But it absolutely should be their right as much as it is mine.. Their sexual orientation has no relevance to the state with regards to their choice to make a marriage commitment to the person they love.

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 couples, straight or gay.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
Clifford Chang

Clifford Chang
4924 Waa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: [Kimberly Anne Redding](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:07:58 AM

I stand on written testimony in **STRONG** support of Senate Bill 1.

Please excuse any typos. Sent from my Galaxy S®III

From: [Jan Depwe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:42:01 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.

Jan Depwe
PO BOX 433
Hilo, HI 96721

From: [H.Ho](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony against Special Session SB1 - 10-28-13 before Sen Comm on JUD and LABOR
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:06:28 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

1. We do not need a special session of 1 week to decide a controversial issue. Both sides need more time that is provided in regular session to fully debate the issue. Do not disregard the democratic process and checks and balances by having this special session.
2. Rushing this issue will open a Pandora's Box of seen and unforeseen problems. The ramifications of this legislation is not to be taken lightly. You, as legislatures have a duty to represent the people of the State of Hawaii, not just a special interest group.
3. The bill is written poorly and there are too many problems with it to be addressed in the limited time. Why are we rushing this issue? The U.S. Supreme Court case still allows States to decide on the same sex marriage issue. There is no Federal mandate to legalize same sex marriage. Please read the case for yourself.
4. Homosexuals should not have more rights than I have. Passing this legislation will open the door for this to happen. There are already court cases in other jurisdictions where one person's First Amendment right of Freedom of Religion is trumped by a homosexuals right to disagree with what that person believes in. Eg:
<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/09/03/todd-american-dispatch-christian-bakery-closes-after-lgbt-threats-protests/>. Some people are getting too militant in their beliefs.

I heard the testimony for and against same sex marriage years ago when it was first introduced to Hawaii. The majority of the people wanted marriage to be between a man and a woman. The reciprocal benefits was drafted to address the needs of the homosexuals. The same sex marriage issue is not to be taken lightly. The decisions you make on this issue will affect not only the future of Hawaii but of the United States.

I have met people who have told me that they were hurt so much in a relationship that they decided to become homosexual. I have also met people who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and no longer have homosexual desires. There may even be a familiar demonic spirit of homosexuality that has gone through a family tree due to a sin a person's ancestor had done. Jesus is the only way to be healed of this; by His love, shown by His dying on the cross for everyone in the whole world

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

It's not an easy decision you have to make so don't rush into it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify via this written testimony.

From: [Pat Price](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:59:34 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.

Pat Price
Pprice519@yahoo.com
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: [Mikaela Tauiliili](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:53:36 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Mikaela Tauiliili and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Mikaela Tauiliili

From: [Laura Manis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:53:24 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.

Laura Manis
1350 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: [Mike and Linda Lee](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to Bill S B no. 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:47:11 AM

Aloha,

I oppose marriage between the same sex, civil unions and equality for marriage rights to the same sex.

"Ua Mau Ke Ea O ka aina I ka Pono"

Our State Motto declares, "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness"!

This Motto of our State of Hawaii spoken by Queen Ke'opuolani in 1825 when she was baptized into the Christian faith. King Kamehameha III whom held the position of authority over the Kingdom of Hawaii from 1825 til he died in 1854. Since May 1, 1959 to present this has been our State Motto. This was the character of our aina. The character and principle of this motto has not been honored and has diminished the value of who we are as people of this land that gives us life to live in righteousness. Righteousness is the state of moral perfection required by God to enter heaven.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." Romans 3:20

Let the people decide on Marriage! Marriage is sacred between 1 man and 1 women. Let us honor righteous living in our land.

2 Chron. 7:14 says; If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Mahalo, To God Be All The Glory and Honor!
Linda Lee
Hawaii

From: [Ione Nobriga](#)
To: [Rep. Kyle Yamashita](#); [Sen. J. Kalani English](#); [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1- Same Sex Marriage Proposal
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:39:39 AM

Dear Representative Yamashita, Senator English, and the Committee on Judiciary & Labor,

You are meeting this coming Monday, Oct. 28, 2013 in a special session to discuss many issues, including that of Same Sex Marriage SB1 at a hearing at 10:30am (State Capitol Auditorium). I will not be able to attend, therefore I am writing on behalf of my husband and I, of our OPPOSITION to any legislation that permits same sex marriage in our State.

As our representatives, it is only proper to let you know that we believe marriage to be as God intended it, a union between a man and a woman. Marriage is sanctified in the church, a holy sacrament, and it should not be treated any less than that. This Bill, and the several before it, would have marriage defined as no more than a legal contract between two people. Apparently, a "civil union" is not enough, as proponents want to redefine marriage altogether. It is a misstatement to call this an issue of equality, since same sex unions are preferences and behavior, not a state of being (such as race or gender). If this bill passes, would there be "equality" for clergy to decline performing a marriage ceremony for same sex couples, or would you force the issue with the church, or violate the rights of others who choose to honor traditional marriage.

This has been a divisive issue for too long, and in our beloved Hawai'i, we have spoken time and again for keeping marriage as a holy union between one man and one woman, even amending the State Constitution to say so. And yet, here we are again, in a costly "special session" to debate this yet again! Please, enough already!

We are called to "Love The Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
(Mathew 22:37) Let us honor Ke Akua by being pono, and keeping marriage sanctified! Please vote NO to same sex marriage!

Aloha Ke Akua,
Ione & David Nobriga
Kula, Maui

From: [Luke adolfson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: My heart is troubled.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:39:27 AM

I'm deeply concerned. My name is Luke Adolfson. I am a head coach at Lahainaluna High School of Lahaina, Maui. I have been highly involved with children's lives through coaching and a non-profit organization aimed at radically impacting highschool kids for their personal well-being. Including counselling, creating work ethic, and alternative activities to keep them out of trouble. I beseech you, highschoolers are highly confused and troubled as it is. The aftermath of this bill could devastate our future generations. Implementing homosexuality in school curriculum and teaching that heterosexuality and homosexuality are the same is going to create a confused, disease stricken society. Look at the facts:

1. Despite the fact that the heterosexual community is at least 20 times larger in numbers than the gay community, in 2011, Singapore's health ministry reveals that the number of homosexual and bisexual men diagnosed with HIV, overtakes that of heterosexual men. (Source: http://www.nuh.com.sg/news/media-articles_2319.html)
2. A research that focused on countries with long history of gay marriage i.e. Denmark and Norway, showed that married gays and lesbians have a shorter lifespan than their conventionally married counterparts – by 24 years! (Source: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive//ldn/2007/apr/07040309>) Further comment: Studies have shown that years of smoking shortens the lifespan of the smoker from 1 to 7 years. What justification is there for condemning smoking and endorsing homosexuality?
3. A study on childhood and adolescent molestation also found rates of homosexual sexual abuse reported by homosexual adults to be almost 7 times higher for homosexual men, and 22 times higher for homosexual women, compared to their heterosexual counterparts. This strongly suggests that minors can be sexualised towards homosexuality upon exposure to homosexual stimulus or homosexual abuse. (Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11501300>) Further comment: Statistics like this affirmatively calls for the law to protect our minors from homosexual stimulus or abuse. This strongly supports the cause for the law to continue to draw a distinction between heterosexual sex and homosexual sex.
4. Latest research shows that children raised by homosexual parents experience more problems than children raised by married heterosexual parents.
5. In his book, Born Gay? Dr John Tay, clinical geneticist and former Head of the Division of Human Genetics in NUS, talks about the contrast in opinion between public and the scientific community, on whether gays are born this way. He noted how public's popular belief stems from the media play up of early scientific studies in the 1990s on brain structures, twin studies and the Xq28 gene. These studies have in fact been heavily criticized by fellow professionals to be flawed and biased. It must be noted too that other than the media headlines, the very same researchers of these studies have themselves confessed that they have not found anything genetic that is deterministic of the homosexual orientation. Dr John gave insight to the question of whether gays are born that way and they cannot change by explaining what genes really do to us: "The effects of genes on behaviour are very indirect because genes make proteins, not preferences. The scientific truth is that our genes do not force us into anything. Genes are responsible for an indirect influence, but on average, they do not force people into homosexuality. The startling conclusion is that genetic factors are much less important than environmental ones in the causation of homosexuals. On this basis, the claim by homosexuals that 'I am born that way, so I cannot change' is simply not true."6. Homosexual sex is often

associated with dangerous behaviour, which includes the use of illegal and deadly drugs. Businesses facilitating gays to meet up in groups for sex and orgies with strangers sprout illegally, functioning as spas and clubs. Such dangerous behaviour probably explains my point 1, and more alarmingly, it has been reported that minors, as young as age 15, 16, are getting increasingly involved – experimenting with gay sex. These are most troubling trends. Homosexual feelings can be fluid especially at young age but a minor would likely be imprinted with gender identity struggles leading to a homosexual orientation once he experiments with homosexual sex. While we understand individuals have preferences and it is also their private choice what they would do as adults with regards to their sexual behaviour, we must not overlook the rights of the rest of the public, especially our children.

(Source: <http://news.asiaone.com/News/The+New+Paper/Story/A1Story20091108-178561.html>; <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/drug-use-seven-times-higher-among-gays-8165971.html#>)

7. Finally, the hard truth is, homosexuality cannot lay claim to its biological purpose, i.e. procreation, the way heterosexuality can. It's biological origin and hence, rights, is also unproven (point 5). In this, heterosexuality has a legitimacy which homosexuality cannot lay claim to, and the law is obliged to distinguish this fundamental difference. Otherwise, the unproven rights of a group will be pushed at the expense of proven rights of the other group. This includes the rights of our children, which will be compromised.

The other point I want to make is the effect on religion in Hawai'i. Religions are responsible for benefiting the majority of society. Look at colleges, universitys, hospitals, rehab programs, Lahainaluna Highschool, emergency outreach teams, and much more. Most were founded by religious groups. Religious groups give back to the community more than any other affiliations. They give people hope, peace, comfort, and most importantly they love people. And your trying to thank them by instituting laws that require them to marry homosexuals in their temple or building? In their eyes, including Buddhists and Christians, performing a marriage ceremony between homosexuals is an abomination to their beliefs according to both the Bible and the Dalai lama.

To support the act of homosexuality would be like supporting someone in committing suicide. Homosexual habits lead to a disease stricken, slow death. It's a sad lifestyle.

Thank you very much for your time!

-Luke Adolfson

From: [Stuart Wolthuis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality - Written Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:25:58 AM

Aloha,

Please include this written testimony on the JDL minutes:

I am OPPOSED to the Bill on Marriage Equality. I have read the entire proposed bill on Marriage Equality and the accompanying accommodation definitions. I am a registered Hawaii State voter.

If people would like to enter relationships that are other than traditional marriage I firmly believe that is their right and freedom to choose, I would never want to limit someone's freedom to choose ... but I do emphatically recommend that choosing a relationship other than a traditional marriage should not be called a "marriage." Call it a civil union or some other name, but the definition of marriage was defined by God and should not be changed.

My beliefs are deeply rooted in my Christian faith. I truly and deeply "love my neighbor." At the same time I'm deeply concerned about the redefinition of marriage going on all over the world. **I believe marriage should be between a man and woman.**

As an ordained minister I'm also concerned about the language in the Governor's version of the bill which does not adequately protect religious institutions. The Governor appears "hell-bent" to get in to God's business and steal His wallet by removing tax-exempt status.

Furthermore, this special session DOES NOT allow due process for all Hawaii voters to voice their concerns and opinions. Legislation this important should be considered in a full and regular session of the legislature.

Legislators: I sincerely ask that you reject the bill on Marriage Equality based on:

1. Marriage should not be redefined,
2. Haste makes waste, this matter needs to be considered in a full legislative session; legislation hastily written and hastily passed will incur enormous litigation costs in the future,
3. Language in the current bill does not protect OUR 1st Amendment right of religious freedom

Thank you for your time and your kokua.

Mahalo,

Stuart Wolthuis

PS - I will try and come to the Capitol to give this testimony in person and reserve the right to do so.

From: [Christian Tekurio](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:11:23 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Christian and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,
Christian Tekurio

From: [Sean Mackintosh](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:58:07 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sean Mackintosh
55-615 kamehameha hwy
Laie, HI 96762

From: [M Kimberly Lowe](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:40:44 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

M Kimberly Lowe
Ala Nanala Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Elijah Yip](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:37:01 AM

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB1. I urge you to vote no on the bill.

The problem with framing same-sex marriage in terms of equality is that it treats every individual choice as having intrinsic and ultimate value. While it is important that individual choice be respected, it is not true that respecting a person's choice is more important than anything else. Individual preferences sometimes conflict with the well-being of a community. And when they do, such preferences should yield to the good of the community. In the case of SB1, defining marriage based purely on what seems right to an individual would threaten the very integrity of marriage as an institution, which is dangerous because marriage is critical to a community's well-being.

If the legislature accepts the premise that individual choice should control how marriage is defined, that leaves no logical justification for the State to prohibit other types of unions that are currently illegal (such as incest and polygamy), and that SB1 recognizes should remain illegal. Taking the premise to its logical end, the State has no reason to prevent the marriage of a sister to her brother, or a father to his daughter, or of any combination of more than two individuals. So long as the individuals in these kinds of relationships are consenting adults who love each other, so the argument goes, why should they be treated differently than couples who may marry? Under this line of reasoning, it would be discriminatory for the State to forbid marriages that are incestuous or polygamous. In short, the rationale behind SB1 – that individual choice and equality are of absolute importance – paves the way for the definition of marriage to be further altered to the point that the institution of marriage becomes utterly unrecognizable. That would be disastrous, since monogamous marital relationships are the building blocks of a healthy society.

This possibility is not as remote as one might think. Just today, CNN published an article on its website entitled “Polyamory: When three isn’t a crowd.” (http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/26/living/relationships-polyamory/index.html?hpt=hp_c3). The article talks about individuals who embrace the lifestyle of polyamory, which they define as having simultaneous close emotional relationships with two or more other individuals. One of the proponents of polyamory explained in the article: “We’re not trying to say that monogamy is bad . . . We’re trying to promote the fact that everyone has a right to develop a relationship structure that works for them.” Another supporter of polyamory was quoted as saying: “We want to promote the idea that any relationship is valid as long as it is a choice made by consenting adults[.] In this regard, and as in most things, promoting public

acceptance is the first step.” The very arguments advanced by the supporters of polyamory are the ones being cited in favor of SB1. The CNN article further reports the existence of pending lawsuits that challenge the government’s stance against polyamorous relationships.

Supporters on both sides of the issue have used emotional appeals to advance their positions. An issue with such profound implications for the community deserves to be resolved with thoughtfulness. As you study SB1, consider if you are confident that the extraordinary measure of changing a definition of marriage that has endured for centuries (if not millennia), will **not** damage the foundations of our society in the long term. And if you are confident that the answer is yes, on what data and reasoning do you base your confidence?

Please be courageous in rising above the wave of emotions surrounding the issue of same-sex marriage, and make a decision that protects the long-term good of our community. Please vote no on SB1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Elijah Yip

2334 Kapiolani Boulevard #401

Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Hyrum Lindquist](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:25:32 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Hyrum Lindquist and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Hyrum Lindquist

From: [Brian & Cheryle O](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:20:20 AM

How could a bill claim to promote marital equality, yet exclude other unions?

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

S.572-A Continuity of rights; civil union and reciprocal beneficiary relationships.

(a) Two individuals who are civil union partners or reciprocal beneficiaries with each other and who seek to marry each other shall be permitted to apply for a marriage (sp?) license under section 572-6 and to marry each other under this chapter without first terminating their civil union or reciprocal beneficiary relationship; provided that the two individuals are otherwise eligible to marry under this chapter.

S.572-1 Requisites of valid marriage- it shall be necessary that:

(1) The respective parties do not stand in relation to each other of ancestor and descendant of any degree whatsoever, [brother and sister] two siblings of the half as well as to the whole blood, uncle and niece, uncle and nephew, aunt and nephew, or aunt and niece...

(3) Neither party has at the time any lawful wife, husband, or civil union partner living, except as provided in section 572-A.

The language of Senate Bill 1 addresses only same-sex couples, excluding all other relationships currently joined in a reciprocal beneficiary or civil unions partnership. What about them? Will they continue to be “separate but equal” under the new law? And will the offspring who result from these loving relationships remain “second class citizens” while their counterparts are elevated to legitimacy? Don't all children deserve this birthright?

How is this equal? Equality and equal rights means the law must extend to everyone, not only a few. Loving relationships exist in many forms. And, like same-sex couples, many of these relationships exist outside current legal parameters. The rights and benefits of marriage must be legislated to all, whether they are eligible to enter into a civil union or as reciprocal beneficiaries. Or their marriages are not currently recognized, as in the case of bigamy or polygamy.

Therefore, if S.B.1 is to fulfill its intended purpose, to establish marriage equality in this state, it is incumbent upon legislators to remove all exclusionary language, and extend the right and benefits of marriage to all of Hawai'i's residents.

Because everyone deserves the right to marry whom they love!

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryle O'Brien
357Keolu Dr.
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 262-2445

From: [Karen Loebel](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:17:54 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 governor's bill, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of the governor's version of the marriage equity bill.

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.

Karen Loebel
1976A 9th Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Abby Wasden](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:17:01 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Abby Wasden and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

This country was built on the foundation of freedom. I want to keep this freedom for everyone. I want to be able to say now and years from now that because of my beliefs I choose not to support these actions. NOT that the government forces me to adhere and accommodate to the wishes of those I firmly disagree with or that I will be penalized for not accommodating them. Is that what the founding father had in mind when they founded this nation? I dont think they would want the government to force or penalize ANYONE because of their religious beliefs. I will say again, I STRONGLY feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Abby Wasden

From: [Jacqueline Dimaya](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:16:15 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.

Jacqueline Dimaya
94-853 Lumiiki St
Waipahu, HI 96796

From: [Tom Merrick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:16:06 AM

I am a gay man who has lived in Hawaii for 35 years now. I have been in a committed monogamous relationship with the same man (who I love dearly) for the last 12 ½ years. I deserve the right to marry, just like two adults of the opposite sex have the right. I deserve the rights that come with it and more importantly I deserve the RESPECT that comes with it. As you well know, separate is not equal. I fought for these rights back in the early 90's here and was so disappointed when outside sources came in and soiled the minds and the aloha of our citizens on this issue. We have waited so long already, please vote to give us the same rights as everyone else and allow us to finally be able to marry. This does not take anything away from those who are currently married, it only gives us the respect we deserve.

From my perspective, there are absolutely zero reasons to not pass this legislation.

1. Even though our constitution already protected religious entities from being forced to perform gay marriages if they did not want to, it is my understanding that the current bill being proposed beefs this up even more by calling it out even more specifically.
2. There should be NO doubt that gay men and women were BORN gay (other than from members of the "Flat Earth Society"). With that as a given, it is obvious that not giving us the same governmental rights as other citizens is discrimination. I think you will agree, separate is not equal, we all learned that back in the 60's I hope.
3. Gay marriage will only promote MORE people to be in committed loving relationship, which I agree is very good for society and what government should promote. A certain group of our Hawaii citizens criticize the gay community because they perceive all of us to lack morals and yet they refuse to give us the same tools the straight community has to encourage committed relationships.
4. The whole 'protect the children' thing being promoted by some activists is a bunch of hogwash. Note that Bishop Silva's quote on this had been proven FALSE on Civil Beat. I encourage you read "Community Voice: A Gay Man's Response to Bishop Silva's 'Discrimination'". I found it very enlightening.

<http://www.civilbeat.com/voices/2013/09/05/19826-community-voice-a-gay-mans-response-to-bishop-silvas-discrimination>

Again I ask you to step forward and vote to give us, gay couples, the same rights as everyone else and allow us to finally be able to marry. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Tom Merrick

Tom Merrick
1645 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 1001
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Sean Fowler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:05:19 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.

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.

Sean Fowler
95-128 kipapa dr apt 408
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Ian Stackhouse](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:03:35 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.

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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.

Ian Stackhouse
1047 Ala Napunani St Unit 104
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Gregg Johnson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:57:31 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.

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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.

Gregg Johnson
2415 Ala Wai Blvd
Apartment 1603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Yolanda Abad](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:56:56 PM

October 26, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Alan Abad
Re: In Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 a.m. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

To Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

As a very concerned citizen, I am testifying against and oppose SB 1 for the following reasons:

1. The five days allotted for this special session is too short and does not allow a reasonable period for "we the people" to exercise an "equal right" in the democratic process, to voice concerns, problems, and issues concerning a highly sensitive and controversial matter.
2. The people of Hawaii voted in 1998 and legislation was passed to define marriage as between a man and a woman; an amendment **cannot** be made to legislation.
3. The "religious exemption" entitlement is nullified by the public accommodation clause and leaves the church vulnerable to lawsuits. The First Amendment states that government may neither establish a religion nor prohibit the free exercise of religious practices. When government says "it doesn't matter what you believe or practice, you must adhere to solemnizing a same gender union (a sin) and call it marriage", it denies and prohibits Freedom of Religion as provided in the First Amendment of our U. S. Constitution.
4. I deplore and object to the forthcoming indoctrination of Homosexuality and the effects of the homosexual behavior upon our young children, families, the educational system, our parental rights, and church if, same gender marriages are legislated into law.

Please, I urge you to vote **NO** to **SB1** and allow the people of Hawaii to decide and vote on this important and far-reaching issue.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alan Abad

47-361 Mawaena St.
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

From: [Moniqueca Kaufusi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Against senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:56:54 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Nika Kaufusi and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,
Nika T Kaufusi

From: [dante rivera rivera](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:55:09 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.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

dante rivera rivera
1635 merkle st
honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Ted Lubong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Sen. Donna Mercado Kim](#)
Subject: SB1 Oppose
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:54:30 PM

Aloha Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I thank you for representing the will of the people on this issue concerning Marriage. I urge you to do what is right by Letting the People of Hawaii Decide concerning this highly divisive issue.

We want to preserve the natural and spiritual laws of the traditional marriage Between one man and one woman for generation to generation.

May the life of our land be perpetuated in Righteousness

Ted and Donna Lubong
Representing 7 household voters
Sent from my iPad

From: [Suva Tapusoa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Against Senate Bill One
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:53:13 PM

My name is Suva Tapusoa and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Suva Tapusoa

From: [Jonathan Palisoc](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:51:19 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.

Jonathan Palisoc
1448A Koahehe ST
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Romae Millar](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:49:54 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.

Romae Millar
98-487 Koauka Loop B1502
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Theresa Shelby](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1_ Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:48:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Opposition of SB1

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

1. The issue of same sex marriage is too important and complex to relegate to a special session. Only 2 public hearings are scheduled as compared to the usual 5 in regular session. The democratic process is being circumvented.
2. Special sessions are held for emergency situations/events: 9/11, Superferry or to correct technical flaws in our laws.
3. Civil unions already protect same gender couples. Hawaii is not in violation of SCOTUS (Supreme Court to the US) which stated that SSM is not a fundamental right. The recent determination in the Supreme court just states that the federal government will not negate state law regarding SSM- it did not determine that SSM is right (or wrong).
4. Please stop the special session and let the people vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Theresa Shelby - Honolulu, HI

From: [N2 Dance](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)
Subject: Against SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:47:42 PM

October 28, 2013, 10:30a Hearing
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.

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all 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 our children should be taught 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.

Rushing into this special session, I felt was very **unfair to those of us against same-sex marriage** because we did not see it coming and we have been scrambling (in such a short period of time) to educate all of our friends and family so they will participate in the issue at hand. The opposition on the other hand has been preparing for months. There was already a petition started back in July by those who are for the Bill. FYI, I also started a petition on Sunday, Oct 20, in the evening and just with in 5 days now have over 3,000 signatures- and this is almost equal to the amount on the other sides petition. If we had 3 1/2 months to prepare we would likely have at least 10 times what they have. Everybody knows- from back in 1998 how many people in Hawai'i oppose same sex marriage.

In addition, with this being such a controversial issue, probably one of the most controversial issues of all time, **I am very upset that people on outer islands do not have the chance to testify in person** as we would have had this Bill taken care of during regular session.

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

Sincerely,
Angela Woods
RR 3 Box 1216
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Wivina Ibay](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:44:46 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.

Wivina Ibay
1425 Kaumualii St. D228
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Maika Woods](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strongly Oppose the proposed Hawaii marriage equality act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:44:38 PM

October 27, 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

My name is Maika Woods and I am a leader in the community and in the church and I strongly oppose the Hawaii marriage equality act of 2013. I am also a business owner of 2 successful companies on the Big Island of Hawaii.

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,
Maika Woods
RR 3 #1216
paho, hi 96778
Sent from my iPad

From: [Sherie Yamada](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:43:12 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.

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.

Sherie Yamada
1036 Leomele Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [bajjnauth singh](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:38:50 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.

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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.

bajjnauth singh
1911 kalakaua ave. #305
honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Sabrina Pedro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony Opposing Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:27:11 PM

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor

SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013

TIME: 10:30A.M.

Written testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill. I will not be testifying in person.

As a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, I find it outrageous and offensive that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators. They are not residents here, what concern is it of theirs whether Hawaii allows "same sex marriages"?

This bill is offensive to me and it will affect ALL the people of Hawaii. The gay and lesbian community has stated that they wish to marry in order to receive same "tax benefits" as heterosexual couples. If this is what they want, they should petition the The U.S. Congress to change the Federal Tax Codes to recognize civil unions. This will allow them to receives the same "Tax Benefits" they are seeking. I feel they are not being discriminated against because there is no constitutional right to marry.

They were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional "right to marry", they clamor for the "right" to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will not stop with what they are given each time they are granted something new. They will strive for more, the community will give them an inch and they will TAKE a mile. They will continue on to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum. They'll be asking for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education text books. Research of those states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. In addition, many teachers are trying to be "politically correct" to the point of allowing posters reflecting the homosexual lifestyle while prohibiting posters of heterosexual lifestyles. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for our State? This is not what I want for my children to learn in schools.

Lastly, to elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage and to all who believe and uphold the "traditional meaning" of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race. This insults myself as well as my family as we are Christians. Should this be allowed, my family and I will be very offended as the uniqueness of marriage will deplete and there will be no more "specialness" to the term of marriage.

As someone who does not share this lifestyle, I feel as though this is reverse discrimination upon myself, my family, and all those who also do not share in this lifestyle. I strongly oppose this bill and wish to let the people vote on it in 2014.

From: [Kennan Young](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony Opposing Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:26:28 PM

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor

SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013

TIME: 10:30A.M.

Written testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill. I will not be testifying in person.

As a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, I find it outrageous and offensive that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators. They are not residents here, what concern is it of theirs whether Hawaii allows "same sex marriages"?

This bill is offensive to me and it will affect ALL the people of Hawaii. The gay and lesbian community has stated that they wish to marry in order to receive same "tax benefits" as heterosexual couples. If this is what they want, they should petition the The U.S. Congress to change the Federal Tax Codes to recognize civil unions. This will allow them to receives the same "Tax Benefits" they are seeking. I feel they are not being discriminated against because there is no constitutional right to marry.

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want for our State? This is not what I want for my children to learn in schools.

Lastly, to elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage and to all who believe and uphold the “traditional meaning” of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race. This insults myself as well as my family as we are Christians. Should this be allowed, my family and I will be very offended as the uniqueness of marriage will deplete and there will be no more “specialness” to the term of marriage.

As someone who does not share this lifestyle, I feel as though this is reverse discrimination upon myself, my family, and all those who also do not share in this lifestyle. I strongly oppose this bill and wish to let the people vote on it in 2014.

From: [Jared DeCosrta](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:25:44 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.

Jared DeCosrta
2459 Kapiolani Blvd AptE
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [jamie torres](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:23:00 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:

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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 torres
3430 kaohinani dr
honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Guillermo sancahez-diaz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:21:51 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:

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.

Guillermo sancahez-diaz
1019 maunaiha pl
honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Thomas Edwards](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:20:35 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:

My name is Thomas Edwards 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.

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.

Thomas Edwards
2415 Ala Wai Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Craig Thistleton](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:56:38 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.

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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.

Craig Thistleton
1561 Pensacola St. #2402
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Troy Miles](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I SUPPORT
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:55:29 AM

I SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE

From: [Scott MacGowan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:54:30 AM

Aloha!

The time has come to bring marriage equality to the aloha state.

Government should not be denying these individuals the rights, responsibilities and privileges afforded to heterosexual couples.

Hawaii stands to lose a great deal, socially and economically if we don't do this now!

To put it as a vote by the people would be costly and a travesty of justice. Do you think that

Sent with aloha from my iPhone.

From: [Sylvia](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSE SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:48 AM

I oppose SB-1

Mahalo,

Sylvia Hashimoto
Keaau, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sara Matsuura](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I support ALL Marriages
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:46 AM

Aloha

I strongly believe that everyone has the right to get married, regardless of sexual preference. Thank you!

Mahalo Nui Loa

Sara Matsuura

From: [Alvin Ty Law](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: For Gay Marriage in Ewa Beach
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:52:02 AM

I support gay marriage in Hawaii.

Alvin Law

From: [David Robins](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Committee on Judiciary & Labor, SB1, Oct.28,2013, 1030am
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:51:10 AM

Aloha,

It is disheartening to hear the words "Let The People Decide". A majority should never be allowed to vote on the rights of a minority.

"Let the people decide"...is something of a threat and weapon the opposition is using in an attempt to deny a whole group of Hawaii's population their civil rights. Somehow, they have justified it in their minds that's its ok to decide the rights of others and tell them who they can legally love & marry. In short, it's discrimination. I support marriage equality.

If you will indulge me, just imagine for a few minutes that your destiny was being decided by people you've never met, people who don't even know anything about you. But they're judging you. Worse yet, they're going to decide whether you can marry the person you love...someone you found in life and want that person as your mate & the person you want to marry and make a lifetime commitment to and build a life together. The perfect fit for you. And it has nothing to do with a so-called "lifestyle choice", because you've always known who you are, just like gay people know who they are and were born into this world exactly who they are. Like you, it's not a lifestyle choice. Just imagine how devastated you'd feel if you were told you couldn't marry that person. How would it make you feel? Really try to imagine that and feel what's it like to be told your love is not worthy of marriage. It doesn't count. This is exactly what gay people are feeling. Is it right? Is it fair? Of course not. In fact, this is a dark time of history in the making and you will be remembered by how you "voted" on the rights of others. Will you be on the right side if history? It really matters. This is the decision of a lifetime, because human lives are involved here. It's high stakes for gay couples. Their future hinges on it. And we find that the decision is in the hands of others. Complete strangers to us.

If there were a vote by the public, marriage equality would win. The most recent poll on Friday has 64% of Hawaii voters in support of marriage equality and 34% against. This is huge and this is progress. It should be a clear indication that society has moved forward and people do believe others should have the same rights they enjoy daily. It has nothing to do with religion. These are constitutional rights. Our Constitution states that all people are equal. Or should be. And lawmakers took an oath to be fair and uphold the Constitution...for ALL citizens, not just some of the citizens. If you don't believe in this, the real truth is that you shouldn't be a lawmaker. If you can't be fair to all people, you should not be making such important decisions. And I say that with clarity based on fact. Not to target anyone. But rather, to illuminate the importance of treating others as you would want to be treated. To not judge others and make false claims that any one group is better than the other. We are all equal. This is fact. There is no gray area here. One should have tremendous clarity about what is right...and wrong.

And now we see mainland money pouring in with insulting TV ads funded by the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), a certified hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. That this is allowed to permeate our airwaves and ridicule the very essence of Aloha and Hawaii's people. To influence any weak-minded lawmakers and invite the public into discriminating and a license to hate others. This is wrong. And I would trust you would see through this veiled attempt to distort truth and the depth they've gone to with fear-mongering and bullying. It is such a disgrace. It's incredibly offensive. And it's dishonest. In short, it is desperate and people see through it.

In conclusion, I would hope you vote for marriage equality. It is the right thing to do. My partner of 29.5 years and I have been waiting to marry for decades now. How much longer are we expected to wait? The time is now. This is it. And our lawmakers need to get it right. We all deserve to be loved and give love in return. It's really just that simple. Live is what it is all about.

Mahalo for your time and for voting for marriage equality.

David Robins

Sent from my iPhone...with Aloha!

From: [Anthony alvarado](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage equality.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:39 AM

Aloha,

Marriage equality = the right thing. Please pass this bill so that all Ohana can have equal rights.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [CPT Karen-Nicole Knapper](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I am an Active Duty Army Officer and I support Gay Marriage!
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:38 AM

My name is Captain Nicole Knapper, I am a 13 year Army Veteran, and I am a homeowner in Mililani Mauka, AND, a proud supporter of Gay Marriage.

If you need any additional information about where we stand on this issue, please let me know.

Thank you!
Nicole

"When I dare to be powerful--to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

-Audre Lorde

From: [Girem Yoo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support the gay marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:19 AM

Dear whom it may concern,

Hi. I'm strongly supporting the gay marriages because they have equal rights as a human being.

Thank you,

Girem Yoo

From: [Tom Pohaku Stone](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:04 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 and our Native Hawaiian non profit organization KANALU are 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 based on equality, Gay and lesbian individuals should have the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples.

As an elected servant of the people we are asking all of you to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tom Pohaku Stone
47-718 Ahuimanu Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: aaronescobido@yahoo.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Support the Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:47:32 AM

Hi,

My name is Aaron Escobido-Ortiz. I want to ask you to please support Marriage equality.

Allowing gay couples to Marry will help protect their relationship. In no way will it hurt or affect anyone else's relationship. Thank you for your time.

Aaron, Event Coordinator
A & B Party Rentals, LLC
2045 Lauwiliwili St. Suite 601
Kapolei, Hi 96707
Ph: 688-7707
Fax: 888-8708
anbpartyrentals.com

From: [Helen Trusdell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:39 AM

I oppose SB1 thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nue Nikora](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I oppose SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:10 AM

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

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

My name is KeAnuenue Nikora and I oppose SB 1. A few reasons why I oppose this bill are because I believe that marriage should be between one man and one woman. I also believe that the current draft as it is written is very vague. Although it clearly states who it will protect, it fails to recognize who or what it will not protect. Finally there is too much uncertainty regarding what a final draft of this bill will actually say.

Marriage must be preserved for one man and one woman. Based on the SB1 draft that I just read, on page 12 lines 15-18 it clearly states that *the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman.* Yes, the lines are crossed out but it proves that the people of Hawaii have already decided. The fact that this issue is being revisited and could possibly be over turned is very unfair and upsetting. If anything, **LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE, once again!**

There is very little clarity about who or what it will not protect. Non-clergy members of the public who are authorized by the state to solemnize marriage are NOT protected from this bill. They will be forced to perform any marriage including same gender, regardless of their personal view; essentially taking away their freedom of choice.

Also, the bill neglects to include any protection of buildings, more specifically, churches. Sure, there is protection for the solemnization of marriages on church grounds, however what protection is there for post solemnization celebrations or parties. There are none! Protection is minimal for members of any congregation that hold their place of worship sacred. With no protection in SB1 for church grounds, our freedom of religion and choice are being severely threatened. Another flaw of Senate Bill 1 is that it fails to define *membership* in regard to churches. Who decides what constitutes membership in a particular church that may be deemed exempt? These are just a few of the examples regarding the lack of protection in SB1.

Finally the fact that a final draft has not even been submitted for the public to read is very alarming! How can our legislature even consider passing a bill of this magnitude without even submitting a final draft? At this point, SB1 has too many flaws and loop holes to be considered into law. As it stands, regardless of what draft it is, passing this bill will be more detrimental to our state than benefit.

I thank you for your time and again encourage you to please vote no to SB1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013.

**Mahalo,
KeAnuenue Nikora**

From: [Ted Peck](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB-1 opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:00 AM

This bill, while well intentioned, has the result of making may faith illegal. The law is not the place for enforcing tenets if faith. It also is not the place for outlawing the practice of faith. Both of these are protected by the Constitution. This law as written will not survive a Constitutional challenge, but more immediately it rents the fabric of our community. You have heard wide and far from our community, most strongly in opposition. These people that oppose same sex marriage in our community are not bigots and haters - they are people that care about Hawaii. Please do not ignore them.

Ted Peck
371-7514

From: [Dustin-Alan Kaiahua](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:44:36 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.

I think that we deserve equal benefits, taxation, and opportunities regardless of gender.

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.

Dustin-Alan Kaiahua
620 Mccully Street Apt 507
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Aaron](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: Same Sex Issues
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:43:28 AM

I am submitting my support for equality and equal rights to love for all!

Aaron Joyce

From: [Ralph & Shirley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:42:43 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking that you allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage, by putting a vote to the public. This is such an important issue that we, as a state should seriously be given consideration. I feel SB1 would infringe on my rights as a citizen. As a teacher, I am opposed to being forced to teach details about alternate lifestyle sexual practices without any possibility of objection, for example a discussion of the risks involved. Instead, I believe that the people should be given the opportunity to give their input by voting on this issue. I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week. We need to have more discussion. I ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be discussed and examined as with all other bills. The impact of this legislation is far reaching and will affect all citizens of Hawaii. Instead of legislating what is best for us, we, the people, should decide on how to define our culture, customs, and traditions. Your "yes" vote on SB1 is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shirley Yasuhara
95-754 Maiaku Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: [Susan Okamura](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:42:14 AM

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Susan Okamura, Registered Voter

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

In OPPOSITION

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

I oppose SB 1 for the following reasons:

- 1) I believe that creating a new law requires more time than 5-7 days for discussion and public input.
- 2) As a constituent, I do not believe I am being fairly represented and I would like the opportunity as a registered voter to vote on this issue as I did in 1998.
- 3) As a parent, I am concerned that this new law will affect what my children are taught in school and that I will lose my parental rights to have any say about that.
- 4) As a citizen, I am concerned that this new law infringes on my First Amendment Rights.

While I believe we must fight against discrimination and that equality is the core of our nation's principals, we cannot put one group's rights higher than another group. This "fast-track" process does not represent the way our government is suppose to work for all of its people, especially the Neighbor Islands. No other state in our country has enacted a bill that carries monumental social consequences in such a short period of time, please give us more time to learn from other states who passed this law. Let us learn from their experiences and incorporate that into our law so that all people's rights are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Susan Okamura

From: [Lynne Beckstrom](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:42:07 AM

October 27, 2013
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Strong support for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members;

Same-gender couples are asking for marriage equality. Opponents have shown no compelling reasons for denying this basic right. Mainly they have been using scare tactics and predicting dire consequences that are unfounded. They claim that passage of this bill will jeopardize their protection under the Constitutional separation of church and state. And yet, they think they are entitled to impose their religious views on society as a whole. Please, vote to approve same-gender marriage.

Lynne Beckstrom
Marty Cofield
91-1182 Bryan Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: 888-6412
email: hantayo2002@earthlink.net

From: [Kent Manaois](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:41:36 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.

Kent Manaois
632 Pumehana Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Cheryle Reed](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:39:50 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cheryle Reed
po box 1798
wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Stevie Gurr](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill One
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:36:03 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Stevie Gurr** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Stevie Gurr

From: [Tranae Trusdell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:33:16 AM

I oppose SB1 THANK YOU

From: [Sharon Au, Principal Broker, CRB, CRS, GREEN, GRI, SRES](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: au808@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:32:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aloha Ka Kou, I am in strong support of Senate Bill #1!

Our basic Civil and Equal Rights should be upheld.

There was a time when women were not allowed to vote. Blacks and Interracial Marriages were also legally discriminated against.

Please help in making history in Hawaii by legalizing same sex marriage.

The national and global trend is for equal rights. In the land of Aloha we need to be a role model for equal rights.

Children today do not understand why other children with same sex parents cannot marry. We are all families that should be treated equally.

Thank you for your help.

Mahalo nui,



Sharon Au, Principal Broker, Co-Owner

Realtor, CRB, CRS, GRI, GREEN & SRES - Real Estate Professional for 28 yrs

3615 Harding Ave Suite 203, Honolulu, HI 96816 **(808) 733-0722**

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From: [Tranae Trusdell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:31:48 AM

I oppose SB1 thank you

From: [Pua Auyong White](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:29:03 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

Pua Auyong White
3432 Kalihi
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: [Jeremy Heyer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:28:49 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 and to express the inequality that I experience because of State of Hawaii law.

I want to marry the love of my life. The State denies me that right because my gender is the same as my partner. If I were born female, which is something out of my control, I would be able to do so and experience equality.

If you believe that being gay is a choice, please pick one day to be gay. If it's a choice, then you should try it for a day and just switch back at the end of the day.

This is discrimination was thrust upon us by the majority. They don't have the numbers that they used to. There has been a shift which is in part why you are here today.

But even with this shift Civil rights should not be put to popular vote. You have a duty in your position to protect minority rights.

The People will know what side of history you are on and so will you. When you age and you have grandchildren and great grandchildren, some of whom will be gay - it's a part of being human - you will be asked what your role was when you sat here today.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeremy Heyer
620 Mccully Street
507
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Victoria Puaoi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:28:33 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.

Victoria Puaoi
650 pumehana street
wailuku, HI 96793

From: [Alan Katz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:22:11 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.

I am a professor of public health at the University of Hawaii and an STD physician at the Hawaii State Department of Health but I do not speak for the State of Hawaii or the University. My testimony is provided in my role as a concerned private citizen.

There is not objective reason to deny same sex couples the right to marry. The opposition has provided flawed arguments in support of their perspective. One issue that has repeated been voiced is the high rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among men who have sex with men (MSM). A key reason that MSM have had higher rates of STDs is that they have been discriminated against, have been forced to maintain a closeted life style, and have been unable to legally marry and commit to one person. Providing MSM the same rights to marry as heterosexual couples would be expected to lower rates of STDs.

Of note, women who have sex with women (rather than men), have much lower rates of STDs than do heterosexual women.

Credible research has consistently shown that homosexuality is not a life style choice. Gays and lesbians have to face many challenges, obstacles, and discrimination on the basis of who they are.

I thank you in advance for doing the right thing and for this opportunity to testify.

Alan Katz
1030 Mokapu Blvd
Kailua, HI 96734

From: [wfquenth](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: BILL SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:17:06 AM

NO on Same Sex Marriage;
Let the people vote!
Protect traditional marriage and family.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: [Seven Baysa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony regarding SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:16:50 AM

My name is Min Zhang Baysa and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am not a US citizen but I am a resident in the State of Hawaii. I have learned in school both back home and here about the democratic nature of US legislature and I am shocked at how the process of Senate Bill 1 went against what the law profess to be. I strongly oppose a social issue of great significance in being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Min Zhang Baysa

From: [Diane Lee Pilla](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:16:47 AM

October 28, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality) for my lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters. If they love somebody and want to marry that person, who are we to deny them the right to marriage and all rights associated? I believe that we are changing the laws to help restore equal rights that have been long denied.

In my life, I have known same sex people in long term relationships, who were barred from obtaining family medical coverage and denied access to their loved one who was dying in the hospital. Where is the justice for these people? Why are these family units being denied rights that heterosexual couples enjoy such as Social Security survivor benefits, tax-free access for spouses to employer health plans, joint filing of income taxes, estate and gift tax exemptions, veterans and military benefits, spousal benefits for federal employees, and immigration rights?

The opponents want to "Let the People Decide". I read that a January 2013 Honolulu Civil Beat poll found that 55% of Hawaii voters were in favor of same sex marriage, while 37% were opposed. Do they know that?

There are many social ills in the world today, but marriage equality is not one of them. What we have witnessed in this debate over Marriage Equality is people's fears and narrow mindedness. If the opponents are Christian believers, I would ask them to remember the "Great Commandment."

I thank you for the privilege of expressing myself in this matter. I urge you to pass SB 1: the time for marriage equality is NOW. I stand in faith and hope in our legislative leaders to do right for all.

Diane Lee Pilla
1130 Akipohe Street, #B
Kailua, HI 96734
dmleehi@hotmail.com

From: [Jason Scott Earl](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Marriage Equity Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:14:56 AM

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

MEASURE NO. : SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

DATE: [Monday, October 28, 2013](#)

TIME: [10:30 a.m.](#)

I am grateful that our government has established this system to allow even a common person as myself to speak today.

As you know, we are here today to discuss the Marriage Equality Bill. There are within this document several lines that concern me and will directly affect my life, my children's lives, our communities and the rising generations after us.

Currently I enjoy the freedoms of worshipping God, Almighty, as I please. I have tried my best to seek peace and happiness, as best as I can, in this life. I have tried to do what I feel God would have me do and in doing so, a great sense of peace has come to my conscience knowing that I have tried very hard to do what is right. Sometimes it is hard to do what is right, even on a day like today. To do something knowing others will be upset with me and disagree and maybe even discriminate against me, for what I am to say.

I state these things because in this matter of this Marriage Equality Bill, each of us involved are asked to make decisions regarding how the rising generations will grow up and come to know the world.

Each of us, I believe, wants to feel peace to our conscience and therefore, we each need to make decisions today for what is best for our communities, societies and our great State of Hawaii and not what is best for ourselves or with a short, narrow viewed mind.

I am concerned about my religious freedoms. With this Marriage Equality Bill they are to be limited and constrained so that I am no longer allowed to believe what I may without punishment and discrimination.

As you know, the Constitutional Amendment clearly states:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech,..."

Is this not why the pilgrims from Western Europe left their homelands, so they could worship according to their own conscience and not what the government of their lands dictated?

Were not the Founding Fathers of this country so very conscientious to allow the people to worship and believe as they please?

Why is it now, that the government wants to take away these freedoms and rights so carefully preserved and set in motion?

If we want to continue to preserve our religious freedoms, that were deemed important to others, and even to people living today, like myself, then we need to protect these religious freedoms by the laws of our land for the safety and well being of all, even those, like our children, who cannot speak today.

I believe what Dr. Russell M. Nelson said earlier this month. "In our day, civil governments have a vested interest in protecting marriage (between a man and woman) because strong families constitute the best way of providing for the health, education, welfare, and prosperity of rising generations. But civil governments are heavily influenced by social trends and secular philosophies as they write, rewrite, and enforce laws." 1

I also believe what Dr. Paul Popenoe said on the matter: "strong family life is indispensable, not merely to the culture but actually the survival of any people. In the history of mankind one nation after another has followed this pattern (of degrading the family life

and substituting other patterns for it) and they have disappeared...for the well being of the community, for the very existence of the nation, one of the first questions asked about any proposed change in culture should be, 'Will it strengthen the family?' "

The established religion I am a part of, made a worldwide declaration in 1995 stating "We the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. ... We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife." 3

I believe this. This is what my "established religion" declares and believes. This Marriage Equality Bill directly "prohibits the free exercise" to follow this belief and declaration.

The temples that are a part of my organized and established religion only preform marriages between a man and a woman as husband and wife. With this bill, as stated, our church and established religion will suffer. Lawsuits will follow, we won't be able to worship and live and believe what we feel is true and what God's commandments are, without penalty, discrimination and punishment.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities. By allowing same-sex marriages into our society, this will alter our way of life too drastically. Universities with married student housing will need to recognize all married couples, however, because of our religious beliefs, that marriage is between a man and a woman. The Private University would rather shut down as a University, than allow same-sex couples to live together, because we don't feel these marriages are of God.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities because sometimes we start something, not fully understanding all of the implications that would follow in the initial process. I strongly feel this is one of those things. We do not know all the implications that will effect our communities or for the rising generations. We only know from the study of past societies that un-natural relationships, or same-sex relationships cause those societies to break down so that they no longer exist. Actually, I am sure there are some who know much more in details, what I just tried to convey, like Dr. Paul Popenoe. But that is the bottom line, something happens so that their communities don't exist any longer. The family, with a husband and wife, man and woman, is what survives.

Please protect my religious freedoms. Please act in a manner that your soul will have a peace of conscience. Please think how this will drastically change the basic building block of our societies for the past centuries. Please don't think of yourselves, but the rising generations, asking 'Will this Marriage Equality Bill strengthen our families?'" And please consider the religious freedoms this bill is imposing upon, especially my established religion and how I worship, believe and live.

**May peace be with you as you make these critical decisions that alter life as we know it today. And if I may, I would like to close my testimony on a religious note, quoting the Master "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
John [14:27](#)**

Jason Scott Earl, Ph.D.
Professor of Business Management
jasonscottearl@gmail.com
808.675.3355 office
805.717.2553 cell

From: [Maddy Udall](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:14:51 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Madeline Udall and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,
Madeline Udall

From: [Jenna Robinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:10:40 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 Governor Abercrombie's rewrite of SB1.

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. Thousands of children are kick out of their homes because of their queer identity and subsequently homeless. There are hundreds of queer youth living on the streets of Honolulu because their "christian" parents do not practice the teachings of Jesus by loving their children. Christian and Mormon children have been attempting and successfully committing suicide because of the shame their families have place on them for being queer. Marriage Equality will show these children that there is hope for them, that their identity and love is recognized by the government.

In response to Hawaiian christians - why are they denying Hawaiian culture in regards of mahu people? A mahu was a sacred individual in ancient Hawaiian society. They are considered to be closer to the spiritual world because they are a part of all genders. They were respected enough to chant mo'olelo. They married people of the same sex. They were warriors. They were kumu hulas. Hawaiians would bring their newborns to mahus to name them. They are sacred. Mahus were allowed to be in same-sex relationships.

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 future is in your hands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jenna Robinson
3235 Ahinahina Pl
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Carrie Borge](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO PASSING SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:10:07 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO PASSING SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
I humbly request my short testimony be read at this hearing by someone on your staff.
Would you please allow more time for this bill to be reviewed so the people of Hawaii can be given a fair chance to understand and decide? Are we about to repeat history for the Hawaiian people by not giving them a proper voice to be heard? And a vote to decide? I'm not understanding the rush. Please wait until regular session and go through the appropriate process. A wise ruler would hear the cries of the people and ho'opane'e (postpone) this important decision.

Mahalo,

Carrie Borge
73-4411 Kakahiaka St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [OutServe Hawaii](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OutServe-SLDN Hawaii's statement on SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:09:42 AM

The Cost of Marriage Inequality for Military Members

When DOMA was struck down by the Supreme Court, it opened the door for gay, lesbian, and bisexual soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen to receive the same benefits as their straight counterparts if they were married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage.

However, **the Department of Defense does not recognize civil unions.** Unless Hawai'i recognizes and grants same-sex marriages, same-sex couples in the military who are stationed in Hawai'i must travel to a locality which grants marriage licenses to same-sex couples if they wish to receive the same benefits as their straight counterparts.

These benefits include:

- Medical coverage
- Dental coverage
- Permission for member to leave barracks to live with spouse
- Basic Allowance for Housing at with-dependent rate
- DoD Dependent ID cards, which grant--
 - Base and facilities access
 - Commissary and Military Exchange access
 - Morale, Welfare and Recreation services

A same-sex military couple stationed in Hawai'i **must pay an estimated \$1,400** for benefit parity, compared to the \$60 cost of a marriage license in Hawai'i for a straight military couple. This includes the average cost of two round-trip tickets to California, the cost of a marriage license and basic travel expenses.

When couples leave the state to get married, Hawai'i businesses are hurt, too. **\$15,000 to \$30,000** for the cost of a wedding and **tens of thousands of dollars in tourism revenue** from would-be wedding guests is spent somewhere else or not at all.

OutServe-SLDN Hawai'i hopes that the Legislature will pass marriage equality legislation. This state has become home for many of our 250 members, and we want to be able to celebrate our joys with our Hawaiian 'ohana and hui.

Mahalo,
Peter Musser
Chapter Leader, OutServe-SLDN Hawaii

From: [Jessica Benioni](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:07:36 AM

My name is **Jessica Benioni** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Jessica Benioni

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lani Kohatsu](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in opposition of SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:07:28 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Let me tell you why.

My mom chose to be in a relationship with another woman. It has had a lasting affected on my siblings and I for over three decades.

How it's affected me during my elementary school days was by bringing on this sudden weight of darkness and gloom. I knew in my heart of hearts that my family secret would have its way with me from both angles, my mom was no longer in my life and my peers would eventually find out and rub it in my face. As innocent as young kids can be the questions began to come "whose that lady your mom is always with?, where's your dad?, how come your mom doesn't live with you?" These questions haunted me as a little girl. No other adult had the courage to confront her or even speak up to tell her that her instant gratification was bringing heart ache and sadness in her kids. The silence was torture. I would think am I the only one who feels that this is wrong?

Intermediate and high school was a whirl wind of suppressing and covering up what was eating me on the inside. Alcoholism, drug abuse, self abuse, wreck less living was what I found helped me to numb myself from the anger and resentment I had towards my mom for the choices that she made.

The painful result has made its way into my life as a wife and a mother. My mom lives with me now and I realize that she has turned towards alcohol in order to dull the painful consequence of her choice. There aren't enough "I love you" and "I forgive you" that can encourage her to spend time with her children and grandchildren. Although my mom tries to move forward she seems to be tormented by the choice she has made which was to spend almost half of her life with another woman.

It is clear from my experience that passing this bill will have disastrous consequences not only for the immediate family involved but also the couples choosing to live a lifestyle of homosexuality.

I realize that I have no control over the many people choosing a lifestyle if homosexuality but as a mom who chooses to practice self control and self sacrifice for the good of my children and the little eyes looking up to me as a coach, an aunty, and an educator I refuse to sit back and allow the silence to once again bring darkness and heart ache to another family. I choose to revisit my dark pass, and to speak up against whomever feels like same sex marriage would be a positive culture to except as normal.

Passing this bill without an equal opportunity to place my vote in regards to my opposition tells me only one thing, I have no say, no control and my opinion has no value. I say it is only right to give me, and the residents of Hawaii an opportunity to vote on this issue in order to avoid this pain to repeat itself over again in other families here at my home, where I was born and raised, where the culture and the legacy is worth fighting for, Hawaii.

Please consider my life story and what I am asking for in regards to SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lani Kohatsu

Waimanalo, Hawaii, 96795

Sent from my iPhone
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dale Head](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality. Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:59:44 AM

Aloha:

My name is Dale A. Head. I am a 64 year old male retiree (Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & U.S. Army Vietnam veteran). For more than 36 years I have lived with my companion, Leonard J. Cadavona. He is a veteran from the U.S. Air Force. Jeff served in Libya and Germany before becoming disabled & retiring from military service. On June 9th of this year we traveled to Davenport, Iowa and finally got married after having lived together for more than three decades. While we would have preferred to get married here in Hawaii, as that was not allowed by law, we had to leave home and incur expenses to go elsewhere.

I am in favor of the bill for Marriage Equality. Couples whom happen to be of the same sex should not be discriminated against by the State as that violates our rights to equal treatment and protection.

Recently I received a post card from a church, New Hope Chapel asking my help for them to continue societal discrimination against gay people. Also I've noticed commercials on television funded by mainland hate groups seeking to preserve Hawaii discriminatory laws against people such as myself. So sad. Their efforts are selfish exercises in hate. Ugh!

Please respect the premise of separation between Church and State and pass the bill to provide Marriage Equality.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale A. Head
85-175 Farrington HwyC-428 Waianae, Hawaii. 96792 696-4589

Sent from my iPad

From: mahina.k5@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:58:03 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Mahinalani Kahoalii and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

I do not believe that this law should be passed. At this moment it may look like it's about making others happy, giving them equal rights but it would destroy another person's heart. What about every religious person out there who have been taught the gospel and believed it to be true? Would that portray that everything they once believed is a lie?

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Mahinalani Kahoalii

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Elizabeth Kline](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:56:35 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 is a basic right that should be within reach for all of Hawaii, including the gay and lesbian community. Members of the LGBT community get married for similar reasons as everyone else- we want the opportunity to make a commitment to the person we love. Hawaii should not turn its back on the members of the LGBT community simply because our love is seen differently. We experience the same range of emotions and experiences as those who are part of the straight community. We are not asking for special treatment in the right to marry, we are simply asking that we be treated equal.

I am writing you today in hopes that you will support the governors bill on marriage equality. I would love the opportunity to one day get married in the state that is my home. I know that you will do the right thing and not deny the LGBT community the right to marry.

"those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves"
-Abraham Lincoln.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Kline
3235 Ahinahina Pl
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Ronald Wood](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Church Music Director FOR Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:55:03 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.

Ronald Wood
P O Box 1362
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: [Amy Tano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:53:09 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Amy Tano
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Vasiti Cava](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Aloha
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:52:24 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Vasiti Edith Cava** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Vasiti E. Cava

From: [Makamae Torres](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:51:42 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.

Makamae Torres
485 Waiuanue Ave c217
Hilo, HI 96720

From: [Chantell Agustin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:49:16 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.

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 United States military soldier, we live in America. The land of the free, and the home of the brave. I am proud and honored to serve our country, and forever grateful that our founding fathers have created the Declaration of Independence.

In closing, I humbly ask for you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Time is of the essence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." - Thomas Jefferson

Chantell Agustin
775 McNeill Street #201
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Kaminieli Tabakece](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Aloha
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:45:41 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Kaminieli Lauwai Matakicakau Tabakece** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Kaminieli L. M. Tabakece

From: russell03@gmail.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:43:43 AM

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

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

This email is concerning the special session on same sex marriage. I am extremely upset as I feel same sex marriage is not a special session debate, but a debate for the people. This is a democracy and the people should decide. Freedoms are being taken away and should be preserved in all aspects whenever possible.

I feel the governor has gone behind our backs to fulfill his agenda. Regardless on my stance on marriage, it should still be decided by the people in a democratic method. This governor and representatives should trust the people enough to decide. I'm disappointed that you don't trust the people to decide.

Furthermore, the written proposal for same sex marriage undermines freedoms given in the constitution of the United States, namely freedom of religion. On such a crucial topic **THE PEOPLE SHOULD DECIDE!!**

Sincerely,

Melissa Russell
Kaneohe

From: [Gaelyn Penberthy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony for Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:40:27 AM

October 25, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha, Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

If you want to restrict marriage to certain categories of people--such as opposite-sex couples--you must have really good reasons. For example, spouses can't be 8 years old; they can't be siblings. Those are good reasons.

But maintaining the status quo isn't a good reason. We've already had that court case in 1996, and Judge Chang ruled that the state didn't have any legal or social reasons to withhold the rights and benefits of marriage from same-sex couples. The US Supreme Court agreed.

Please allow same-sex couples to marry. It's time.

Sincerely,
Gaelyn Penberthy
939 Kawaiki Pl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

From: [Alex Panida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Clayton Hee, Chair
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:38:16 AM

10/26/13

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

I am a registered voter and I'm opposed to the special session and the bill to legalize same-sex marriage.

The tactics by this government to keep the bill out of regular session, restrict amendments, and to limit public testimony is evidence that the government is not interested in the will of the people. This Special session amounts to a state imposed redefinition of marriage that lacks a clear substantive state interest. It amounts to an imposed a "new morality" on the people of Hawaii while threatening the First Amendment rights of tens of thousands.

Whatever your personal beliefs are on this matter, I urge you to allow the people to decide this issue.

Respectfully,

Alex Panida

94-514 Apii St

Waipahu, HI 96797

808 741 2797

From: [DY](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:37:49 AM

Please accept my testimony that I am against same sex marriage and the governor and the representatives should let the people vote. Thank you

From: [Renee Uperesa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Relating to Equal Rights Second Special Session
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:36:39 AM

Measure: SB 1

Date & Time: Monday October 28, 2013 @ 10:30am

This is a written testimony only.

I am opposed to this bill because of my belief on the sanctity of marriage that it is between a man and a woman. Also, it is my belief that we the people should have the right to vote where it concerns our personal lives and according to our religious beliefs.

Those who oppose have the same rights as all of us as individuals. But the effects of same gender marriages will not only have a religiously negative effect on the purpose of the family, but socially and economically.

I am hoping those who we voted into office will hear the people's voices, and that this vote will be counted, not only concerning the measure, but our right to decide.

And how is it that we decided before, ignored, and now our representatives, are going to decide again for us? We're told our votes are important, but is it?

From: [Amy Tano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:36:20 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Amy Tano
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Laura Stice](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: S.B. No. 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:35:55 AM

I fully support this act of marriage equality to recognize equal rights for same sex marriages.

Please pass this act.

Mahalo,
Laura Stice

470 Ulumalu Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708
808-281-7730 Cell
808-572-0975 Home and Fax

From: [Dale Head](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:32:06 AM

Re: Testimony in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has been on the forefront of Aloha and civil rights in the United States including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, nondiscrimination clauses for employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and Civil Unions. Now is the time for Hawai'i to pass the marriage equality bill granting marriage rights to same gender couples. The U. S. Supreme Court struck down DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) which allows married same sex couples in those states that have marriage equality to obtain the federal marriage benefits (over 1000) that are already granted to opposite sex married couples. Also, married same sex couples in military will also receive the federal benefits of marriage, which is significant in Hawai'i with its many military installations throughout the state.

I am a Gay Catholic USAF Veteran man, who has been with my life partner, a Gay USA Vietnam Veteran for over 36 years. We are Reciprocal Beneficiaries, receiving our certificate in 2005. We went to Iowa this past June to get Married, where it is Legal. We hope to finally gain the recognition of our love and commitment and be granted the rights and responsibilities of marriage already granted to opposite sex married couples here, too. Being a Disable Retired Veteran, I do plan to get full Veteran Spousal Benefits for my spouse shortly. I am also a member of Dignity Honolulu, the local chapter of Dignity USA for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics and their friends and supporters. Dignity USA has been consistent in its support for equal rights for LGBT people, through its membership in the coalition called, Equally Blessed, with the partners, New Ways Ministry, Call to Action, and Fortunate Families. These groups are progressive Catholic groups that support marriage equality because of their support for social justice issues which relate to our faith.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1 on marriage equality for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Leonard J Cadavona
85-175 Farrington Hwy., # C4278
Waianae, Hi 96792

From: lisa.cuthrell
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:32:04 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.

lisa cuthrell
1526 Pensacola st
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Emile Alano](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:18 AM

Emile C. Alano
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because of the following reasons:

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
7. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
8. It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
9. It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.
10. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and a woman in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute

of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

11. Its effective date of November 18, 2013 does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law.
12. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
13. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
14. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties if the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
15. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emile C. Alano
Hawaii Voter

From: [Steve Bobilin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In support of SB1 - Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:30:15 AM

Dear Committee members,

I urge you to support equal marriage rights for all people. I have been married for 20 years and my wife and I are blessed with two children.

Our family values include love, faith, and compassion for others. Our family values will not in any way be diminished by allowing same-sex marriages.

How sad that some folks in our community feel the need to impose their personal religious beliefs on people who seem different from them.

Be brave and do the right thing. Support marriage equality and pass SB 1.

Steve Bobilin
Pearl City
Ph. 456-1221

From: [Oscar Alvarado](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:26:13 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.

Oscar Alvarado
44-306 Olina St Apt 2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Ray McDonald](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:25:19 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.

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.

Ray McDonald
44-306 Olina St Apt 2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [jennifer Snyder](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:22:45 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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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jennifer Snyder
Box 146
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [jennifer Snyder](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:22:40 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.

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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.

jennifer Snyder
Box 146
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: [Nathan Dwyer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strongly support SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:19:32 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.

My partner of 23 years and I, along with hundred of other gay and lesbian couples in Hawai`i, have waited long enough to be treated equally before the law. Twenty years of debate has generally shown that this is simply an issue of bigotry versus fairness.

It's time.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nathan Dwyer
1521 Punahou St. #701
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Judy Taggerty](#)
To: [Judy Taggerty: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Fwd: Same Sex Marriage, Let the People Decide Please: Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:18:17 AM

From: Judy Taggerty [mailto:kjtagon19@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:31 PM
To: jdltestimony-writtenonly@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Same Sex Marriage, Let the People Decide Please: Testimony

Senate House Chair Honorable Clayton Hee
Karl Rhoades, House Chair Judiciary Committee
Sylvia Luke, House Chair Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Hawai'i State Leaders,

Same Sex Marriage is such an important issue it should not be done in Hast. This is something that will have a lasting impact on Hawai'i Nei, our Ohana and Keiki. Same Sex Marriage can not be taken lightly, as this is changing something that has been tradition for thousands of years, one man and one women. Kind of pulling the rug out from underneath us.

The Bill for an Act Revised 09/09/13 connected to SB1 only benefits Same sex couples, NO ONE ELSE. Everyone one in the state will be walking on egg shells so no one upsets the gay community or possible law suites which this Bill will give them legal rights to take action against anyone they are not happy with.

A few months ago we had another huge AIDS outbreak in Kona within the Homosexual community, this is a serious Health Concern.

The gay movement has been trying to get the Dept of Health to accept a gay persons blood, as they have not up til now. If the DOH accepts their blood then the gays will be deemed normal and acceptable, the same label they want for Same Sex Marriage, when it clearly is not the same.

Civil Unions give benefits. If a gay couple really wants to wed then they can go to a state that does Same Sex Marriages, and come back with the total package.

There was a gay pride parade in Kailua-Kona a few years ago where the gay participants gave condoms to little children whose parents were OUTRAGED. I don't think the gay parade will be coming back to Kona unless Same Sex Marriage is passed.

These are a few concerns, the main concern is to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN. Adults have choices, they can chose the life they want to live, our children should be PROTECTED, allow them to be innocent children.

Mahalo for your time. I believe you will do what is best for Hawai'i and it's people.

I'm a Registered voter and legal resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Judy Taggerty

73-1065 Loloa Drive

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

[\(808\) 325-6551](tel:(808)325-6551)

From: [Luke Campbell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I oppose same sex marriage - please do likewise
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:12:51 AM

All,

I oppose any same sex marriage bill because of the facts; not my opinion, or other's opinions. There are two facts which oppose same sex marriage, and no facts which would support same sex marriage as "good" for society or "good" for a person:

1- Marriage is a choice - not a "right" - and was established by God as a covenant between Him, one man, and one woman. The state has no authority or business redefining God's work, which is a key component to the church.

God says "NO" to homosexuality and practicing that sin over 100 times in the Bible: There are no "maybe's", or "if's". Why 100 times "NO"? Because the adoption of homosexuality is so terribly destructive to society, detrimental to the family, and ironically, repugnant and destructive even to those who practice the sin.

2- On the other hand, for those who are not comfortable supporting America's Judeo-Christian morals and laws - and is THE reason America has been the only nation in history to be called "exceptional" - please review, and please enlighten yourselves regarding the facts of recorded history.

Whether ancient history of Rome or Greece, or modern history of Germany in the early 1900s - whenever homosexuality is adopted by society, the society decays and falls. It is a major component to the destruction of society - because it decays the very cornerstone of society - which is the family.

By the early 1900s, many major cities in Germany were overtaken with homosexuality, and the entire world knew of "the German vice". It was in homosexual bars where Adolf Hitler recruited his "generals". People such as Goebbels, Goering, Himmler, Roem, Keitel, Brauchtsch, and their aids - over 95% of the German high command - were homosexual. Ironically, these "butch" homosexuals persecuted their own kind - the "femme" homosexuals .. and laid waste to all of Europe. 60 million died to get rid of that thinking.

Additional facts of the terrors of homosexuality are found in those states which have adopted the homosexual sin. For example, please review what has happened in Massachusetts in the 10 years since they adopted the sin in 2003. Today in Massachusetts:

> the state now publishes pornographic materials for Middle and High School kids. One example: a link to the so called "Little Black Book" published by the state:

http://www.massresistance.org/docs/issues/black_book/black_book_inside.html

> allows vandalism and hoodlums to run wild and unchecked against any place (including churches) or organizations who speak against homosexuality,

> is working on laws supporting sodomy and incest.

This is just the beginning of the downfall - the tip of the iceberg.

Homosexuals may want to be married, and they may want to have children - but these are their desires, not their needs .. and these desires are destructive to the family and society as a whole - and ultimately, destructive to themselves. Wants do not make "equality". Homosexuality has nothing to do with "civil rights" because marriage is a choice, not a right; people do not have a "right" to be married. And homosexuality is likewise.

When dealing with subjects of right and wrong, please consider the facts, not the opinions. Moral relativism and emotion are not good reasons for making a law.

PLEASE OPPOSE ANY FORM OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

Luke Campbell
Kihei, Hawaii
240-587-1637

From: [Dora Baldwin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:10:09 AM

Committee On Judiciary And Labor

SB1

October 28, 2013, 10:30am

Will not testify in person, but want it on the record.

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, my name is Doralynn Baldwin. I have been a registered voter for many years. I believe in the democratic process, however the way this bill is being looked at among the legislators in this special session is anything BUT democratic! Let the record show that I strongly oppose SB 1. In 1998 the people unanimously voted in favor of defining marriage as to one man and one woman, which is to say they were against same sex marriage. There was a clause that was not known by the people which stated that you our legislators would have the power in the future to decide on this important issue. I personally feel this power is being abused. Simply put "BLESS THE FEW and PUNISH the MAJORITY." Currently this bill provides no protection, 1) For our religious freedom 2) For businesses large and small 3) Our educational system as relating to our keiki and future keiki as to what they will learn. Please know that I am not a bigot, hater or homophobic. I have lots of aloha for my family and friends who support this bill and yes we may respectfully disagree but this does not in any way shape or form make me a discriminator and I should not be punished for my convictions. I ask each of you to search your hearts and allow the people to make this important decision through the proper democratic way. May God bless each one of you and your families and I extend my prayers on behalf of all involved in this great undertaking.

Mahalo Nui

Your Contituent,
Doralynn Baldwin

229 Kapalu St.
Honolulu, HI
96813

From: [Brandon Boi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I support Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:09:46 AM

Please vote in favor of Marriage Equality so we can access the same rights as others. I would like to marry my partner of 12 years at home in Hawaii so all our friends & family can witness our commitment.

Much Aloha, Brandon

From: [Dr. Elizabeth and Bran-D Foster Heckman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Very Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:09:37 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.

Dr. Elizabeth and Bran-D Foster Heckman
2507A Rainbow Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Chun Robyn](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In support of SB1 - Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:01:58 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality Act).

Like so many Americans, my own awareness of the way we have mistreated and discriminated against a part of our citizenry has been a long time in coming. I have not felt compelled to say anything, because I was not conscious that what concerns my neighbors is also my concern or that my silence would in effect be noted as wish to perpetuate the current law. And, I did not know that it was important for me to care for and affirm their rights in this way, by speaking out publicly on their behalf until a colleague asked me to send my testimony. It has taken the courage of people I know and care about; relatives, friends, colleagues; for me to put a face to what I see on TV and hear about in the news. There are brave, caring, decent people who contribute to our community and ask for the same rights that I have with my husband of 20 years, the right to be recognized, acknowledged and respected by law.

There are all kinds of people and each has a right to his or her own beliefs, religious or otherwise. It seems to me that this right ends where it begins to dictate the legitimacy of the choices of another human being. We have historically righted many laws that discriminate against race and gender. This situation bears similarity. No one should be stigmatized or discriminated against as a result of whom he or she chooses for a partner. Who each of us chooses to love and build a life with is a basic human right.

Hawaii is a state where we have long trumpeted tolerance and the ability to co-exist in harmony. I am not gay. But, I know people, good people, who I care about that are brave enough to let me know they are gay and that they are hurt by the current laws. I ask that you support this bill because until each of us is seen as equal under the law, we are perpetuating a society where there is inequity, prejudice and discrimination. Instituting this law is a matter of decency and fairness.

I humbly ask that you support the passage of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality Act).

Sincerely yours,
Robyn Chun

From: [Katherine Book](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:00:15 AM

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

I am writing my testimony to voice my opposition to Bill SB1

I am asking you to let the people of Hawaii to decide the issue of same-sex marriage and not the legislature. I also believe in religious freedom. But legislature want to disrespect Bishops, Pastor and Priest. This Bill should be given the time to examined where it could be properly vetted like all other bills. How far are the legislature is going to take this. Let the PEOPLE OF HAWAII have the say. This will be the third time that this issue is brought up and enough is enough. We THE PEOPLE who have elected you should have a say. LET THE PEOPLE DICIDE AND VOTE.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Katherine Naomi Book
229 Kapalu Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: [Gavon Wong](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Unconstitutional ... same-sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:59:21 AM

Aloha,

I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (more popularly known as "the mormons")

Contrary to popular belief, we put Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of our religion. Thus, the REAL name of our church.

This country was based on Christianity. The constitution was built upon the beliefs in God and now our government is trying every which way to take God out of our country: 1) We can't say the pledge of allegiance in school. 2) We can't the word "Christmas". God is taken out of our countries institutions. WHY?

And now with this same-sex marriage bill, gay and lesbian couples can come to ANY religion/church and demand ceremonies to be performed. Most religions have strong family values and study the Bible. In the scriptures it says that marriage is between a MAN and a WOMAN. Most religions will refuse to marry a gay or lesbian couple based on that principle and value.

However, if that church stands up for their beliefs in traditional marriage, that church can be shut down and/or sued by the gay or lesbian couple.

What freedom is that? As a heterosexual christian male I refuse for this to happen.

THIS GOES AGAINST THE AMENDMENT FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT IN DENYING MY FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

There are many more individuals who feel strongly about this like me.

Do not take away my freedom to believe in God. Do not take away family values. The majority has spoken about this issue many times and has **TURNED DOWN SAME SEX MARRIAGE**. And your government constantly brings the issue up. The people have spoken about this. The majority **DOESN'T WANT THIS**.

Are you going to listen to the people? Are you really trying to serve the people? Are you really concern about our welfare? Do you even care about the people?

G

From: [Mary Pung](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:55:11 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.

Mary Pung
46-255 kahuhipa st.
ph 3
kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Dennis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** Same Sex Marriage.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:55:11 AM

I am AGAINST SAME SEX Marriage.

Dennis Young

(808) 677 8785 phone

(808) 721 9762 cell

(808) 677 1972 fax

dennis@hawaiitents.com

From: [Sarah Vinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:53:20 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:

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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.

My partner of eleven years and I want to get married but we are waiting for Hawaii to pass marriage equality laws so we can make that a reality. Many people have asked us why we don't just fly to California or somewhere on the mainland where it's already legal so we don't have to wait anymore. Our response is always the same: Hawaii is our home. We want to marry the person we love the most in the place we love most.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Vinson
91-1040 Opuku Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: [Donald Baldwin Jr.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Donald Baldwin jr.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:50:19 AM

Committee On Judiciary And Labor

SB1

October 28, 2013, 10:30am

Will not testify in person, but want it on the record.

Aloha Chairman Hee and committee members. My name is Don W. Baldwin Jr. Mahalo for your years of service. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my heart felt testimony on this sensitive and passionate issue relating to SB1. First and foremost let me state for the record that I strongly oppose this bill. Having said this, it does not make me a hater/homophobic or one who shows no love, respect or aloha for our brothers and sisters and ohana with close ties who support the bill. After reviewing it I believe they have all benefits from civil union that was passed by the governor in 2011.

I was appalled that there was really no protection for religious freedom only vague words if I may put it bluntly. Secondly the protection for businesses small and large. And more importantly my biggest question and concern to all of you, where is the protection for our keiki and their future keiki when it comes to the educational system and what will be taught? Now the process to which this is going through truly disappoints me. I quote the phrase "FAST AND FURIOUS," has the democratic process gone out of door? Did we the people not put you where you're to listen and act on our greatest concerns to which this is one of them. We expressed our voice in 1998 and if it needs be should have the opportunity in all fairness to do it again. Don't you agree that's the democratic way. Let's not rush the process only to witness the grave repercussions and consequences that will be evident now and in the future. Examples can be learned from parts of Canada and the state of Massachusetts. I urge you to search your hearts, remember our keiki and do the right thing. Again mahalo for all you do and God bless each of you and your families.

Respectfully Your Constituent
Don W. Baldwin Jr.

From: [Christopher Frendreis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:48:56 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.

It is unfair and unjust to have the rights of a minority controlled, denied or altered by a bigoted unenlightened majority. Discrimination can not be justified, It is incumbent on the government to provide and protect equal liberties and freedoms for all people. I love my husband as much as any hetero-sexual person loves their spouse. Our lives are equal in every way to a heterosexual married couple's. Our marriage, our love for each other and our life together is ours and ours alone. Recognizing our marriage in full only helps to protect our basic liberties and dignities. It is impossible that allowing us to marry would have an adverse effect on any anyone else. Literally impossible. If they are affected it is because of who they are and how they perceive things to be. However, denying us that ability effects us profoundly in many ways. There is truly only one answer here and that is to provide and protect marriage equality for all loving committed couples who desire to enter into a contract of binding love, faith, commitment and respect. Regardless of what you do today, my husband and I ARE married. We are married in our eyes, the eyes of our friends and family and all who know us. (We are also legally married by the equality driven state of Californis. The question is not whether we are married. The question is whether we are married and living in a land that protects our rights or married and living in a land that lets the majority discriminate against us and degrade the thing that we hold most dear in our hearts, our love and our life together.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christopher Frendreis
3672 Diamond Head Circle
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Linda Tsui](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:44:29 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Tsui
816 Koko Isle Circle
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Abraham Yi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: bigotry in the guise of religion is still bigotry.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:43:49 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.

Abraham Yi
310 N. Cane St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: [Ualani Mo'o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposed to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:43:19 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Marseilles Mo'o and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here since 1970. Before that, I attended the Church College of Hawaii (now Brigham Young University-Hawaii) for four years. I have four children who were raised here and raising their families here as well. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Marseilles Mo'o

From: [Melissa Kuloloio](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:42:28 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.

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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.

Melissa Kuloloio
326 Piliwale road
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Ualani Mo"o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:39:56 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Gary Nagy Jr. and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I was raised here in Laie since 1995, I am now serving in the United States Air Force, I am married to a young woman from Kaaawa. We have a baby girl. I love living in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Gary Wayne Nagy, Jr.

From: [Ualani Mo"o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:36:57 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Tamanui Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I was born and raised in Hawaii. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Tamanui Tekaha Victor Nagy

From: [Ualani Mo"o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:34:07 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Tainui Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I have been raised in Laie since 1995. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Spencer Tainui Nagy

From: [Ualani Mo"o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:32:02 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Gary Nagy and I am a resident of Wahiawa. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Hawaii and have lived here for since 1995. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Gary Wayne Nagy

From: [Ualani Mo'o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:29:58 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Gary Wayne Nagy, Jr.

From: [Ualani Mo'o](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:27:39 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Tamanui Tekaha Victor Nagy

From: [Mark Smith](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:57:54 AM

I fully support marriage equality in Hawaii. My partner Steve and I have been together for 14 years and it has been the most amazing 14 years of my life. I couldn't be happier and its time we as a society fully embrace equality for everyone.

Mahalo,

Mark Smith

From: hook@hawaii.rr.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Supports same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:59:57 AM

I support same sex marriage to eliminate marriage discrimination in Hawaii!

From: [Barbara Jo Makaea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:59:59 AM

Aloha

In regard to the same sex marriage issue being heard in a special session, I believe is against a true democratic government.

5 days to decide something that is so monumental, why is there such a rush. It is not a life or death situation. If it is so critical, why aren't other states rushing to special sessions?

The people have a right to be heard. The outer island people should have public meetings available on each island to voice their question and concerns. The people should have ample time to give their input.

We voted on a ballot question in 1998, why not let the people vote on this same issue again? The people have the right to have the final say.

Marriage is not a civil right and not a single court in the USA has stated that it is.

Finally, our US Constitution, gives the church protections from being legislated as to what they should believe or what they have to allow in the church even if it's against something the church disagrees with. That is not pono.

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON Same sex marriage.

Thank you
B J Makaea

From: [robert.riley](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: RE: SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:03 AM

Date: October 27, 2013

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Lourene and Robert Riley
15-1802 Akala Avenue / Kea'au

RE: SB 1

Gentlemen:

1. We urge you to vote "NO" on SB 1 redefining marriage, the bedrock of our civilization.
2. This Special Session has been rushed, and does not afford the people of Hawaii the opportunity to be adequately informed about the consequences of this step that reverses a thousand generations of traditional marriage.
3. **The people of Hawaii should be the deciders of this transformative legislation, not the few members of the Hawaiian legislature - after they have been duly informed to make such a monumental decision.**
4. The consequences of this legislation has serious consequences throughout our society and must not be entered into without careful and extensive consideration, gaining perspective by studying the effects experienced in other states and even in Canada.
5. We believe that after careful examination of the consequences of this legislation, any thinking person or legislator would come to the conclusion that this step is unwise.
6. Even though our culture has derided the authority of God's word, nevertheless, it stands as a bastion of truth, and directions for living here on earth, and should not be ignored by anyone, or group.

Respectively,

Robert & Lourene Riley

|

From: [Burke Holbrook](#)
To: [nancy.holbrook](#); [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:04 AM

Burke Holbrook
2310 Oahu Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it fails to protect our rights as defined by the United States Bill of Rights. This bill fails to protect our 1st Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion. It fails to protect churches, clergy, religious group and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. And it denies business owners protection of their 1st Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion.

There is no reason that this bill should fast tracked through a special session that circumvents discussion, particularly input from neighboring islands and examining in detail the impact on **ALL** the people of Hawaii.

I urge you to sop this bill and listen to Hawaaii's people.

Thanks you for your consideration,
Burke Holbrook

From: [Steve Magan](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:30 AM

I support Marriage equality. I have been with my partner for 14 years and we should not have to use work around methods like Power of Attonery to get the same benefits straight couples take for granted. Please make marriage equal in the eyes of the law in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Steve

Stephen L. Magan Jr.
magans001@hawaii.rr.com
808-348-1496

From: [Judi Mellon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality/Same Sex Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:30 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

I want my voice of opposition to be heard on the issue of equality/same sex marriage in SB1. I am opposed to this being approved in a special session. I plead with you to let the people vote in this very important issue. Do not decide this in a special session. This bill does not respect or protect religious freedom or other reasons why people do want same sex marriage in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

I am very concerned about how this issue will effect the future of our state, our families, our businesses and our houses of worship. There is absolutely no reason to rush this issue.

Please protect the future for our children and grandchildren.

Respectfully,
Judi Mellon
Hilo, Hawaii
208-316-2657

From: dmisae@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 1.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:32 AM

October 27, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members:

My name is Debbie Luning. I am writing to express my opposition to S.B. 1 as drafted.

I contemplated long and hard on whether or not to testify on this measure because by opposing it, many of my friends and relatives who are gay (or who have friends and relatives who are) may think that I don't like/love them as individuals. That is *not* the case and I don't want my opposition to this measure to be misconstrued as my dislike toward any of them personally. I also do not want anyone to think that I am trying to pass judgment on anyone because I believe that we are *all* sinners in the eyes of the Lord. There are no exceptions. I also believe that we all need to take the "logs out of our own eyes" and to be a more loving and compassionate society if we want to see the kingdom of God come to our island State and for our land to be perpetuated in righteousness.

I've decided to submit my testimony because I strongly believe that the bill, as currently drafted, is flawed and does NOT provide the "equality" it seeks. While I would prefer to see the public decide on this important issue, I also sense that this bill, in some form, will likely be passed during this Special Session. That being the case, we need to make sure that any form of the bill that passes also provides equality and protection to those who desire to be God's "remnant," i.e. those who desire to follow his commandments and who strive to do His Will on earth. S.B. 1 in its current form does not provide this protection.

I am especially opposed to section 572-F of the bill which penalizes religious organizations that refuse to make their facilities or grounds available for gay marriage ceremonies if they allow their facilities or their grounds to be used by the general public for marriage ceremonies for a profit. I believe that churches and places of worship should be able to decide on whether the marriages to be performed in their facilities fall in line with their religious beliefs. The provision in this bill, as drafted, is patently unfair and I urge you to support amendments to rectify this injustice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,

Debra M. A. Luning

From: [Chelsey Rodrigues](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:07:52 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.

Chelsey Rodrigues
319 Kenolio Road
Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Chad Apigo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:07:54 AM

I oppose SB1 thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amy Vasconcellos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:09:26 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.

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.

Amy Vasconcellos
7248 Waiopua Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Carrie](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony for The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:10:01 AM

Carrie Juntilla
91-533 Kuhialoko St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.

Please do not take away my rights to practice what I believe in. Please Choose the Right and vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Mahalo,

Carrie Juntilla
Hawaii Voter

From: [Jeremiah Wegesend](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:12:38 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I strongly believe that we all should be given the right to vote and no one should be allowed to take the right away from us. I want my children to grow up the way god intended, having 1 man and 1 woman who get married and conceive children of their own to raise up and they will have the same chance to do the same. I strongly disagree with anyone trying to force anyone to do something that is against what they believe in. We are suppose to be "America the Land of the FREE" not the land of the forced. I want my children and grandchildren to grow up with the right morals in life and that does not include having a man and man or woman and woman being married and exposing themselves out to the public with them saying that is it right. Hawaii should remain the beautiful free state that it is currently. I ask you all to take the time to think how this will impact your children and grandchildren's further. It will definitely not be a positive impact as you can see by the other states who have passes the bill where one father went to the school and didn't agree with the school teaching his child that being gay was right and they arrested him and just for your info we had a gay person who identified himself as gay try to run one of the non gay sign waiver off the side of the road with his vehicle. This law is already endangering the lives of our children because there were many children there holding signs when this gentleman decided to do this incriminating act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Angela Wegesend
Mililani, Hi 96789

From: [Mark Kadota](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:13:37 AM

>

>

> Through out history and in various cultures there have been institutionalized same-sex unions-Japanese warriors in early modern times-1, Chinese men and women under the Yuan and Ming dynasties-2, Native Americans from a number of tribes (mostly before white domination)-3, many African tribes well into the twentieth century -4, and residents (both male and female) of the Middle East -5, South-East Asia -6, Russia -7, and other parts of Asia -8, and South America -9. In the Western world, Plato characterized same-sex unions very pointedly as permanent, exclusive unions, in the context of myth in the "Symposium".

>

> Even the Bible refers to a covenant made between Jonathan and David in 1 Samuel 18:1, "it came to pass...that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." The two made a "covenant" together (1 Sam. 18:3). After Jonathan was killed, David lamented publicly, "I am distressed for thee, my brother Johnathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women", in 2 Sam. 1:26. Then there is the declared commitment between Ruth and Naomi. "intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God in Ruth 1:14.

>

>

- > 1. See. e.g., Paul Schalow, "The Great Mirror of Male Love" (Stanford, 1990) esp.pp.27ff
- > 2. Bret Hinsch, "Passions of the Cut Sleeve" (Berkeley, 1990), 127-33, 177-78, 194.
- > 3. Walter Williams, "The Spirits and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture" (Boston 1986), esp. pp. 94-95, and Will Roscoe's beautiful and moving account of We'wha, a Zuni Berdache, in "The Zuni Man-Woman" (Albuquerque, 1991).
- > 4. Edward Evans-Pritchard, "The Azande: History and Political Institutions (Oxford, 1971), 199-200; "Sexual Inversion among the Azande," "American Anthropologist" 72 (1970).1429-30, 1432, Henri Junod, "The Life of a South African Tribe (London, 1927), 1:492-94.
- > 5. Harold Dickson, "The Arab of the Desert: A Glimpse into Badawin Life in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia" (London, 1951), 229,; Georg Steindoff, "Durch die libysche Wüste zur Amonsoase (Bielefeld, 1904, 19; "Mahmud Mohammand 'Abd Allah, "Siwan Customs, "Harvard African Studies 1, (1917), 1-28, p. 20
- > 6. John W. Layard, "Stone Men of Malekula" (London, 1942), 487-88, 490, Ralph Linton, "Marquesan Culture," in Abam Kardiner, "The Individual and His Society: "The Psychodynamics of Primitive Social Organization" (New York, 1939), 174.
- > 7. Louis Lubetack, "Marriage and the Family in Caucasia: A Contribution to the Study of North Caucasion Ethnology and Customary Law" (Vienna, 1951), 84.
- > 8. Waldemar Jochelson, "Koryak" (Leiden, 1905-8), 32, 754.
- > 9. See, e.g., Pero de Magalhães de Gandavo, "Historia da Provincia Santa Cruz" (Sao Paulo, 1964)

>

> Mark Kadota

> 668-1870

> Waianae

From: [Anne Stone](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:13:42 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.

if in this country we hold dear the ideals of the separation of church and state, and we support the freedom of religion (or the lack thereof) why then is the State in the business of mandating moral authority based on a set of religious beliefs? Marriage in our country is more than just a moral contract it is a civil one with rights, benefits, and privileges. To deny all citizens access to those rights is inherently unconstitutional to deny those civil benefits on moral/religious grounds is inherently to be against everything this country was founded on.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anne Stone
47-718 Ahuimanu Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Max Mooney](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FW: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:05 AM

From: maxmooney@hotmail.com
To: writtenonly@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sun, 27 Oct 2013 10:06:24 -1000

Dear Elected Officials of the State of Hawai'i,

Marriage Equality should be a no-brainer. Since being married affords couples civil benefits in the United States of America, ALL couples should be able to do so. No one group of law-abiding citizens of this country should be discriminated against and denied the benefits to which others have access. It is time to be on the right side of history before it IS history.

Max Mooney
1650 Piikea St
Honolulu, HI 96818
808-781-7050

From: rickawho@gmail.com on behalf of [Alicia and Rick](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written testimony in opposition to SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:13 AM

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Second Special Session of 2013 on SB 1 to be heard October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

This testimony is written only and will not be stated live.

I am writing in opposition to SB 1 because I believe that the statutory language does not provide adequate protection for constitutionally provided religious freedoms. The exemption language currently drafted provides too many gaps that invite years of future litigation over religious liberties as they intersect same-sex marriage rights. Our State is not a position to financially support the problems that will inevitably result from a failure to adequately exempt religious organizations and individuals, nor is it in a position to judicially support constitutional litigation related to SB 1.

It is critical that language be included, as has been done in many other states, that will protect churches, religious groups, small businesses, and individuals from litigation that stems directly from conscientious objection based upon religious beliefs or values. Until this has been accomplished and vetted through the normal legislative process (specifically designed to avoid such shortsightedness) I urge you to vote NO on the passage of SB 1.

Mahalo,

Alicia Abelmann

--

rick
e: rickawho@gmail.com
t: @rickawho

From: [Jake Smookler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:48 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.

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 the way of "Aloha" to DENY same sex couples from marrying one another and be told that it is ILLEGAL to do so under state law.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jake Smookler
501 Kuanana Street
Paia, HI 96779

From: [Dee ann DeMattos](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:55 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.

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.

Dee ann DeMattos
3587 Lower Kula Rd
Kula, HI 96790

From: [Hawaiian Boy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:16:34 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SAMPLE HEADER FOR TESTIMONY

Date: Oct. 27, 2013

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I strongly believe that we all should be given the right to vote and no one should be allowed to take the right away from us. I want my children to grow up the way god intended, having 1 man and 1 woman who get married and conceive children of their own to raise up and they will have the same chance to do the same. I strongly disagree with anyone trying to force anyone to do something that is against what they believe in. We are suppose to be "America the Land of the FREE" not the land of the forced. I want my children and grandchildren to grow up with the right morals in life and that does not include having a man and man or woman and woman being married and exposing themselves out to the public with them saying that is it right. Hawaii should remain the beautiful free state that it is currently. I ask you all to take the time to think how this will impact your children and grandchildren's further. It will definitely not be a positive impact as you can see by the other states who have passes the bill where one father went to the school and didn't agree with the school teaching his child that being gay was right and they arrested him and just for your info we had a gay person who identified himself as gay try to run one of the non gay sign waiver off the side of the road with his vehicle. This law is already endangering the lives of our children because there were many children there holding signs when this gentleman decided to do this incriminating act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Jeremiah Wegesend
Mililani, Hi 96789

From: [Dan Abrahamsson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, in its present form
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:17:48 AM

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

Dan Abrahamsson
1607 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: [Haunani Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:17:56 AM

I am Keawa'iki Jones from Waihe'e, Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment- in the name of equality.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Keawa'iki Jones- Age 9
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

From: [Michelle Fuluwaka](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:19:20 AM

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

My name is Michelle Fuluwaka and I represent my family. I am testifying on SB1 and am strongly opposed to SB1 and strongly opposed to having our legislature decide on such an important issue. Their political party and their political careers weigh too heavily on this vote and it is unfair to them and the public to allow them to do so. Let the people decide.

Mahalo,
Michelle Fuluwaka
This represents five registered voters in my family.
[808-293-9501](tel:808-293-9501)

From: [Haunani Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to Bill SB NO1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:19:39 AM

I am Kingston Jones from Waihe'e, Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Kingston Jones-Age 11
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

From: [Ronald Miller](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: re: THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE INTERIM OF 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:05 AM

Aloha!

I am concerned about the legislation being proposed for consideration this month. I would like to see more protections for religious liberty.

For example, currently clergy are protected against having to perform a marriage between same gender participants, but only if they have no history of performing marriages outside their own religion. Many Catholic pastors and LDS Bishops preside over marriages between those from their flock and outside of it. They would be required to marry same gender couples, against their religious standards, if this is the case.

This same protection also does not seem to apply for religious institutions, such that if an institution like Chaminade or BYU-Hawaii desires to open their facilities for use to the community as a service, they can be penalized by being forced to host events that go against their moral standards, such as a reception for same gender marriages.

Similarly, there is rumor that the legislation could even be used against our religious based universities by required that married housing allow anyone who is married (as defined by the state) to live there. This will most likely include same gender couples in the future, again pitting religious institutions' desires to serve the community against their moral standards.

The difficulty as I see it is one of religious freedom. A member of a religion, who believes the religion to be established and informed by God, has no ability to change or alter its precepts to fit the changing government definitions of marriage, nor the wider culture's acceptance of issues like same gender marriage.

While it can be argued that the leaders of religions have the ability to change their doctrines, for the lay member, the choice is a stark one: they must simply choose between the government's laws and the commandments of their God.

I would urge the legislature to have clear, unambiguous protections for clergy, religiously affiliated institutions, and even for business owners to allow them to practice their religion unimpeded.

If needed, the legislature could petition the religions in hopes to change their doctrines, but the law should never be allowed to force citizens to do what their religion and their God has deemed immoral.

Best Regards,

Dr. Ronald Mellado Miller

From: [sokkrstud.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** Support for Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:24 AM

I am in support of gay marriage as I am a gay man who is engaged to my fiancée and would like to get married here in beautiful Hawaii. Not supporting gay marriage is a violation of one's civil rights, and will only affirm that Hawaii is in support of denying rights to those who would like to marry the ones they love. Please do not be one of the states willing to deny people their rights, in the same fashion that black and other non-white Americans were denied their basic rights prior to the advancements made after the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Mahalo.

From: [Stacy Miyatake](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Say yes to SB1 Please
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:21:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I believe our state doesn't protect modern family units to it's fullest potential. My husband and I (because we were recently married in California) have been together for seven years. We're graduates of UH Manoa. I am a 26 year old middle school teacher here on the big island, and as soon as my husband is finished with Law School in California, he will be here in Hawaii Again.

Our future plans and desires are to start a family, own a house, have a dog, and just enjoy our life together. We want things that everyone else wants. I want to become a great college professor teaching teachers at UH Manoa, he would eventually love to work at the state capitol as a representative. We have dreams and aspirations that will benefit Hawaii as a whole, but we can't stand by and see our state tell us we're not equal.

Please vote yes for SB1. For me. For everyone.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stacy Miyatake
731217 Melomelo St
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Rose Vea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote NO against the Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:22:28 AM

My name is Roseanne Vea and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Roseanne Vea

From: [Michael Baysa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1 Testimonial
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:23:15 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

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My name is Michael Baysa and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am **OPPOSED** to Senate Bill 1 (SB1) because of the inadequate protection provided to religious institutions, other religion-based organizations, and individuals and businesses seeking to follow their morale conscience.

After analyzing the bill in detail, I found that only two limited forms of religious protection were provided throughout the bill. According to Senate Bill 1 Page 2 Lines 11-22 and Page 5 Line 16 – Page 6 Line 18, the only religious protections provided are: (1) Only clergy and officers of religious organizations can refuse to solemnize any marriage without legal retribution and (2) Only religious organizations who do NOT earn profit by providing their grounds to the general public can refuse to make their grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration without legal retribution.

This bill constitutes inadequate religious freedom protection in most other scenarios outside of what is mentioned in the bill. Of the many conflicts suppressing free expression of religion which will arise, three of the most prominent that I would like to point out will be (1) religious organizations who open their facilities to the public while earning any amount of profit on their general public events being subject to legal penalties for refusing to provide their facilities to those who act contrary to the organization's morale standards, (2) religious organizations and charities, such as adoption agencies, who will be forced to acknowledge and provide services for activities which are contrary to their morale conscience, and (3) business leader's legal inability under the proposed law to follow their morale conscience and refuse to participate in events they believe should not be supported.

For the first conflict addressed, religious organizations who open their facilities to the public

while earning any amount of profit on their general public events being subject to legal penalties for refusing to provide their facilities or materials to those who act contrary to the organization's morale standards, it is my firm belief that the protection of freedom of religion **must** protect every religious organization's rights to ensure that the facilities they own are used **only** in manners that are agreeable and acceptable to that religious organization, **whether or not** the use of those facilities or materials results in the organization earning a profit. Each religious organization must be allowed the right to choose how their facilities and materials are used, and no other parties should have the right to force a religious organization to use their facilities in a manner contrary to their conscience under threat of legal penalty.

Under the second conflict addressed, religious organizations and charities (such as adoption agencies) who will be forced to acknowledge and provide services for activities which are contrary to their morale conscience, SB1 provides no protection whatsoever. Similar to the previous conflict mentioned, the protections from freedom of religion **must** be extended to the operations of **all** religious organizations. In the example of the adoption agency of a religious organization, that organization should not face any penalties stemming from the exercise of their religious beliefs in seeking to place a child into the best home that conforms with the organizations morale guidelines. All religious organizations of any kind are entitled to the exercise of their religious convictions as they seek to do that which they deem good for the betterment of society, and SB1 provides no protection to this entitlement.

Under the third conflict mentioned, business leader's legal inability under the proposed law to follow their morale conscience and refuse to participate in events they believe should not be supported, SB1 provides no protection for both the freedom of speech and the freedom of the exercise of religion for those seeking to follow their morale conscience in the work that they do. This has become an especially important matter as has been shown throughout the nation recently, with incidents such as legal actions as well as other forms of retaliation against those who refuse to do business with those who would act contrary to the morale convictions of the business owner. While I firmly believe that everyone must be respected for their varying opinions and beliefs, I believe that it is both **constitutionally and morally wrong** to penalize any individual or business that acts to follow their morale conscience.

The free exercise of religion was an important addition as the very first amendment to the constitution instituted by the founders of our country. According to this, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." This amendment applies also to the state of Hawaii, and it is my firm belief that no law should be passed by the state which would restrict religious liberty in any way, shape, or form.

I would like to reiterate that I am **AGAINST** Senate Bill 1, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Mahalo,

Michael Baysa

From: [nathan fuluvaka](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposed to SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:23:45 AM

My name is Nathan Fuluvaka representing my family
SB-1

I am testifying against/ in opposition to legalizing same-sex marriage.

I strongly oppose this act in legalizing same-sex marriage. It makes a moral wrong into a civil right and violates natural law. What God set in place cannot be voted on. This will be unfair to children adopted into these same sex couples lives, as it denies them a mother and a father. If we become accepting to this then what happens when pedophiles start protesting for their rights? What happens when the animal lover wants to marry his or her dog? Although the idea seems far fetched, same sex marriage was a far fetched idea to Gov. Abercrombie when he was asked by mayor Mufi Hannemann when he said it would never be an issue. Yet due to him this meeting is in session. By allowing this is a gateway for more bad things to take place. if you truly do what is right and not what will gain political favor then you will vote against this bill also. It is unfair to the majority of us.

I am firmly against the legalization of gay marriage

Thank you,
Nathan Fuluvaka

From: [Eldean Kukahiko](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same Sex Marriage - I Am Opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:24:06 AM

Thank you for all that you do for our beautiful state of Hawaii. I ask today that you allow us, the people of this great state, to make the choice in regards to same sex marriage. My rights are being taken away as a citizen of this state by your decision to move forward without allowing me to make my own decision. It is not fair that you base your decision on your personal opinion. This is a matter that will affect everyone. Allow us, as a people, to decide what WE believe is best for us & our children, not what you believe personally what is best.

Sincerely,

Christina Kamalii

From: [yolanda kikawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote NO on bill SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:24:32 AM

I am a voter in this State of Hawaii and I am also a teacher of 25 years. I am asking you to vote no on this SB 1 bill regarding Same Sex Marriage.

Aloha,
Yolanda Kikawa

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shade](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Gay propel are human as well
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:25:26 AM

I'm for gay marriage, why should we stop two people from doing something that would symbolize a part of their love? Think about how much money this can possibly bring to Hawaii!!? Who doesn't want to form to Hawaii better yet who doesn't want to show off they got married or honeymooned in Hawaii!?:)

Let's just pass this bill!

N.Vaughan

"Be true to yourself"

From: [Doreen Braz](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: priority_one@acninc.net
Subject: Same sex marriage testimony - I am opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:26:11 AM

Aloha,

My name is Joe Secchiaroli a resident of Kaneohe, HI. While not typically very politically involved I am very moved by the lack of concern by you our legislators for your willingness to move forward without taking the time to really examine the ramifications of passing the same sex marriage bill. I like most like citizens have a respect for our government. However this is appalling to believe that for most of you, you are more willing to follow the flow rather than to stand for what is right and for the majority of your citizens. What has become of us. I like most people of this country love all people and do not condemn. We are a country founded on solid Christian principles. Let us not forget. Please wait and do this right – For the majority of the People!

Joseph J. Secchiaroli
478-6238

From: [Michelle Reyes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:26:45 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.

First of all I just want to reminded everyone that Hawaii is already "marrying" same sex citizens, it may only be civil union but it's one step closer to a legal marriage. I don't see why we just can't go all the way with it.

Passing the same sex marriage bill will do more good than harm, for one Hawaii will attract more people to come and get married here because it's just a beautiful place to tie the knot. More tourist means more business activities, which means more money coming in than going out.

I'm speaking as a young lady that is a working college student who sees no harm in letting PEOPLE marry. Everyone is putting more effort into trying to stop this than stop world hunger, war or any other PROBLEMS we are all currently facing.

Letting PEOPLE get married is not a problem, the economy is a problem, terrorist is a problem, overpopulation is a problem, water scarcity is a problem, poverty is a problem and species extinction is a problem, but letting two fully committed couple say their vows and say I do is not, yet we spend more time, more effort and more money than we should crying about it, complaining, boycotting, and just being down right hating it.

Maybe it's wrong to marry the same gender as you, maybe it's a sin, maybe it really does says on the bible that two women or two men can't marry. But does every single person in this room follow every single thing that the bible says? Did everyone wait to have sexual intercourse with their spouse before they got married? Have any of you gotten a divorce? Has anyone stole money from their moms purse when they were young? Has anyone ever had lustfull thoughts about anyone? Or thought that he should have the whole pie to himself instead of sharing? Because if so then you might want to do a little reevaluation on your belief. And I know for a fact that every single person has done this once if not on a daily basis. And as far as my knowledge on the bible serves me right these are things we are all not supposed to do.

Do not play a saint if you can't fulfill all it's rolls, don't play a messenger if you're just gonna say what you want to hear .Don't just follow what you want to follow on the bible because you think you have the right. Don't think that you can sin because you'll pray after and all is forgiven.

Every single person in this room has no right to say that 'being gay is a sin' because you yourself is a sinner for being a bigot, for being close minded, for disliking certain kinds of people before even meeting them, for wishing them to hell and for other things. It just so happens that our sin makes us happy and not an angry person by the end of the day.

Now as of raising a child as a heterosexual and gay, there is no argument that should be based on that. In my opinion it's based on the person and their perspective on how to raise a child. Invironment has a lot to do with it but just because a kid is living with heterosexuals does not automatically mean they will grow up to be a doctor a lawyer or a firefighter, more than a kid growing up with homosexuals and becoming a thug a drug dealer and a prostitute. It is

solely based on those individuals and not on there sexual preference.

Thank you for giving the time to read my petition, Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Reyes
98-660 Moanalua lp.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: [Ane Vea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote No
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:26 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Ane Vea** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Ane Vea

From: [Karen](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:30 AM

I am a registered voter in the state of Hawaii. I am writing in opposition to SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights. As a retired educator, I am concerned about the values we will be teaching our students and it's impact on the future of our state. Please vote NO on this bill.

Mahalo,

Karen Kawate

Sent from my iPhone

From: [W Kam](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:34 AM

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Debra Shigemura
1622 Noelani St
Pearl City HI 96782

From: [Tapiaka Vea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote NO against Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:52 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is M. Tapiaka Vea and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

M. Tapiaka Vea

From: [William Taylor](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:58 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.

William Taylor
583 Kamoku 3307
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: [Kepano Lono](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:23 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.

Kepano Lono
110 kaeleku pl
hana, HI 96713

From: [Jaqueline Vallejo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:44 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:

My name is Jackie. I am 24 years old and I teach middle school math for the DOE. My partner, 26 years old, is a Physical Therapist working at a skilled nursing facility. We have been in a committed and loving relationship for five-and-a-half years and plan on spending the rest of our lives together.

A little about us, we met in college and were together for 2 years before she had to move to the mainland for grad school (there are no Physical Therapy programs in Hawaii). After spending 2.5 years long distance and flying to each other on breaks, internships, and just taking every opportunity to be closer to each other, she finally moved back and we now live together.

Within the last year, we purchased a home and a new car; the home is only under my name, and the car is under her name, yet we both contribute towards equally towards both bills. With marriage equality, our property and assets would be under both our names, legally. Without marriage equality, should one of us pass, our property would not go towards each other despite the fact that we are a couple and just not "legally" married.

As you can see, we are just like any other couple and we deserve the rights and benefits that all other couples have.

The fact that any man and any woman, who have just met each other on a sidewalk and have no romantic interest in each other, can legally get married the next day. Yet, a homosexual couple like me and my partner who have been in a loving and committed relationship for years cannot. I just do not understand how that's "right."

I hope that you find it in yourself to be on the right side of history and choose equality. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jaqueline Vallejo
91-495 Puamaeole Street 38A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: [Kathryn Dennis](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony in stong support of SB1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:53 AM

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

A vote in favor of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act is the right vote. Equality for all citizens of the great state of Hawaii is overdue. I have lived on Oahu for more than 8 years, when my partner, who was born and raised in Honolulu and Ewa Beach, and I moved here to care for her ailing parents. We are real people with a real family. We have real struggles and real joys. We deserve the same rights, benefits, protections, and recognition of marriage that today we are denied.

To those legislators who feel they must vote against this bill because of their religious beliefs, I point the concept of separation of church and state. No religion or religious principles should define the rights of a state's people. It's that simple.

Perhaps, you feel you must vote against equality on moral grounds. I submit that one person's morals should not define the rights of another person, as long as no one is harmed. If the right to marry is extended to couples of the same sex, no one is harmed. Meanwhile, thousands of your fellow citizens are hurt regularly because they do not have the same rights and protections of a married couple. If something happens to one partner, the surviving partner misses out on several benefits that have real emotional and financial effect on his or her life. Consider health benefits as another example: one partner cannot provide health coverage for the other or for their children. Yes, we have families with keiki, too. A vote against the rights of gay people is also a vote against children.

Love knows no boundaries. No one deserves second-class citizenship. Will you vote for equality and dignity for all? Or you will you vote with hatred and bigotry?

My partner and I want our relationship to be recognized like all other marriages. We have been together for 15 years. We want the security and protections that other couples enjoy.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all families in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

—kd

--

Kathryn Dennis

Waipahu, HI

geauxkd@gmail.com

From: [Eldean Kukahiko](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex marriage - i am opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:15 AM

I would like to ask that our governor and the legislature keep our 1st constitution, "keep our traditional marriage.

Edwina Kamalii

From: barry_romero
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:20 AM

Barry Romero
46-166 Yacht Club Street
(808) 371-5941
barryinhawaii@yahoo.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear **Representatives** and Senators of the Committee:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my

Representative and Senators of the Committee, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as

was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.

I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be

given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to

express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Barry E Romero

From: [Rose Vea](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote NO against the Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:22 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Roseanne Vea and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Roseanne Vea

From: [Haunani Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SBI NO1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:21 AM

I am Ko'iaweikawaihu'ihu'iowaihe'e Jones from Waihe'e, 'Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Ko'iaweikawaihu'ih'uiowaihe'e Jones-Age 1
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

[1 808 382-9481](tel:18083829481)

From: [Everly San Agustin](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:24 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 SB1.

My partner and I have been together for 5 years. Our foundational basis is love. Much like many speak of their soulmates I know I have found mine and of all the things we can attain in our lives, the value of love and it's existence is inevitably undeniable.

My partner and I are full functioning citizens of our state we contribute to society as working citizens, she a teacher-inspiring our future leaders of tomorrow and I -a doctor who works directly with our Kupunas. We share a mortgage and car loan. We fulfill many foundations of a loving marriage and yet all though similar treated very different.

Like love-- Marriage is a basic fundamental right. It exist for the basis of unity between two individuals humans - regardless of gender or race.

I ask that you stand on the right side of history and uphold the fundamentals of love and what makes a family.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Everly San Agustin
91-495 Puamaeole street 38a
Ewa beach, HI 96706

From: [Hazel Abraham](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Vote No
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:30:09 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Hazel L. Abraham** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Hazel L. Abraham

From: [Eldean Kukahiko](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: same sex marriage - i am opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:30:27 AM

I am opposed, I am for tradional marriage only
Edward Kamalii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: yamadawes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:28:22 PM

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
Wesley Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage. Please consider the innocent Children who have no Voice in this matter. Let the people decide.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: arlenechan206@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:04:54 PM

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
Arlene Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am 15 years old, and I don't like the idea of legalizing same sex marriage in Hawaii. :(I heard that some representatives said that most youths support same sex marriage , well then, they are dumbass cause as far as the youths I know they don't support it, and the rest doesn't care. Please don't ruin my future. With much respect and love for the country, Arlene Chan

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:25:43 PM

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
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: IF YOU ALL ARE SAYING THAT SAME SEX COUPLES CAN PROCREATE AND CONCEIVE THEN MAYBE I MIGHT AGREE ON THE BILL. BUT UNTIL THEN, I AM A BELIEVER THAT A MAN AND WOMAN CAN PROCREATE AND HAVE CHILDREN. THAT MARRIAGE IS OF GOD. THIS NATION WAS BUILT UNDER GOD, YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY....LET ME VOTE!!!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:21:14 PM

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
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: GIVE ME THIS RIGHT TO VOTE, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE RIGHTS TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE!!!!

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:48 PM

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
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE! WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY!
LET US PEOPLE OF HAWAII HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GREATER
GOOD AND FUTURE OF HAWAII TO VOTE!

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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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webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:18:26 PM

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
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: LET ME VOTE!!!! I have a testimony that only a male and female can procreate. I have a testimony that a family is ordained of God which involves a man and a woman. I have the right to vote on this matter, let the people of Hawaii have this choice. Don't take this choice away!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:45 PM

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
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As an American citizen, I too have voting rights in a democratic society. I am concerned that you all will make decisions that is unfair to us as people who have chosen some of you as our state leaders because we want our voice to be heard. We care about our state, our community, and those who lead this beautiful American State. And if not our voice, we want our votes to count. Please consider that no matter what happens to the state of Hawaii as far as marriage is concerned, I want to vote, as do many of those residing in this beautiful state. Please don't take that right away from me, my children, my family, my friends, our military service members, and those who all reside and care.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tillybean808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:14:07 PM

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
Tileree	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a teenager in high school I believe that everyone should have a voice. And finding out about the special session being held in private I feel is unfair to the people. As a believer I was always taught to love the sinner but not the sin and that's because we know that God loves all people and we are all equal in his eyes. But marriage is a sacred covenant held between a man and a women and nothing in between. Part of the first amendment says that we have the freedom of religion but if you think about it if this law were to be passed would we still be able to have freedom? Or would it limit us from doing what we love and believe? I think that this topic is HUGE and that five days isn't enough to make a sound decision. And I ask myself how will this affect our generation and future generations to come? Especially if it were to be taught in public schools to children of all of ages. Time is on our time, so please take into consideration all possibilities before rushing into a decision.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: saltoftheearthsalina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:23 PM

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
Salina Iranon	Simply Said...the Wedding Store	Oppose	No

Comments: I'am against the proposed Same-sex Marriage Bill. As far as I was taught a man and a women are to be wed. God created a man and a women to marry have children and multiplying the earth. I as a business owner should have the right to choose not to serve same-sex marriages.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jendplus3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:06:55 PM

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
jennifer diaz	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments: As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I do not support the bill in order to enact gay marriage. I believe in the sanctity of the family and believe that that family encompasses a marriage between a man and a woman. God instituted this by creating men and women with specific physical attributes which makes it possible to conceive and create the family the way He intended it. I am not ok with altering the idea or what a family should be and do not want marriages of a homosexual nature allowed in places that I consider holy, such as my temples and my churches. Please vote no on same~sex marriage!

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: laityau@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:36:37 PM

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
Eloise Tyau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii, My name is Eloise Tyau and I am a voting resident in the State of Hawaii. I strongly oppose the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Bill. I urge you to vote "NO" and allow the people of Hawaii to vote. This bill would result in the loss of religious freedom for many religious leaders, organizations, individuals and small businesses. It will also redefine marriage and as such will contribute to the deterioration of the traditional family which will lead to the eventual downfall of our society. I hope you will seriously consider the consequences if this bill is passed. These are matters of great concern to the religious community and your constituents. Thank you for your consideration of these serious issues, and thank you for your service to our State as Senators and Representatives. Sincerely, Eloise Tyau

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: pedro.dinezio@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:57:08 PM

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
Pedro DiNezio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue. I am writing to express my full and unequivocal support for marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well. This is a basic civil rights issue. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer. Do the right thing. Mahalo for your time. Pedro DiNezio, Pupukeya.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: drjchristensen@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:59:16 PM

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
James Christensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support the Same Sex Marriage Bill. I feel it deprives me of my freedom by making me serve those who choose that lifestyle. Please be tolerant on both sides of the issue. I rent part of my house to help make ends meet. I can now not rent to those who choose to smoke, or to those who choose to have a pet. I would also like to choose to not rent to those who choose to have a same sex lover. Please don't take away my right to choose who can live in my house with me.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
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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
Joe Nemrow	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I oppose this legislation. I firmly believe that it will be used to restrict my religious freedom to express my deeply held belief that marriage is an institution between a man and a woman.

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Cc: carolinapray@gmail.com
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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
Carolina Jesus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a registered voter, I am requesting that my elected government officials would represent me well by opposing the legalization of same sex marriage. I want my testimony to count, just like my vote counts. "No" to legalizing same sex marriage. Mahalo nui loa.

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Cc: johnrhinkle@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
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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
john hinkle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support civil rights and equal rights for all citizens. One group is not "better than" another group, even when we do not share one another's belief systems. I ask you to vote in support this measure. Mahalo!

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Cc: thomas.decloedt@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:28:32 PM

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
Thomas Decloedt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue. I fully support marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well. This is a basic civil rights issue and many of my friends are currently in a situation where they don't have the same benefits because of their sexual orientation. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer! Mahalo

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Cc: paradisesubmarine@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:39 PM

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
Craig F. Heath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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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
Craig F. Heath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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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
Christina Rhodes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: It is with deep concern that I submit to you my testimony with regard to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I recognize this issue evokes immense passion from both sides of the aisle. The family unit, in the traditional sense has been the foundation of our society since its inception. And looking to change the foundation is a question that I firmly believe is best left to the people by direct vote not through just the elected official's special committee. The people of Hawaii should have the right to decide if their foundation in which their most precious institutions, including education are built upon, should be changed. I do not understand the logic of allowing a special group of elected individuals to decide on such a life changing issue that impacts everyone. This Bill, if passed, redefines moral standards for EVERYONE. It is not about choice or equality it's about fundamentally changing society. My biggest concern is what will further happen to our children if this bill is passed. This Bill, like many that have passed in other states, becomes the door in which our children become subjected and coerced into an alternative lifestyle. Parents won't have an "OPT OUT" option in what MORAL lifestyle is taught to their son or daughter in Health Class, the State will decide and control that decision for them, in the name of this law. The school won't have an option to OPT OUT either as it is mandatory curriculum and funds will be withheld from the School. Teachers who morally disagree with this fundamental change will not be given the choice to OPT OUT of teaching these alternative lifestyles to the children. If they have issue and don't teach the curriculum, they can be reprimanded and as well as fired. Many Children will be mandated to learn about a lifestyle in Health class that has nothing to do with reproduction. And in order to understand this lifestyle, children will need to be taught all aspects including and not limited to different ways Same Sex Marriage Couples consummate their relationships. In Massachusetts Children are being asked to participate in "GAY DAY" and show their support by dressing as a Cross Dresser or Transsexual. These type of policies are happening in the State of Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Maine Delaware, and Rhode Island. All of this is absolutely appalling to me, as none of this is not about choice or protection of religious liberty, but about a progressive agenda that hijacks our children's education, all in the name of this law. I believe government should stay out

of the issue of marriage all together. Marriage was founded as a religious union. Redefining that union by a small group of individuals, in my opinion, seems as if it is a misuse of power. If the people of the State of Hawaii choose to make this fundamental change, then their will, the will of the people will speak and law should be craft on their direct vote. In closing, I kindly ask you to listen to the people of Hawaii who have already voted this measure down once, please vote against the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Or decide to put this bill to a vote of the people and let them decide again if this is their will or not. Sincerely, C.R.

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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
Jennifer L Meek	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: "Same Sex Marriage Bill" To our legislators: Please vote no on this bill until it can be revised to protect the rights of all the community... or allow the people to vote on this very important issue.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
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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
Ralph Jordan Bilan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Ralph Jordan Bilan and I am a registered voter in the State of Hawaii. I am writing on behalf of the Same -Sex-Marriage discussion and asking you to say "NO" to Senate Bill 1 on October 28, 2013. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of because the voice of the people is NOT adequately heard in a five-day special session, especially if that voice is "Amend the bill." Marriage is an institution and NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. I am asking you to please say "NO" to Senate Bill 1. With Warmest Aloha, Ralph Jordan Bilan, M.B.A.

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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
kris hara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My dear elected public officials. I ask that you vote no for SB1. As an American, I do not want my ability to practice free speech or exercise of my religious rights denied. Please look wisely at the degradation of these individual rights that have occurred in other cities and countries embracing this minority request. As a republic practicing democracy - the people voted, no to same sex marriage in 1998. We approved a constitutional amendment granting the Hawaii State Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, which made it impossible to challenge the state's ban on same-sex marriage. Why would any of our elected officials not listen, not value the majority vote? Thank you for your service, thank you for remembering how the people of Hawaii spoke, thank you for not letting the few, trample the voices of Hawaii's people.

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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
Filomeno Kakilala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a register voter in the State of Hawaii, I would like that we the people would decide on the issue of same sex marriage and not the legislators. I oppose same sex marriage and would like would like this matter decided by the people.
Thanks.

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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
Latesha Stephens	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Latesha Stephens. I am a registered voter living on the Big Island of Hawaii. I join with many concerned citizens in humbly urging you not to pass the same sex marriage bill in this special session. This special session is not allowing enough time to hear the public, weigh in all the facts or make amendments. There is no reason why this bill could not be put off for discussion until January when you reconvene in regular session. This is too important of an issue to just rush through!!!

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Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:54:04 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
Mr. Kelly Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear legislators, As the leaders of our great nation's most ethnically diverse state in the union, you know that diversity is a strength to be nurtured and that no one should be denied the right to marry the one they love! My "reciprocal beneficiary" and I (that doesn't exactly sound very loving, does it?)have been together for twenty five years, half of our lifetimes of fifty years. We pay more in taxes because we can't file together. There are over one thousand and three hundred rights that we are denied federally simply because we are the same gender. Granting us the ability to have our family recognized the same as other married couples will mean we are no longer second-class citizens. I was so proud our Hawaii State Supreme Court, way back in 1996, when it decided our constitution did not allow discrimination in letting gay and lesbian couples marry. That decision actually stirred the whole nation, if not the world, on this civil rights inequality. Unfortunately, the concept was too new for some people to recognize the unfairness. The time has come for Hawaii's leaders to show our people and our nation the true meaning of our state motto, "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina I ka Pono." "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness." It is time for the State of Hawaii to show that we are a kind and just people who value all of our ohana. Let it be known that Hawaii is on the right side of history by believing in equality for all! Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Kelly Watson

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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
Kristy Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:20:31 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
Nihaniya A. Ludig	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do believe that this Bill is masking a lot of other things that is more than "Same Sex Marriage and Equality." As a mother, if this Bill passes, will I still have the rights of a parent to monitor what types of classes my son is enrolled in? Will I have the Freedom of choice to take my son out of certain subjects if I wish to, without being arrested. Will this Bill protect my rights of Freedom of Speech? Will this Bill force religious leaders into doing something against the faith and belief of that religious leader? Well, I do believe S.B 1 is masking more things that are hidden under the surface. Including things that is not in light yet. From what I have heard, read, and saw on the News, this Bill reversed discrimination. This Bill is not showing any type of Equality if these parents in other states are being thrown in jail for voicing his or her concern and protecting the welfare of his or her own children. I have been taken out of class when certain subjects arose because my parents did not appreciate the topic of the lesson. Why should the parental rights be any different if this Bill passes? This Bill is bullying citizens. Now focusing on the subject at hand. There are so many children and youths that are having identity problems already, I think if we instill traditional practices then our youths will have a better foundation. Youths will explore and act as all youths do, BUT the value of Traditional Marriages will always and should always be taught, so when they grow into adulthood they will not be confused. My name is Nihaniya A. Ludig and I am Hawaiian. I Object to S.B.1.

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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
marsha miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Honor Democracy in Hawaii Please Vote NO to Same Sex Marriage to give Hawaii's voices a respectful amount of time to be heard. Why is democracy pushed aside to rush a non-urgent yet very serious amendment? 1.Homosexuals should be respected just like everybody else, not given specially privileged quick bill amendments. 2.Exercise Democracy. Vote NO to allow adequate time for sufficient public input. 3.Rushing five/six days is too little time to hear the voice of Hawaii. Lets face it, in a suffering economy, everyone is busy and needs more time for any issue to be voiced. 4.This is not an emergency bill amendment. Why Fast-forward it? 5.Five/Six days is not enough time to discuss or research such serious effects and changes this would lead to in beloved unique Hawaii. 6.Rushing will lead to buyer's remorse (in this case society remorse/voters remorse) 7. According to the Supreme Court, marriage is not a civil right. It should be decided by the people. This requires ample time to voice concerns. 8.It is fundamental that a constitutional amendment should be decided by the people rather than an elite few within a quick inadequate five/six day session. 9.This is not a religious issue. This is a Democracy issue. 10.A "yes" vote is actually a "no" to democracy Hi. As a registered voter I am very concerned about how this session is being processed. You were recognized and voted for your integrity and hard work. You are entrusted with the great responsibility to hold democracy in the highest respect and honor what the people will stand for. You are expected by the people to research different views and how a bill would change Hawaii. Thank you for taking on such a courageous difficult task. I know you will not disappoint Democracy in Hawaii.

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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
Louise Simrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I will be proud and happy when Hawaii grants equality and the human right to marry the person of one's choosing. Equality is is not a complex issue; it is self explanatory. I received an e-mail from my Representative saying he opposes equality, but respects differing opinions. Only prejudice would keep someone from endorsing equality in marriage. Usually, such prejudice is based on religious beliefs. Separation of church and state is written into our constitution and I would ask that he honor the constitution before he honors his church. And I would remind him and all other opponents that it was not that long ago that many states banned inter-racial marriage. This is 2013, not 1913; we are supposed to be enlightened. Mahalo. Aloha, Louise Simrell

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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
Dean Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There's no Democracy in a rush special session! Fast forward rush to special session is fast forward destruction to democracy. Hi. As a registered voter I am very concerned about how this session is being processed. You were recognized and voted for your integrity and hard work. You are entrusted with the great responsibility to hold democracy in the highest respect and honor what the people will stand for. You are expected by the people to research different views and how a bill would change Hawaii. Thank you for taking on such a courageous difficult task. I know you will not disappoint Democracy in Hawaii. 1.Exercise Democracy. Vote NO to allow adequate time for sufficient public input. 2.Rushing five/six days is too little time to hear the voice of Hawaii. Lets face it, in a suffering economy, everyone is busy and needs more time for any issue to be voiced. 3.This is not an emergency bill amendment. Why Fast-forward it? Don't ignore voices of Hawaii. 4.Five/Six days is not enough time to discuss or research such serious effects and changes this would lead to in beloved unique Hawaii. 5.Big mistakes happen when rushing like buyer's remorse. 6. According to the Supreme Court, marriage is not a civil right. It should be decided by the people. This requires ample time to voice concerns. 7.It is fundamental that a constitutional amendment should be decided by the people rather than an elite few within a quick inadequate five/six day session. 8.This is not a religious issue. This is a Democracy issue. 9.A "yes" vote is actually a "no" to democracy 10.Homosexuals should be respected just like everybody else, not given specially privileged quick bill amendments. equal rights doesn't mean get special privileges! Why is democracy pushed aside to rush a non-urgent yet very serious amendment?

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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
Andrzej Tarasewicz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I thought that we settled this question in the constitutional amendment of 1998 and defined marriage as only between couples of opposite sexes. If anyone wants to change this, the only legitimate course is go back to the people and ask them again. Let the people decide!

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Cc: dossstallings@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:13:29 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
Doss Stallings	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing as a concerned Hawaii resident to let you know I am opposed to the proposed legislation on same-sex marriage. These are the reasons for my opposed view: 1) This legislation attempts to redefine marriage. Redefining marriage will put children, families and society at a risk no one can afford. There have been numerous empirical studies over decades that have proven children develop best when raised by a father and a mother in a stable home. Those communities and societies that have abandoned traditional marriage have realized dramatic increases in depression, drug abuse, drop out rates and crime. Any legislation that is changing the focus on traditional marriage to accommodate an adult relationship when the focus should be on the children is wrong. 2) The supposed protections written and offered in the current draft are completely inadequate to safeguard constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms. 3) This legislation is not a Civil Rights or Equal Rights issue. It is a morale issue. Masquerading this under any other title is wrong. 4)It is wrong to violate the rights of the many for the supposed rights of the few. Doss Stallings

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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
marci paddock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I urge you to vote no on this issue. Studies clearly show that children raised by same sex couples have a greater chance of gender confusion and emotional problems throughout their lives. Hawaii's children attending public schools should not be submitted to education on same sex relationships when, even through their teens, young people are still discovering who they are and can be easily swayed by teachers and other influences into choosing a less than traditional life style. The people of Hawaii are a family oriented people and deserve the right to protect their families and especially their children for future generations. Same sex couples do not produce a posterity.

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Cc: ijimac@aloha.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:58:52 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
Jane Dickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

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Cc: khysell@tricountyschools.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:53:29 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
khysell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: all written testimony must clearly indicate to which committee the testimony is being submitted (COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR), the measure number (SB1), the date and time of the hearing (Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.), and whether you will be testifying in person. *NOTE: the information you need to include in your testimony is in parenthesis) i support equality in all states including hawaii. my brother and many others just want to be considered and treated as equals and deserve that right as much as anyone else.

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:10:34 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
George Ainge	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee, I am urging you in the strongest terms possible to pass the marriage equality bill for the good of Hawaii. To do otherwise would be a grave injustice to all of our citizens for many years to come. There are strong opinions on both sides of this issue but when you get to the heart of the matter it is all about fairness and equal treatment for everyone. Denying equality to gay and lesbian citizens is unthinkable. It is really that simple and you are honor bound to act for equality for all. Respectfully, George Ainge, MD Kamuela, HI

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:03:24 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
Jake & Angel Raposa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for accepting our written testimony. Both my husband and I request this very important issue go before the people of our State<> it should not be decided by a Special Session. "We the people" formed this country - and we should be able to voice our stand. We are a Catholic Faith family, this does not mean we do not care for and love Gays - we have many within our family. Our faith does mean - we desire the traditional marriage between a man and a woman. Please - let this issue go before the people of Hawaii and the decision will be ours.

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Cc: cwatanabe@unitehere5.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:10:39 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
Cade Watanabe	UNITE HERE Local 5	Support	No

Comments: TESTIMONY on BEHALF OF UNITE HERE LOCAL 5

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Cc: smithak21@hotmail.com
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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:17:25 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
Alicia K. Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My name is Alicia K. Smith and I am a registered voter in the State of Hawai'i. I urge the Senators to restrict traditional marriage between opposite sex couples in accordance with the State of Hawai'i's constitutional laws. In accordance with Hawai'i's State Constitution, I urge the Senators to reconfirm the voters 1990's decision for opposite sex couples only marriage with the House of Representatives.

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Cc: karacrofts@msn.com
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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:57:04 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
Kara Fisher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please know that I am opposed to this bill in general. I am also alarmed at the speed in which this bill is trying to be passed and especially opposed to the way it infringes upon religious beliefs and rites. Now that you know please represent my opinion accordingly! Thank you so much, Kara Fisher

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Cc: linamatau@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:54:13 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
lina matau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for all you are doing for the state. I oppose to this bill and kindly ask for a hearing and have the people of Hawaii vote on this. There shouldn't be a rush in trying to get this done. This is a matter that will impact the future of our land and children. We need to let the people's voice be heard. Thank you. Peace & blessings Lina Matau

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To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: janstallings5@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:25:10 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
Jan Stallings	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing and submitting this letter as a concerned Hawaii resident to let you know I am opposed to the proposed legislation on same-sex marriage. There are two reasons for my opposed view: 1) This legislation attempts to redefine marriage. Redefining marriage will put children, families and society at a risk no one can afford. There have been numerous empirical studies over decades that have proven children develop best when raised by a father and a mother in a stable home. Those communities and societies that have abandoned traditional marriage have realized dramatic increases in depression, drug abuse, drop out rates and crime. Any legislation that is changing the focus on traditional marriage to accommodate an adult relationship when the focus should be on the children is wrong. 2) The supposed protections written and offered in the current draft are completely inadequate to safeguard constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms. This legislation is not a Civil Rights or Equal Rights issue. It is a morale issue. Masquerading this under any other title is wrong. It is wrong to violate the rights of the many for the supposed rights of the few. Thank you for your time, Jan Stallings

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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
Michael Schmale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the right of same sex individuals to marry each other. Marriage has both responsibilities and benefits. It is unfair to deny same sex couples those benefits, especially when no harm is done to anyone else.

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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
Jill Friedman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1 to allow and recognize same sex marriage and provide the same rights and benefits to same sex married couples as opposite sex married couples.

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Cc: bishopmattj@gmail.com
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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
Matt Bishop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Committee Members, I am opposed to this legislation for two reasons: First, it attempts to redefine marriage; Second, I do not believe the protections offered in the draft protect the freedom of religious institutions enough. I feel it is a waste of money and time for the governor to call this session, Hawaii is not fully recovered from the economic issues that have wrecked havoc across the country and this session is a waste of the tax payer money. I am also very disturbed at the legislators being very reluctant to hear from their constituents on this issue. Many I have spoken to across the state talk about mostly the Senators refusal to even consider what their constituents want and are just ramming this bill down the throats of all the citizens of Hawaii. I certainly experienced this in my interactions with Senator Kidani. You all were elected to serve the citizens of this state and by telling us you know better than we do is not what you were elected to do! If you all are so sure that this is what the citizens of Hawaii want, put it to the democratic challenge and allow a vote! Doing this in a rushed special session is a way to restrict the opposition and any challenges to the bill on its merits and force a bill upon the citizens of this great state. You all should be ashamed of the way you are carrying out your elected duties!

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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
Steve Dinion	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support providing full marriage rights to all couples regardless of gender. Thank you for your consideration and support of this important bill.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:50:19 AM

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
Mary Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am asking our political representatives to please put your personal feelings on this matter aside and allow the people of Hawaii to take a vote on this extremely important issue. There are strong supporters on both sides of this issue. As servants of the people of Hawaii, it is the right to let us vote. I do not want a law that goes against God's law forced upon me. Passing this law without allowing the people to vote is not fair, or just. I feel that my religious freedoms will be ignored if a law that requires (forces) me and my family to approve of something that goes completely against our religious beliefs is adopted. I am opposed to going against God's definition of marriage. Please let the people vote. Thank you.

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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
Susann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the legalizing of same sex marriage in Hawaii. I am deeply concerned that individuals, such as wedding vendors or government employees, will not be exempt from this bill to act according to their conscience should they have religious or philosophical beliefs against same sex marriage.

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Cc: nsk5311@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:47:08 AM

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
Naomi Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Let the people of Hawaii make the choice instead of the senators carrying the heavy burden of making the wrong choice. Ramifications and costs are enormous for the future of Hawaii. The people of Hawaii should have an opportunity to make the choice of an important decision that could affect their lives and the future of Hawaii.

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:04:38 AM

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
Brenda L. Cloutier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RE: SB1 - Marriage Equality I am very much in favor of legalizing gay marriage. This issue is the last bastion of inequality in our country and in our state, and to do anything other than full equality is in violation of our First Amendment rights and responsibilities. Our federal government has gone as far as to accept all legally married for tax and other social program benefits. Even the military has accepted not only homosexuals who serve, but full marriage equality and spousal benefits. Does this violate the rights of someone who believes this is a sin? Let me ask another very related question: Does racial equality violate the rights of those who are racially prejudiced, even those who believe their racial hate is supported by their holy book? We're not talking about one brand of morality. We're talking human rights. Religious books and holy books have been used to perpetuate great hate on humankind who don't act or believe as "we" do. Hate and hate speech are not constitutional rights. It's time to ignore the excuses for fear-induced hate. It's time to stop the prejudicial inequality. I have evolved greatly in my attitudes toward social reform, from being raised fundamentalists as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, to believing it is not my right or responsibility to preach or legislate any brand or morality at a government level, let alone a social level. In fact, the government needs to take the lead in this and legalize it before many people will even begin to accept the concept of two people who love each other being allowed the same rights as current married couples enjoy. Sincerely, Brenda L. Cloutier Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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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
Richard Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of marriage equity regardless of who wants to get married. I believe it is time that we as a people become accepting of lifestyles and philosophies that do not necessarily align with our own. It is about aloha. Mahalo for the opportunity to share my support of this bill.

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:24:28 AM

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
Jared Chantrill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chairman Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor I oppose SB1. I understand the reasons why the Governor wants it considered; the proponents have made it appear as if this were a matter of equal rights discrimination. This bill requires major overhauls to truly protect civil rights (particularly the freedom of religion). It has been called more liberal than any marriage act passed in other states. I do not envy the choice you must make concerning the definition of marriage. Support for same gender marriage appears to have become very popular recently. I also would not want anyone to be discriminated against unjustly. Unfortunately, I have been told that this special session will not allow for amendments. Therefore, the question becomes whether it is a right for same-gender couples to receive the protections of marriage at the expense of all the protected classes that will be adversely effected by this bill as it is currently written. Marriage equality is a misnomer for an attempt to expand the misuse of a loophole in existing marriage laws at the expense of the original intent of these laws. NOT AN ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION At issue is whether not recognizing the marriage between homosexuals is an illegal form of discrimination. Discriminating against minorities is fine as long as the discrimination is not related to their membership in a protected class. For example, discriminating against a welfare applicant because that person is in the top 1% of wage earners is perfectly legal even though that person is technically a minority. They are not members of a protected class. Homosexuals are members of a protected class. However, the State of Hawaii granted same gender couples most of the protections of marriage under civil unions. TITLE PROTECTION Therefore, my opposition is not as much about social Justice as it is about title protection. As a social worker, title protection has been a very important topic for us during the past decades. We want to ensure that unqualified people do not provide services by calling themselves "social workers". When people hear that title, they assume the bearer has attended school to become qualified to use it, but without title protection, a high school dropout with no experience could call him/herself a social worker. What does the title of marriage protect? The origins of marriage are unsure. There are many theories. However, most of the theories I have seen involve ensuring healthy heirs to the family (preferably ones who have the family genes). The primary factor is never emotions. Marriage between opposite gender partners allows

childbirth, or the production of heirs. There have been no examples where a child has been produced in a relationship between two men. Science can allow female couples to produce children through invitro fertilization, but not through sexual contact.

INCENTIVES PREVENT ILLEGITIMACY On the other hand, even when one opposite gender partner was considered sterile, there have been cases where children were miraculously conceived through intercourse. The potential of accidental conception highlights the importance of encouraging opposite gender couples to enter the institution of marriage through incentives even when childbirth is not planned. Same gender couples do not require the same incentives, because there is no possibility of accidental offspring. I believe that incentives were originally created for marriage to discourage illegitimate children. These children have traditionally been seen as a burden on the economy. Back when it was hard to get a divorce, marriage prevented children from falling into this category. Now that divorces are relatively easy to come by, marriage incentives may no longer be appropriate, but that is not the issue before the committee at this time. It appears that the argument homosexual supporters are making is that same-gender couples are not able to receive the benefits that were set in place to encourage both parents to raise their genetic offspring together. These benefits were not intended for other types of couples. The marriage equity proponents need to lobby the federal government if they want these rights extended to them rather than trying to get these rights through a back door maneuver. Does this mean that I oppose the marriage of 80 year old women? I will not address this as it is not the question before the committee today. The important point is that just because there is a loophole does not mean that we have to expand the loopholes to fit a greater portion of the population. An astute lawyer can find loopholes in most laws. Law would lose it's power if people were allowed to change other laws so they could claim to fit into the loophole group.

ADOPTION DIFFERENT FROM GENETIC RELATIONSHIP Some have argued that same-gender couples do fit into this loophole in that they can adopt. As an adoptive parent, I can testify that adoption is not the same thing as having your own children. My children feel connected to their birth parents and are much more interested in the accomplishments and history of their genetic ancestors than their adoptive ancestors even though we have not introduced them. This means that the parental relationship where both parents are not genetically related to the children will always be a "second class" relationships (to use a term popular among marriage equity supporters) whether the couple is married or not. Does this mean that I do not support marriages in step-parent situations? I will not address that question because it is not under consideration at this time. The important question is whether same-sex couples require the marriage incentives for their adoption. The government has many incentives to encourage adoption. I defer the decision about encouraging adoption in civil unions to your sound judgement. The important thing is that children with biological parents who love each other are more likely to be healthy, especially emotionally. The government needs to encourage these relationships or foot the bill for caring for unhealthy offspring.

GREED AND RECRUITMENT ARE NOT CIVIL RIGHTS The explanation I received as to why this issue could not wait until the regular session is because this way same-sex couples can qualify for 2013 benefits. As I said above, these benefits were not intended for them. In addition to wanting benefits that were not intended for them. Homosexuals want to recruit new potential partners. When Hawaii added sexual orientation to the list of civil rights, homosexual

advocates stated that they were not doing this to recruit. However, in states where same-sex marriage has been passed, they have done just that, even in schools. I recently saw the image of a group of high school boys marching in a school parade holding a banner reading "Some men marry dudes. Get over it." Parents are not allowed to opt their children out of this recruitment. The case brought against EHarmony clearly displayed the intentions of the homosexual supporters to me. There were many websites offering similar services, but homosexual advocates sued to force EHarmony to offer the services also. EHarmony bases their services on science. They cannot assume that what proves valid for traditional couples will be valid for same-gender couples. And, as I stated before, there were other sites providing the services already. Homosexual advocates had no apparent reason to raise the lawsuit. In conclusion, I do not support titling the relationship between same gender couples as marriage to satisfy the greed of a few individuals who happen to belong to a protected class. It is not an equality issue, it is a matter of title protection. Same gender couples do not have the prerequisites for the institution of marriage, namely, the ability to produce healthy children naturally (even accidentally). It is also a wedge that homosexual supporters in other states have used to weaken family unity. Please oppose the destruction of the marriage institution and support marriage's role in history and society by keeping marriage between a man and a woman. Mahalo, Jared Chantrill Honolulu

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
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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
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for introducing this very important and long overdue legislation. Please vote YES for marriage equality. Kerri Marks Hilo, Hawaii

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From: [June Donaghy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:59:47 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor"

Please vote NO on this same-sex marriage legislation relating to Equality.

Marriage is a covenant given to a man and woman by God. It is not a civil or equal right.

He made man and woman to come together and join as one flesh. This is not possible

with two members of the same sex. It is gift given by our creator not an equal right under a man made law.

Our rights are given to us by the God of the Universe.

May He give you His wisdom to make this decision wisely.

Our best wishes in your consideration of in this matter,

Joe & June Donaghy
1995 Paulele Place
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. 96753

From: [Glenn Ogasawara](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:07:30 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Committee Members

I stand in opposition to propose bill SB 1.

This bill clearly restrict my right not to agree with same gender sexual relationship

I have no opposition with every citizen of the US to have equal benefits from the government but do not agree with the government criminalizing faith believing citizens to go against the laws of God which will bring His judgement on them. If this bill pass it will cause many to willingly be thrown into the lions den. Book of Daniel chap 6

God Bless
Glenn Ogasawara

Sent from my iPad

From: [Timo Matuu](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Re: Testimony In Opposition To SB1 Relation to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:47:16 AM

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

I'm in oppose to the Bill of same-sex marriage for it goes against Heaven and Earth and especially God himself. Marriage is "instituted" by God: Genesis 2:24 "that is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.". The first marriage is of Adam and Eve. The first record or "marriage contract" found in the ruins of the Jewish Garrison is recorded over 2,500 years of being between a man and a woman. The fourth Commandment of the bible states, "honor your father and mother...". And marriage is a religious concept therefore violates the First Amendment religious clause in terms of a "wall of separation between church and state". In the beginning pilgrimage of the Untied State, our government has been chosen by the people, laws decided by the people and protected by the people in "one nation under God" as a reminder who is in charge of our direction, I mean, why else would we stamp our federal note bills\$ with "In God We Trust". Again, let the people decide, God does not take kindly on those who go against His will or what He's instituted, Mark 10:9, "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate...". Sodom and Gomorrah thought they can do what ever they wanted to do and they felt God's opinion on that. Thank you very much for this opportunity and God bless. :)

-Timo Matuu

From: [LeRoy Brown](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:03:08 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am here to provide testimony in opposition to SB1 due to the following reasons: The bill's public accommodation clause will disqualify our church from the protection offered by the bill against lawsuits and litigation. It has been our practice for many years to house and feed many homeless families and assist them into permanent housing. Since these homeless families are not members of our church, under the current bill, our church will have no protections offered by the bill. We do not assist homeless people expecting them to become members of our church but rather provide assistance because we are Catholics. Please vote no to this bill as it is currently written so we will not have to end the assistance we are providing to the needy in our community.

Thank you for your kind considerations.

LeRoy Brown
6370 Hawaii Kai Drive #60
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-753-4949

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From: [Maka Jones](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Please vote NO re: SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:19:04 AM

Please vote NO for the following reasons:

1. The people should decide. Put it to vote so we can cast our own vote.
2. A special session with only four or less opportunities to speak and discuss is a disservice to ALL regardless of which side one sits on the issue.
3. The bill does not adequately address or provide protections for religious institutions.
4. Same sex couples already have equal opportunity and protections to marriage. They can be married in states that already provide them and it has federal recognition as a result. Hawaii should not redefine marriage in a special session where only a few can weigh in on such a personal issue.

Let the people decide for themselves. Put it to a vote!!

Please vote NO!

Thank you,
Makanani Jones
Honolulu 96821
(808) 284-3345

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30am

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

My name is Jansen Ucol, and I oppose Senate Bill 1 relating to equality.

After subbing a choreographer's dance class, I couldn't help but smile as two dads left for lunch with their 8-year-old son. This was the first of many Saturdays that I continued to see this family. It reminded me of my years living in the San Francisco Bay - the gay Jerusalem of the world. I remembered the Castro district filled with gays holding hands as they walked to their Pottery Barn homes that they happily owned. I recalled having lunches and drinks down the famous Lombard with friends who have been partners for years.

About a month after, my pastor ended a service with these bold words, "I love the gay community. Jesus died for them the same way He died for all of us." That's strong statement for any pastor to say considering the taboo of homosexuality in churches.

Needless to say, the issue of same-sex marriage finally caught my attention. For months I put it in the back of mind hoping I wouldn't have to confront my friends and family. Most would question what's there to confront about. After all, majority of my friends are gay, my sister is a lesbian, and it was never difficult for me to come out of the closet - unless of course it was trying to determine which boots would go best with my super skinny jeans.

Living in San Francisco and having been cultured to what being a gay man in the 21st Century means, you'd think I'd be ecstatic that our state is coming closer to same-sex marriage. However, with this preconceived euphoria is the awkward truth that many gays aren't supportive of same-sex marriage.

Instead, gays like me have been thrown into a new wave of conformity, and as a result, an ironic taboo has originated. For someone of my sexual orientation to be against marriage equality makes it seem like I'm burning the gay flag my community fought for.

But on the contrary, I'm exemplifying the essence of why any community initially fights for rights, and that is to stop feeling oppressed- to voice an opinion despite the trending consensus.

Unfortunately, a trending consensus has become something majority of Hawaii's legislators, according to current polls, have fallen trap to. One representative, for example, who once was

against civil unions, has recently said, "I have wrestled with my thoughts, my values, my faith and what I believe to be the best way forward. The world has changed – and so have I." Moreover, many of our legislators claim they want the gay community to be happy. However, no proof is shown that same-sex marriage is something majority of the gays in Hawaii even want - let alone feel any different should it pass.

And so, I share this confession as a means of finally coming out of the closet, and for those who are still in one, to voice their standpoint so Hawaii's legislators can come to a careful and respectable decision.

Respectfully,

Jansen Ucol

The Playground Dance Studio
94-223 Hanawai Circle
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
(808) 484-5857
Theplaygroundhi@gmail.com

From: manukai05@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex marriage
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:13:01 PM

I am writing in order to voice my opinion and will not be testifying in person.

I am a christian and we believe that God created all things, it is He that instituted the law of marriage. I, therefore, do not agree with changing any idea or wording of marriage. If the law is going to be changed it should be done by God Himself for it is written that no man shall change the words of the Bible.

What happens to our equality? Are we going to be heard?

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Nicole Kuamoo

Sent from my iPad

From: [Philip Nerney](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:45:19 PM

The legislature CAN take it's intended action. It SHOULD submit the matter to the voters.

Sent from my iPad
Philip S. Nerney
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2780
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jcmapu5-808@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:20:50 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
Cussana Mapu	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I do not support this bill. I just heard the majority representative say we are aware of the concerns and will address them in the session. You do not know EVERYONE'S the VOTER'S concerns. What worries me is the premise for the legislature to cast their votes mimicking the federal government shut down. To be re-elected. What is more of a worry for me is that my religious freedom to not recognize this marriage is now being overlooked. I attend my religion because I believe that marriage is reserved for a woman and a man. Where I attend to practice my religion, name facilities etc, and how my children are being raised should be a freedom for us without the government telling us otherwise. Instead, we are now becoming the minority, and our rights are now being infringed upon. Our right to practice and believe in our religious theories and practices. What is the difference between a common law bond between a man and a woman and same sex marriage. Common law do not even have rights the same as same sex couples. Why not? I believe marriage has been foreordained to be between a woman and a man. Man (government) cannot make a decision on that based on the minority and secret agendas of those in government. Let the people vote. Let us express our thoughts. It all seems so underhanded and behind the scenes. All of sudden, boom, there it is a special session. I do not support Governor Abercrombie, President Obama and any of you who will allow this session or bill to pass without the entire state voting. That is what a special session truly is. That is how this country was founded and is still a basic premise of democracy. Apparently not in Honolulu, Hawaii. I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: jeffhirst@quixnet.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:31:47 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
Jeff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not believe this topic warrants a special session convene. Topics like this should be scheduled and debated during normal sessions.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: lroller@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:49:25 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
James Roller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Our names are James and Lorrie Roller, and we want to reach out to you to express our serious concerns about the upcoming bill for same-sex marriage. We implore you to read the research from the state of Massachusetts detailing the harm same sex marriage has created since legalized. There have been negative impacts in the public schools, public health, hospitals, domestic violence, business and employment, adoption, First Amendment violations such as freedom of religion and speech and of course within the families themselves. We are charged with protecting our children and preserving their futures. Destroying the nucleus of the family unit and redefining an institution that is necessary to the rearing of healthy and productive children is what same sex marriage would bring to Hawaii, and you will have that legacy on your watch. We urgently, and strongly ask you to reconsider your position on this issue and vote NO. Additionally we request that a "roll call" vote be taken. Thank you for your continued public service.

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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What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts
It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker October 2008 Updated June 2012

http://www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects_of_ssm_2012/SSM_Mass_2012.pdf

Anyone who thinks that same-sex marriage is a benign eccentricity which won't affect the average person should consider what it has done to Massachusetts since 2004. It's become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. The slippery slope is real. New radical demands never cease. What has happened in the last several years is truly frightening.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its Goodridge opinion, declaring that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex marriage. Six months later, despite public outrage, homosexual weddings began to take place. And that was just the beginning . . .

The public schools

The homosexual marriage onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

¥ At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex marriage in early December 2003. It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be marrying their same-sex partners and starting families, either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage and how it is now a normal part of society was handed out to the students.

¥ Within months it was brought into the middle schools. In September 2004, an 8th-grade teacher in Brookline, Mass., told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. "In my mind, I know that, 'OK, this is legal now.' If somebody wants to challenge me, I'll say, 'Give me a break. It's legal now,'" she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.

¥ By the following year it was in elementary school curricula with hostility toward parents who disagreed. Kindergartners in Lexington, Mass. were given copies of a picture book, *Who's in a Family?*, telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, just like their own parents. When David Parker, parent of a kindergartner, calmly refused to leave a school meeting unless officials agreed to notify him when discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and jailed overnight.

¥ The next year, second graders at the same school were read a book, *King and King*, about

two men who fall in love and marry each other, ending with a picture of them kissing. When parents Robb and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt their child out.

¥ In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of "gay marriage" in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools. The previous year the Parkers and Wirthlins had filed a federal civil rights lawsuit to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt out their elementary-school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judge dismissed the case. The appeals judges later upheld the first judge's ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship! Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is "legal," federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!

The judges also allowed the school to overrule the Massachusetts parental notification law on this issue, with the claim that homosexuality or same-sex marriages are not "human sexuality issues" (to which the law refers).

¥ School libraries have also radically changed. School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have expanding shelves of books to normalize homosexual

behavior and "lifestyle" in the minds of kids, some

♀ of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents' complaints are ignored or met with hostility.

¥ A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state. Titled *Courting Equality*, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization. Its apparent purpose was to teach kids that "gay marriage" was a great civil rights victory.

¥ It has become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to display photos of their same-sex "spouses" and occasionally bring their "spouses" to school functions. At one point, both high schools in my own town had principals who were "married" to their same-sex partners who came to school and were introduced

to the students.

¥ "Gay days" in schools are considered necessary to fight "intolerance" against same-sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender days." In my own town, a school committee member announced that combating "homophobia" was now a top priority. The schools not only "celebrate" homosexual marriage, but have moved beyond to promote other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality.

¥ As a result, many more children in Massachusetts appear to be self-identifying as "gay." According to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, given to students in high schools across the state, between 2005 and 2009 both the percentage of kids "identifying as gay" and who had same-sex contact rose by approximately 50%. Although this bi-annual survey is unscientific and largely unreliable, it still shows a disturbing trend among those students who chose to answer the questions in this way. (At a minimum, it implies that these answers are being encouraged.)

¥ Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to come down. The schools have already moved on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and sex changes). The state-funded Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, which goes into schools with homosexual and transgender programs and activities for children, includes prominent activists who are transsexuals.

¥ In 2006 a cross-dressing man undergoing a sex-change operation was brought into a third-grade class in Newton to teach the children that there are now "different kinds of families." School officials told a mother that her complaints to the principal were considered "inappropriate behavior"! She ended up removing her child from the school.

Public health

¥ The Commissioner of the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, who is "married" to another man, told a crowd of kids at the state-sponsored Youth Pride event in 2007 that it's "wonderful being gay" and he wants to make sure there's enough HIV testing available for all of them.

¥ The STD test required to obtain a marriage license was eliminated five months after same-sex "marriages" began in Massachusetts, by a bill quietly signed by Gov. Mitt Romney. This was despite an increase in syphilis cases and other STDs in homosexual men in Massachusetts at the time (according to the Mass. Dept. of Public Health).

¥ In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of

homosexual-related cases. According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, even though the total number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses has declined, the proportion caused by male homosexual behavior rose by over 30% from 2000-2009. Thus, for the last several years the state has budgeted \$30-\$35 million per year for these programs. This dwarfs spending on any other viral disease that we are aware of.

¥ A hideously obscene booklet on "gay" practices created by health officials was given out in a high school. Citing "the right to marry" as one of the "important challenges" in a place where "it's a great time to be gay," the Mass. Dept. of Public Health helped the AIDS Action Committee produce *The Little Black Book: Queer in the 21st Century*. It was given to teens at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives "tips" to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to "safely" have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It even included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Hospitals

¥ Because of the purported necessity to cater to "LGBT" health issues, nearly every major Boston hospital has become an active supporter of the radical homosexual movement. This includes marching in the "Gay Pride" parades, holding homosexual events, and

♀ putting on numerous "gay" health-related seminars. This is one of the most disturbing things that's happened since "gay marriage" became "legal."

¥ A major Boston hospital threatened to fire a physician when he objected to its promotion of homosexual behavior. In 2011 a prominent physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston & a large Harvard-affiliated hospital & objected to the hospital being involved with "Gay Pride" activities. He also pointed out to his superiors the medical health risks of homosexuality, and said that he and others at the hospital considered homosexual acts to be unnatural and immoral. The hospital then threatened to fire him, telling him that same-sex marriage is "illegal" and that his comments constituted "harassment and discrimination." After a "hearing" he was allowed to keep his job, but was told to apologize and to keep his opinions on these matters to himself.

¥ In 2012 the Boston Medical Center purchased a prominent full-color ad (full page, inside cover) in the Boston Gay Pride guide book. The content? The entire ad promoted the hospital's STD and AIDS clinics for the "pride" participants & particularly its screening services for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, and HIV.

Domestic violence

¥ Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual domestic violence. Since "gay marriage" began, Massachusetts has one of the highest proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country. Given the extremely dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt the need to spend more and more money to deal with that problem. "Gay domestic violence programs" have also become a major lobbying push in the State House by the homosexual group MassEquality. This year it comprises a considerable portion of a \$5.5 million state budget item (according to MassEquality). This is up from \$100,000 budgeted in 2007.

¥ "Gay domestic partner violence" literature (funded by the state) is now distributed at virtually every public homosexual event including to children at "Youth Pride" events, GLSEN conferences, "gay straight alliance" high school clubs and especially at the various events and parades during "Gay Pride" week.

¥ It has become such a problem that a public candlelight vigil in downtown Boston is held every year by a coalition of Massachusetts homosexual groups to remember victims of recent LGBT intimate partner violence, and to raise awareness of this important community issue.

Business and employment

¥ All insurance in Massachusetts must now recognize same-sex "married" couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.

¥ Businesses must recognize same-sex "married" couples in all their benefits, activities, etc., regarding both employees and customers.

¥ People can now get fired from their jobs for expressing religious objections to same-sex "marriage." In 2009, a deputy manager at a Brookstone store in Boston was fired from his job for mentioning his belief to another manager who had kept bringing up the subject with him that day. Brookstone's letter of termination (quoted on local TV news) said his comment was "inappropriate" because "in the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal."

¥ The wedding industry is required to serve the homosexual community if requested. Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must accept same-sex marriage events or be held liable for discrimination.

¥ Businesses are often "tested" for tolerance by homosexual activists. Groups of homosexual activists go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient "equality"

Now that homosexual marriage is legal. Then they report tolerance violators to authorities, and businesses can be fined and punished. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce "marriage equality." Legal profession and judicial system

¥ The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex marriage "law." In 2007, a Boston man failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer a question about homosexual marriage.

¥ In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law must now attend seminars on homosexual "marriage." Issues regarding homosexual families are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In addition, there are now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.

¥ In 2011 the Governor appointed Barbara Lenk, a married lesbian activist, to be a state Supreme Court Justice. She has said that the

interpretation of law evolves and develops because minority groups [e.g., homosexuals] see certain things differently based on their own experiences.

Adoption and birth certificates

¥ In the year after the gay marriage ruling, the state's adoption and foster care workers went through a massive indoctrination on LGBT youth awareness. This included employees and managers at the Mass. Dept. of Social Services. These sessions were run by the radical National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (which once awarded a Leather Leadership Award to the owner of a pornographic video company). The emphasis was that those working with children must be trained that homosexuality (and transgenderism) are normal. At one session, the trainer announced that the new motto is, "To tolerate is an assault; you have to accept" this behavior.

¥ Homosexual married couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children through any agency. In 2006 Catholic Charities decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.

¥ Adoption agencies have said that 40% of their adoptions are to homosexual couples. Anecdotal reports also indicate that many adoption agencies now favor homosexuals over normal couples.

¥ In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men married to each other as their Parents of the Year. The men had adopted a baby through DSS (against

the wishes of the baby's birth parents). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final, DSS approached the men about adopting a second child.

¥ The state-funded Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) has been pushing GLBT family formation and holds adoption parties where homosexual couples have been encouraged to attend (along with others) and see available children in person. MARE places prominent ads in GLBT publications.

¥ Birth certificates in Massachusetts have been changed from mother and father to mother/parent and father/parent. Two men or two women can now be listed as the parents on birth certificates! Homosexuals who adopt can revise children's existing birth certificates.

¥ A court ruled in 2012 that if a child is born of a same-sex marriage, there is no need for adoption by a non-biological parent. Thus, they would both be the listed as the parents on the child's birth certificate, without any formal proceedings necessary. (The other biological parent is not noted on the official birth certificate.)

Government mandates

¥ Marriage licenses and certificates in Massachusetts now have Party A and Party B instead of husband and wife. Imagine having a marriage license like that.

¥ In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired. Several Justices of the Peace immediately decided to resign. That order still stands. Also Town Clerks were forced by the Governor's office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

¥ In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws to include homosexual married couples in the coverage.
The public square

¥ Since gay marriage began, public Gay Pride events have become more prominent in the public square. There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. And the envelope gets pushed further and further. For example: the annual profane Dyke March through downtown Boston, and the 2008 transgender parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed (so they could become men). Governor Patrick even marched with his 17-year-old out lesbian daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a sadomasochist leather group brandishing a black and blue flag, lashes and chains!

Churches being harassed

Churches and religious people have been demonized, harassed and threatened with no punishment

for the perpetrators. Since the gay marriage ruling, those who publicly disagree with gay marriage or the normalcy of homosexuality do hold events promoting traditional beliefs and are targets of militant retribution by homosexual activists. Police and public officials have shown no interest in stopping this. We are not aware of a single homosexual activist arrested (or charged with any hate crime) for disrupting a religious event or threatening and harassing people at a church. For example:

¥ In 2012 someone threatened to burn down a Catholic Church in Acushnet which posted the words "Two men are friends, not spouses" on its outdoor sign. The church immediately received a flood of profane phone calls. At least one person threatened to burn down the church. An activist nailed a sign to church's fence saying, "Spread love not hate." Activists staged a protest outside of the Sunday Mass to intimidate parishioners with a sign saying, "It is legal for two men or women to be spouses." Neither the police nor the District Attorney pursued the threats as a hate crime or other offense.

¥ In 2010 a Catholic elementary school balked at letting a lesbian couple enroll their son. As a result, the school was excoriated in the media and even by the local liberal state representative as "discriminatory." The privately-run Catholic Schools Foundation then threatened to withhold funding to the school unless it relented. The Archdiocese eventually backed down and the school reversed its policy.

¥ In 2009 angry homosexual activists terrorized the Park Street Church in Boston while it was holding an ex-gay religious training session inside. They demonstrated next to the doors and windows with signs, screaming homosexual slogans. One of them held a bullhorn against the window outside the meeting, bellowing at the participants inside. Police did nothing to stop them, even though they were standing inside the historic cemetery adjacent to the church.

¥ In 2006 dozens of screaming homosexual activists drowned out the speakers at an outdoor pro-marriage rally in Worcester organized by Catholic Vote, yelling "Bi gots" and disgusting chants. Police did not stop them, even though the rally had a permit. When one of the rioters rushed the stage and started shouting, a rally organizer tried to lead her to the side. She subsequently sued that organizer for assault! He went through a four-day trial and was acquitted by a jury. But no charges were filed against any of the rioters.

¥ In 2006 a group of homosexual activists with signs taunted and screamed at people entering and leaving the Tremont Temple Baptist Church in downtown Boston, which was holding a nationally televised pro-marriage event

inside.

¥ In 2005 hundreds of homosexual activists terrorized the Tremont Temple Baptist Church with makeshift coffins, screaming obscenities through loudspeakers as the national pro-family group Focus on the Family held a religious conference inside. The crowd was so threatening that attendees could not leave the church for the lunch break. The Boston riot police stood in front of the church doors, but did nothing to disperse the protesters who were also completely blocking the street.

The media

¥ The Boston media regularly features articles and news stories using homosexual "married" couples where regular married couples would normally be used. It's "equal," they insist, so there must be no difference in how marriage is portrayed. Also, the newspaper advice columns now deal with homosexual "marriage" issues and how to properly accept it.

¥ A number of news reporters and TV anchors are "out" homosexuals (at least one openly "married") who march in the "Gay Pride" parades and publicly participate in other homosexual events.

Politics

¥ A climate of fear has kept politicians at all levels from disagreeing with or criticizing same-sex marriage since it became "legal." Public officials are afraid of being accused of wanting to "take away rights." Those who support traditional marriage rarely discuss it publicly. And this fear has expanded to suppress any meaningful debate on all homosexual related issues. Additionally, it has brought a feeling of intimidation among pro-family people across the state.

¥ The Massachusetts Republican establishment has become arguably the most "pro-gay marriage" GOP in America. The state GOP House and Senate leaders now both publicly support "gay marriage," as did the recent Mass. GOP candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. GOP candidates for office are told not even to discuss it.

¥ In April 2009, the Chairman of the Mass. Republican Party told a homosexual newspaper that the GOP would no longer oppose "gay marriage." Then Chairman Jennifer Nassour, interviewed on the front page of Bay Windows, assured the gay community that the state GOP would "steer clear of social" issues such as "opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion." The newly elected chairman, Bob Maginn, does not talk about the issue.

¥ Every Massachusetts state-wide elected official and member of Congress (but one) now publicly supports "gay marriage." The one (apparent) holdout, Republican US Senator Scott Brown, strenuously avoids the issue, saying that it's "settled law" and not worth fighting over.

Rule of Law

¥ Same-sex marriage came to Massachusetts through a radical court's narrow ruling. Because of that, there is an often depressing sense of helplessness that pervades this issue. The marriage statute was never changed, and it

♀ has been convincingly argued that the whole process was in violation of the state constitution. The Governor simply went along. And the Legislature acted to block popular votes on two separate constitutional amendments protecting marriage, after sufficient signatures had been gathered for each. The rule of law seems further lost with every new outrage imposed on the people.

¥ Even the Massachusetts Law Library (online) shows no law legalizing same-sex marriage, only a court opinion. It is a dangerous precedent to allow such sweeping judicial activism to stand as law, enabling everything that has followed from it. It should serve as a warning to states across the country. In conclusion

Same-sex marriage hangs over society, hammering citizens with the force of law. Once it gets a foothold, society becomes more oppressive. Unfortunately, it was imposed on the people of Massachusetts through a combination of radical, arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians. The homosexual movement has used that combination to its continued advantage around the country.

It's pretty clear that this radical movement is obsessed with marriage not because large numbers of homosexuals actually want to marry each other. A small percentage actually marry. (In fact, over the last several months, the Sunday Boston Globe's marriage section hasn't had any photos of homosexual marriages; at first it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexual relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and real marriage as we know it isn't something they can achieve, or even truly desire.

The push for gay marriage is really about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and forcing its acceptance on (otherwise unwilling) citizens and our social, political, and commercial institutions.

To the rest of America: You've been forewarned.

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All of this concerns Massachusetts!

SSM Massachusetts-1

So what would happen in Hawaii public schools if homosexual "marriage" became the law?

Here is the answer in the words of our own Governor# Neil Abercrombie:

At his news conference marking the day he called for the special session\$

Monday#

% October#

&' ()

* Office of the Governor:

QUESTION FROM A NEWS REPORTER:

"Do you expect that same sex marriage, if it passesÉwill change the Department of Education and how they instruct students on relationships and those types of things?"

ANSWER FROM THE GOVERNOR:

"The Department of Education will do no differently than it has ever done. I was an assistant to the Superintendent of Education (sic) back when the question of the phenomenon of AIDS came into the forefront.

"What the Department of Education will do is reflect what our laws say; what our contemporary world is all about, as it always has.

"When there was slavery, it reflected one thing. When there wasn't slavery it reflected another. When women could not vote, there was one approach in terms of both history and current events. When women could vote, as you know, it all changed.

"And so civil rights, for those of us who helped participate in the modern contemporary advent of civil rights legislation; everything changed when the civil rights laws passed in the 1960's.

"So what will happen is, the Department of Education is not in the business of propagandizing; the Department of Education is in the business of educating our children and the context of the materials presented to the children will reflect that."

♀

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: metcalf@hawaiiink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:30:15 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
christopher metcalf	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It really concerns me that we are not concerned about the family. To have "love" be the guiding light is troubling. Especially when we define love as getting what we want. Love is about "giving" and thinking less of one self and what will honestly make the marriage partner, husband or wife, better. PLEASE for the sake of our families let's allow the PEOPLE to decide.

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SB 1 testimony 10-23-13

I oppose the legalization of so called same sex marriage for a variety of reasons, one of which is just plain common sense. The human race has survived for thousands of years without homosexual marriage so there is no logical reason why the state of Hawaii has to force the issue within a 5 day window without considering the will of all of the people of Hawaii.

This issue is being forced by a few vocal minorities. If they are right and the public at large really does want homosexual marriage legalized then put it on the ballot next election and let the people decide.

The vocal minority pushing for this legalization doesn't want the people of Hawaii to decide since they know it's NOT the will of the people of Hawaii. If it's not the will of the people of Hawaii, then voting to legalize it would be a crime since the elected officials are voting their conscience not the will of the people that let them be in office. We voters will remember that next election and many elected officials will find themselves out of work.

The senate bill offering to protect clergy does nothing to protect the religious rights of the non-clergy. The state is in effect imposing its will on non-clergy by telling them their religious beliefs are null and void, so unless the people as a whole decide on this issue the state will trample on the fundamental religious rights of non-clergy. These non-clergy rights include state workers who would not want to teach an abnormal lifestyle to young innocent children, business owners who would not want to offer services to those who they disagree with life choices.

Let the people of Hawaii decide on the issue next election with a special vote on the election ballots and see what Hawaii really wants.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ianitz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:04:25 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
Ian Nitta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Governor Abercrombie, members of the House and Senate, and all in attendance during the special session, With great concern, I write regarding the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I solemnly know that marriage is ordained of God, who I know lives, and is and always will be between a man and a women, as the foundation of the family which is the most important unit in society. We cannot change that truth and surely God doth not change his word. I testify that God lives and He is the creator of all people, male and female, old and young, bond and free. I know that God has given us agency, to choose liberty and life through the great mediator, even Jesus Christ, the very Son of God and Savior of all mankind, or to choose captivity and death which cometh by failing to keep the laws and commandments of God Almighty. I thank the founding fathers of this nation for fighting for our ability to choose liberty through faith in God. I rejoice in that religious freedom and declare my strong opposition to recognize same-sex marriages as a legal union in the state of Hawaii. I pray that you too also seek answer from God and do as He bids you do above all other things. As the patriarch and leader of my own house, I act each day in faith that God will teach me what is best for my family. I ask that you act likewise in representing our people. I do understand that our state, being blessed with democracy, will act upon the majority voice of its leaders regarding the passing of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I strongly feel that the bill, in its current formation, does not adequately protect our rights to freedom of religion. I ask that regardless of the outcome that our rights to freedom of religion are protected with the same conviction as our founding fathers, with fear in God, and through struggle in prayer. As a citizen of this great country of America I pray that as a nation we continue to do that which is right in the sight of God, who lives. That we seek with earnest prayer for the strength to do what God's Spirit prompts us to do always and that we as a nation can uphold the truths taught to us by the Spirit of God, that same Spirit that burns within my heart as I write this letter and the same Spirit that will guide you as you lead our people. God be with you and all of us. May God continue to grant unto our nation the ability to act for ourselves, to choose liberty through keeping His laws and commandments, and to live by faith. Thank you. Sincerely, Ian Isamu Nitta A fellow citizen in the blessed State of Hawaii

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From: [kkita1000.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: We Oppose This Discriminatory Bill
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:08:57 AM

Most Honorable Legislators,

I believe I speak for many of the working people of the community who cannot attend this hearing because of work obligations, but want to voice **OPPOSITION** to this bill because it does not protect our individual first amendment right to freedom of expression and practice of our religious beliefs! this is another form of **DISCRIMINATION** and this special session is too short of a time to really look at all sides of the issue and come up with a fair balance. Please **DO NOT RUSH** to a decision out of political expediency!

Thank you for taking time to consider my views!

Much Aloha,

Kent Kitagawa
98-1440 Koahehe Street, Apt. A
Pearl City HI 96782

Phone:456-8985

From: [Hope Chapel North Shore](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Please no special session
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:40:46 PM

Let the people's voices be heard ! Do you remember - of the people, by the people, for the people !
In 1998 the ballot question to voters was "Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to specify that the Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples?"
The people decided in 1998, the people must decide today. We did not give the Legislatures the power to redefine marriage, rather, reserve it for opposite sex couples only.

Serving Our King, Dennis

Dennis Le Fort
Hope Chapel North Shore
808-575-2650 | aloha@hopechapelnorthshore.org |
<http://www.hopechapelnorthshore.org>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hopehaiku>

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Hope Chapel North Shore, PO Box 867, Haiku HI 96708

From: [l&h huyler](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [hw huyler yahoo](#)
Subject: I oppose same sex marriage.
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:13:08 AM

I oppose same sex marriage.

Homosexual and lesbian couples spawn unwanted behaviors and characteristics for a family environment. (1) Homosexual behavior brought us into the world of AIDS and HIV, together with the spread to pregnant women and their unborn children. We need to be aware of this conduct in the Nations in Africa and over the world. (2) Children raised in a homosexual or lesbian couple's household take on the characteristics of their "parents" since those are the role models with whom they have the closest relationship.

H Huyler, Hawaii

Life will take us to the stars!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: ptsrnkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:21:35 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
James Texeira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am against this bill and the special session. I feel that it infringes on our rights as a church to speak freely what we believe. I would like to see this taken to a vote and let the people decide the same way we did in the past with a constitutional amendment. If the people decide to go with the marriage equity bill I can live with that. But not in a special session.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: ljohnpuhek@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:41:35 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
L John Puhek	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: A basic Law of Nature is that opposite sexes are designed for procreation. Same Sex "Marriage" defies this basic phenomenon, and does NOT justify changing the dictionary definition, which has been consistent with Nature's Law & religions for hundreds if not thousands of years. "Civil Union" can give same sex partners equal treatment under our Civil Laws. Don't mess with Mother Nature & maintain Religious Freedom.

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Testimony of Patricia Hanson Hubner

Submitted on Oct 23, 2013

RE: Opposition to using a special session of the legislature for the proposed Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13

Dear Legislators,

I believe that a special session is not the forum for the people of Hawai'i to fairly discuss and consider the far reaching effects of the proposed Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13.

Multiple red flags are going off as to why the governor wants to bypass the normal legislative process and rush this bill through a special session of the legislature. The people of Hawai'i and their children and generations to come will be affected by the proposed Marriage Equality Bill and we deserve to have this issue be treated fairly and with full consideration from all points of view and this cannot be done in a 5-day special session.

Assumptions that same sex marriage (not a civil union but a marriage) is supported by the majority of the people of Hawai'i is an assumption and deserves to be put straight forwardly to the people by letting the people vote on it. Let the people of Hawai'i be heard and do not make a mockery of our democratic system of government by rushing this bill through a special session.

I also believe that the governor's bill erodes our First Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion by not protecting church facilities. Churches are an integral part of any community and therefore are a "place of public accommodation." The cherished privilege of all Americans to be protected to worship as they wish is not protected in the governor's bill.

I plead with our legislators to cancel the special session, especially since now there are other topics (Kaua'i health care, etc) that the governor is tacking onto to the work of this special session! Use the legislative process that is already in place! Use the regular legislative session to discuss this issue or put the issue of Marriage Equality to the vote of the people of Hawai'i!

Mahalo nui loa,

Patricia H Hubner

18-2052 Ohia Nani Rd, Mt View, HI 96771

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: ulutonga@go.byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:39 PM
Attachments: [testimony.docx](#)

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
uluakimata tonga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: akiuk001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:11:16 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
kelly akiu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: aloha, this is not an equal rights issue this is an issue of a people group who by choice want the rest of THIS State to conform to their choice and so doing validate their behavior. Being gay and living an alternative lifestyle is A CHOICE not a RIGHT!!! As humans we do not have a choice what ancestry we are born into nor a choice as to what gender we are born BUT IT IS A FREE WILL CHOICE what gender you choose to have relations. MAN is Created for WOMAN and vice versa, THIS IS THE NATURAL ORDER OF ALL THINGS: ying & Yang, negative & positive. It is fine for those to choose this way but do not destroy MORALITY, GOOD ORDER of our Hawaii to validate their lifestyle. MUCH OVER WHERE IS MY RIGHT AS A PARENT & GRANDPARENT to monitor the quality of education and what my children & grands are exposed to???? Where is the right for our keiki to know what is true when alternatives are given rights all the way to early education, I am just appauled and disgusted to think of the ramifications. Truly, I will remove my children from any public educational system no matter the cost! its not about being ridiculously religious but just maintaining a decorum of decency!!! IF ever I begged it would be for this PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not pass this request...give them the benefits which they already have why turn everything upside down to satisfy this people group???? think of tomorrow your keiki, grands and all those there after! our Hawaiian kupuna, Kings and Queens are aghast at what is becoming of their Hawaii...

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October 23, 2013

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing concerning the upcoming special session on the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. My purpose is not to take a stand for or against homosexuality itself, but to express a deep concern regarding how religious freedoms will be impacted by this bill. While I understand the intent of this legislation draws from a common human goal of eliminating persecution, discrimination, and marginalization of all members of society, it does not make sufficient efforts to protect the rights of persons of faith to follow their own conscious without interference from, or the threat of litigation by, those who disagree.

While the current bill includes some weak protections for those who solemnize weddings, I believe this will do little to curb litigious attacks against freedom of religious expression. The law must allow any individual or business, public accommodation or not, to refuse to engage in any activity, including the provision of goods or services, if such activity may be reasonably construed as a display of support for events with which they do not agree. To not protect this fundamental right of expression will effectively compel compliance with a particular system of morality. This is not the role of government, and it may not even be the intent of those who drafted this bill. If the issue is to enhance tolerance for all people regardless of who they are, this cannot be resolved if the remedy effectively shifts attacks from one group to another. To do so will only intensify the fight and lead to further division. We cannot heal wounds or build bridges by redirecting harm.

Yet the experiences of other states tell us this will be the result if these protections are not strengthened. Examples are many, and here I provide three.

1. In Oregon, private business owners Aaron and Melissa Klein were forced to close their bakery in the face of threats of harm from supporters of same-sex marriage after they declined to provide a cake for a same-gendered wedding.¹
2. In New Mexico, Elane Photography was successfully sued for declining to photograph a solemnization ceremony between same-sex partners.²
3. In Iowa, legislation is pending regarding punitive action against a Mennonite couple, Betty and Richard Odgaard, for refusing to host a same-sex wedding at their art gallery.³

Although there are perhaps extremists on the fringe of the gay-rights movement (or any movement, for that matter) who intentionally seek to harm those with whom they disagree, I believe that most

¹ See n.a. "Sweet Cakes By Melissa, Oregon Bakery That Denied Gay Couple A Wedding Cake, Closes Shop," *The Huffington Post*, Sep. 2, 2013 or Billy Hallowell, "'Bible-Thumping...B**ch': Bakers Who Refused to Make Gay Couple's Wedding Cake Shut Down Their Shop Following Threats, Anger," *The Blaze*, Sep. 2, 2013

² See Martha C. White, "Wedding companies that shun gays feel impact, for better or worse," *NBC News*, Oct. 14, 2013 or Doug Mataconis, "Court Holds That Wedding Photographer Cannot Refuse Service To Gay Couples," *Outside the Beltway*, Aug. 23, 2013.

³ See Cheryl Chumley, "Mennonites Countersue Gay Couple for Right to Delay Wedding," *The Washington Times*, Oct. 14, 2013 or n.a. "Mennonite couple files counter-lawsuit in fear of being forced to host same-sex weddings," *Fox News*, Oct. 14, 2013

reasonable people on all sides would be disturbed to see the damage to the livelihood of those exercising their right to free expression as a result of legislation which is claimed to reduce discrimination. Now, the laws in some of these states actually include stronger protections for religious expression than Hawaii's proposed bill, yet even these protections have proven insufficient.

In these and many other examples, those under attack are not discriminating by refusing service based on a person's sexual orientation, but rather are declining to take an active supporting role in events with which they disagree. Discrimination against any *person* is wrong. However, declining to participate in *activities and events* that one finds morally objectionable is not discrimination, it is protecting one's own freedom of expression. It's a subtle, but critical, distinction. We must not provide a legal club to supporters of any moral philosophy that can be used to beat persons they disagree with into submission. The moral issues are important, but should be decided through individual expression and private debate, not through legal actions that side with particular belief systems.

Certainly, discrimination of any form is damaging to society, but so is forcibly compelled morality. Yet these goals need not be in conflict. Coexistence and non-discrimination necessarily entails mutual toleration. Morality cannot – it must not – be dictated or imposed by governments, churches, lawyers, judges, or anyone else. People must have the freedom to believe according to their own conscience, to follow their own faith, and to choose their own actions. This fundamental human right must be actively protected. The present bill does not.

Now, it has come to my attention that letters similar to this one have been dismissed because they do not provide wording to be included in the bill. To avoid similar dismissal I would propose the following changes to the current bill, or their equivalent.

- §572-G: Remove “provided that:” from line 5, and delete all lines 6 through 12 and lines 18 – 21.
- Add paragraph §572-H under Section 2 to read: “Protections for the freedom of religious expression: Pursuant to Amendment I of the United States Constitution forbidding any law which prohibits the free exercise of religion, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any private individual or business to engage in an activity, including the provision of goods or services, if such activity may reasonably be construed as an expression of support of same-gender marriage contrary to personal religious beliefs.”

It would then be acceptable to me to leave the interpretation of “expression of support” up to individuals and those who represent them in the courts.

I thank you for your consideration of this vital issue concerning fundamental human rights and freedoms. I urge you to take steps to ensure that the Great State of Hawaii avoids the erosion of religious freedoms that is spreading in other states.

With Much Concern,

Stephen Moody
sjmoody@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: rtemple@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:28:07 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
Robin Temple	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I want to support traditional marriage. I have nothing against civil rights for gay partners. If the federal government does not recognize civil unions, we should be rallying the federal legislators to change the laws. It seems a shame to change the definition of marriage after all these centuries (millenia?). Seems like the feds are kind of forcing us to change the definition, and the states are falling in line. Seems like a bad idea to me. At least, please allow safeguards for religious freedom. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: tiaremoana@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:04:04 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
Tiare Vainerere	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Don't take away my amendment rights for religious freedom. You're about to open up a can of worms that will create one problem after another if you pass this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: joanniex3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:15:53 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
Joan Corrigan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to the bill being presented in the October 28 special session. To me, it is not just about "equal rights", but about the ripple effect it will have on family and society. There have been tremendous negative impact in states that have already passed same-sex marriage laws and I am very concerned about what it means for our future generations, especially my children.

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From: [Henry Lindo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:34:09 PM

JDL Committee Members;

I testify that the Committee should vote "NO" on SB 1.

Instead, I move that this Bill "Relating to Equal Rights" should be tabled and moved to be placed on the ballot for the "2014" elections.

The reason for this is I know that the "Silent Majority", of which I consider myself a part of, will not voice their concerns one way or the other directly to their respective elected Representatives.

However, we will turn out at the Voting Polls and make our voices heard on an Amendment "Relating to Equal Rights" that is placed on the ballot.

You are our elected Representatives and I believe that you should put together an amendment for the Public to have their say, especially on an issue which is far reaching and will affect us all in generations to come.

So once again I reiterate my testimony to reflect that I say "NO" to SB 1 "Relating to Equal Rights".

Respectfully submitted by:
Henry A. Lindo
State of Hawaii Resident

From: [Lokelani Pila](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: My testimony to oppose SB 1 relating to equal rights
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:43:58 PM

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Mr. Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Mrs. Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Measure bill: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Measure number: The Hearing JDL 10-28-13

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013

Hearing Time: 10:30am

I will not be testifying in person but by email only.

I oppose this bill to recognize extending same rights of natural born opposite-sex marriages to individuals of the same sex who got married outside of Hawaii. Marriage in Hawaii is between a man and wife only. Naturally only opposite - sex couples are naturally able to produce off-spring. For this reason they I believe same-sex relationship are two single individuals with creative sexual relationships and should not be recognized as a married couple.

As it is written in 1 Corinthians 7:2 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." This obviously is relation to opposite-sex marriage. I am testifying to oppose the bill to recognize marriages between same sex individuals. In the State of Hawaii we legally do not conduct or recognize marriages between same sex individuals and so we should not pass this bill to recognize the equal rights of these out of state unions.

Mahalo,
Ruth Pila

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: pdiazhi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:36:19 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
Pat Diaz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The issue goes far beyond simply the private relationship of this or that couple, and its implications will be far reaching and profound. The language of the proponents is meant to convince us that this is a civil rights issue and that anyone who does not agree is bigoted. Do not be led astray with such language, and do not allow yourself to be bullied by it.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: johnandcarlina@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:39:14 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
Carlina McCue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote NO on SB1 ~ There is no reason to vote on such a volatile issue in this special session. ~ The democratic process is being circumvented. Let it be vetted properly in regular session. ~ Religious freedoms are being placed in jeopardy by this bill and the public accommodations section will absolutely NOT protect churches. ~ Civil Unions already protect same gender couples. ~ SCOTUS ruled in 2007 that marriage is NOT a civil right! ~ Let the people decide in a constitutional amendment to be voted on in 2014. ~ Again, PLEASE vote NO on SB1. Mahalo

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: [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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: konashiromas@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:18:02 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
Julian Shiroma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose same sex marriage. I want the people of Hawaii to have the right to vote on this issue.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: cnck58@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:55:48 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
Nicole Valdez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To the State Legislature I urge you to allow the citizens of this great state of Hawaii to vote on this issue. I believe that marriage is between one woman and one man. Let the peoples voices be heard. Let the people vote. Thank you.

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: [Ron Yoshida](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Written testimony in Opposition to Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:01:19 PM

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ron Yoshida and I am a registered voter in Hawai'i and live at [47-262C Hui Iwa Street, Kaneohe, HI. 96744](#)

Although I stand in opposition to this bill, more importantly I stand in opposition to this PROCESS of trying to pass this bill in a rushed SPECIAL SESSION. I am humbly asking all of you as the Senate Judiciary Committee to please vote "No" on this bill, NOT BECAUSE you don't support Same Sex Marriage, but because this very important and controversial issue SHOULD NOT BE RUSHED through in a Special 5 day Session, but should be discussed in a regular session - which is only 3 months away.

Historically, Special Sessions have been used for emergency situations only (i.e. Super Ferry, 911, Special Budget Items, etc). This Same Sex Marriage Issue is far from an Emergency situation. I believe this special session maneuver DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF RESPECT as well as an ABUSE of our Democratic process. Hawai'i has discussed in length the Civil Unions issue in the past, but we have yet to fully discuss the issue of Same Sex Marriage. The last time we talked about this was in 1998.

I believe that everyone is entitled to their opinion and we all have the right to express it based on our First Amendment right of Freedom of Speech. This rushed 5 day session, will not give adequate time for everyone to express their views. It will not give you as our elected officials adequate time to properly debate the merits of this bill. I believe that to rush this bill through in a surprise move by the Governor is somewhat insulting to the people of Hawaii. In fact, EVEN IF I WAS A SUPPORTER OF Same Sex Marriage, I would not like to have it legalized in this rushed special session fashion. It just wouldn't feel right; it wouldn't be "Pono."

Therefore, I believe legislators can still stand firm and support Same Sex Marriage while voting against the bill in this Special Session BECAUSE A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself. The regular session is just a few months away. Let's wait.

If I may repeat this: FOR LEGISLATORS THAT SUPPORT SAME SEX MARRIAGE, A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself.

In Hawai'i, the phrase "Talk Story" is an important part of our everyday lives. We need more time to "Talk Story" about this very important issue that will affect all of Hawai'i for years to come. I appreciate having this opportunity to write to you. I welcome a call from you to discuss this more. My cell number is [265-5566](#). Thank you again. And thank you again for serving me, my family, and our beloved Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Ron Yoshida

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: mmoorelvi75@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:16:54 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
Samlynn Moore	Individual	Oppose	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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: mrspicardal@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:22:26 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
Brandi Picardal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please oppose Same Sex Marriage. Give the people a chance to vote.

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLWebTestimony](#)
Cc: lorenalundquist@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:29:27 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
Lorena Lundquist	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am writing in regards to the same sex equal rights bill. I oppose this as I believe there is only one marriage under God of one man and one woman anything else goes against the laws God has mandated and no other marriage should be equal, Hawaii must stand apart from the politically incorrect way of thinking and do the right thing and vote against same sex marriage rights, how can they have rights when this is WRONG in the eyes of God which our foundation of this Country stands on!

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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Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

David J. Fukuzawa – representing myself as a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii
91-1090 Aawa Drive, Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Telephone: 808-286-4255

Monday, October 28, 2013 – Special Legislative Session 2 for 2013

Senate Bill 1: Marriage Equality in the State of Hawaii

My position on this bill – OPPOSE (Written Testimony Only)

My name is David J. Fukuzawa. I have been legal and voting citizen in the State of Hawaii for 22 years. I am a semi-retired State of Hawaii Correctional Worker. I worked in the state for almost 15 years when I had to retire due to health reasons. I am testifying today in opposition of the proposed legislation regarding Marriage Equality for Same-sex unions.

The reason I am opposed is because by passing this legislation; you will effectively infringe upon the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. This right allows people to practice or not practice religious faiths as one desires without government intervention in favor of or against. Additionally, you will have caused people to censure what they say from this point forward.

I state this because in the research I conducted regarding how most common religions in the United States have historically almost always exclusively viewed marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Please note the various faith systems I reviewed: Hindu, Islam, Shinto, Buddhism, Tao, Judaism, Wicca, Christianity, Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah Witness, Orthodox Christians. These beliefs in many cases directly refer to the marriage union as one man and one woman, or implied it by dictating how a person is supposed to treat their marriage partner of the opposite sex. By passing any legislation that creates marriage between two people of the same sex; you would infringe upon the values and beliefs of all these different faith systems. The sanctity of marriage has been culturally around since man first started to walk this earth.

As I mentioned earlier, I was a correctional worker. Wouldn't it be a shame to be the legislature who created a bill that could in fact cause one of these clergy or one of their congregants to be locked up and imprisoned because of how they believed and practiced their faith. By doing this you will have effectively censured these people from quoting their religious doctrines. You will cause people to go underground in practicing their faiths. We would essentially become like China.

What concerns me even more; is what would come next. What other inalienable rights would be taken away from the people of Hawaii. I am sure when the Sovereign Nation of Hawaii decided to become democratic from an autocratic society, they never thought about doing this to their people. And I am sure it was the same when Hawaii decided to become a State in the Union.

Please remember we are a state government of the people and run by the people for the people of Hawaii. Let's not change things for a very small minority special interest group (approximately 1/5th of 1%.) Besides, haven't the people of Hawaii already spoken to this issue in 1998, and in 2011 when Civil Unions became law. Let's make the people of Hawaii proud and be pono about this.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion regarding this issue. I do realize the difficulty in having to decide what is best for the people of Hawaii. I sincerely hope that the decision you collectively make will be for the best of all the people in Hawaii in the near and distant future of our state.

Again, I strongly oppose any legislation regarding Marriage Equality for Same Sex unions in the state of Hawaii.

Aloha Hawaii Lawmakers!

Thank you so very much for your service to your respective districts, the State of Hawaii and to this wonderful Country of the United States of America in which we live!

I am requesting that you vote "no" on same sex marriage for the following reasons:

Same sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

1. A five or six or seven day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.
2. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.
3. Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 States that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?
4. A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five, six, or seven day session. And especially if that voice is "amend that bill".
5. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carved out.
6. The people believed that they voted on this issue in 1998. The polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage. So why not let the people vote?
7. Shouldn't special sessions be for emergency situations? Such as you did with 9-11, the Super Ferry, and the budget shortfall? Fiscally speaking, wouldn't Hawaii be best served if this was brought up during a regular session which is only two months away?

As Legislators, you must respect fundamental democratic principles:

- a. The people believed they addressed the issue in 1998, and should be the ones consulted again.
- b. Marriage is NOT a civil right. No court (INCLUDING THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) has ever said that it is.
- c. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input.

The governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If a church offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc...), by definition the church becomes a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it were requested.

Even those States that have made same-sex marriage legal, have stronger language in their law to protect the churches from such liability. The wording in the bill that will be in front of you is flawed. I urge you to not to rush into something that will have such a devastating consequence for our communities.

If you are still not convinced, I hope that you will at least give this bill more time. Why a special session? Why the rush? Why spend a few million dollars when the regular session is only a couple of months

away? You will then have more time to hold public hearing on the various islands. And you will have more time to investigate how the other States have protected the churches in their new same-sex marriage laws.

In closing, our Country was birthed out of the principles of being free to worship our Creator and not being oppressed by it's Government. That is why our founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution in that manner. It was to protect our liberties. Again, one in which is the Freedom of Religion. In their wisdom, the Government was to create and uphold just laws while the church was to stand side by side to uphold the moral fabric of our society. If the churches are silenced, we become nothing more that a Socialistic society.

Thank you for taking the time to read this!

Aloha,

Raymond S, Rodrigues III
46 Wawai Loop,
Hilo, Hi. 96720

From: [Bennett, Michael M.](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Right to Vote
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:39:33 AM

My testimony to the committee is simple:

"I want my right to vote on the same-sex marriage bill!!"

Sincerely,

Michael M. Bennett
Kailua Kona

From: ksimmons@hawaiiantel.net
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: No to Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:51:03 AM

Aloha,

I am Kenneth Simmons, born and raised in Hawaii and a retired City employee living in Wahiawa.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equal Rights. I am not against equal rights but in this case the legislation is trying to give rights to a protected class of people to the detriment of the many. It is redefining marriage in a way that will only result in a continual decay of public morals and perpetuation of a lie that homosexuality is acceptable for all society. I love my dogs more than most people but would never assume that I was born this way and should marry my dog.

To use the argument of economic gain for Hawaii if this bill is passed is wrong. If you take that line then why not approve of prostitution, gambling, and legalization of drugs as all of these would bring money to Hawaii.

I ask that our legislators take a stand against the moral decay of our society. Do what is right in the sight of God and don't let this abomination happen. If necessary let the people decide by sending the question to the polls.

Mahalo for your time.

Kenneth Simmons

Sent from Windows Mail

Kevin T. Brown
P. O. Box 933
Naalehu, HI 96772
808-939-8688
Ktbn101@gmail.com

The Senate Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capital
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

Subject: SB 1- Relating to Equal Rights

October 24, 2013

Honorable Chairman:

I have lived in Hawaii since May of 2000, and I am writing to express my concern about the recent discussion on marriage equality in Hawaii. The premise of the debate is that the same benefits that have been afforded married couples (Male & Female) should be also given to close friends regardless of gender. The question of benefits is not a moral or equal rights decision. It is not even about love. The federal and state allowances given to Married couples was one of recognition that they contribute to society in a way that even the closest of friends of the same gender could not. They were and still remains the source of the future work force. Even the benefits that are afforded to Married couples are reduced as their children leave home and enter the workforce. The benefit afforded married couples were because of the unique contribution of that relationship. Though passing this legislation does not prevent married couples from providing the same

contribution, it does devalues the uniqueness of that contribution. In times past both Federal and State legislatures recognized as a benefit to society, this legislation undermines that benefit.

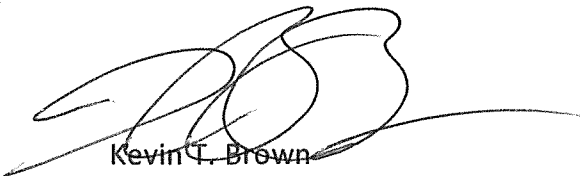
Can we afford the change? According to the American Community Survey there are about 60.3 million married couples in the USA. There are 120.6 Million people are receiving federal and state benefits based upon marital status alone. Changing the name of the relationship of friends can add at a minimum of 12.7 million individuals to that benefit list with no potential to provide the contribution to society that married couples have. In a cost benefit analysis this discussion adds to the cost without adding to the benefit.

As legislators are charged to make decisions that help resolve problems. This decision has the potential to create a situation that not only expresses a devaluation of marriage but increase the cost to the tax payer in program maintenance. Though there are moral grounds to object to this legislation, it is unlikely that the political climate will allow a judgment based upon morality. Everyone has the right to believe what they want. This is not just a moral issue it is an economic and social issue as well. Economically it will increase the cost to taxpayer over the long term or systematically reduce the benefit to married couples to compensate for increased demand without benefit. Socially the redefinition of marriage by legislation brings additional pressure to attempt to normalize the decision through the education system. In Hawaii keeping good teachers has always been a challenge simply by the ever changing curriculum and or approach to teaching. Now

teachers will be mandated to justify the decisions even if they are morally conflicted. The decision that you make for the people of Hawaii has long lasting implication. Do not force the people of Hawaii to compromise long standing values that make Hawaii a great place to live. Hawaii has many laws designed to maintain a natural balance due to the nature of Island living. What about the social ecosystem that exists? Should we care less about it? Is it not as important as the nene goose? Living among different types of people is not new to the people of Hawaii but to be forced to accept a state mandated value set is tyranny against the people that believed and voted in a legislature that was to be working to make things better. Now this- Our elected officials are forcing its moral code on the people. It is not right or equal.

Marriage is more than a piece of paper or contract. It is the economic and social foundation for Hawaii. Vote No, this is not an equal rights issue for the contributions that close friends make on society can never be equal to contribution that traditional marriages has and continue to make on society. It can't be equal if it is not equal. I await your response.

Sincerely,



Kevin T. Brown

From: [Earl Arakaki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: JDL Testimony to SB-1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:48:18 PM

Dear Chairman Senator Hee and Senate Committee Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Thank you for serving our community especially at this time when the "Same Sex Marriage bill" is coming up for vote of which I oppose.

This important legislation will affect all of us in ways not yet conceived. Please take the time to make an informed vote that will alter our current lifestyle and values which will affect our Island for generations to come. Please visit the www.massresistance.org website to inform yourself of what your sons, daughters or grandkids will be exposed to in school and in society. This website depicts the policies and public outcry in Massachusetts that approved same sex marriage in 2004. This bill is too important to our islands future to be passed without further discussion.

Aloha, Earl K. Arakaki
45-342 Kanaka Street
Kaneohe, Hi 96744capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Dakota Robinson](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:33:12 PM

October 24, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I stand in opposition to recognizing marriages between individuals of the same sex. My view stems from the traditional institution of marriage reserved for one man and one woman with the intent of procreating and raising a family based on the principle doctrines of the bible upon which the foundations of our nation were founded. I have several gay friends in whom I love, but I do not support same-sex marriages on the basis of religious freedom.

Thank you very much,
Dakota Robinson

68-495 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Hawaii
96791

From: [Aaron Schade](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to the proposed bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:07:04 PM

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Senators and elected representatives,

I absolutely oppose the bill and the special session that has been called which takes away the voice of the people. I have significant concerns that the same sex marriage bill threatens to replace and supersede religious freedoms. The language of the bill simply allows us to draw no other conclusion: this bill will change religious practices against the will and rights of those who are already enjoying those privileges. The consciences and beliefs of many will be rendered illegal and their conscientious convictions would then be regarded as discriminatory. The law would prohibit what and how individuals taught their children, and what they would have their children taught, and become oppressive and ironically unconstitutional in its application. It would also create a mess in state funding for individuals of Hawaiian descent, and who and what constitutes a Hawaiian. For the sake of freedoms afforded in this country, and within the framework under which such freedoms were drafted by the founding fathers, this simply cannot happen. The results down the road would be regrettable, and it is shameful that religious freedom has been given a price-tag, sold for the economic benefits of the state. As my elected representatives, I request you vote against any such bill that supports same sex marriages and which jeopardizes the religious freedoms this bill would simply replace. We can not remove those rights for your proposed bill, a bill that is simply baffling in its scope as to what you are willing to give up for it. This is not about depriving anyone of rights, or some falsely construed accusation of intolerance, or being behind the times; this is about maintaining and preserving the religious freedom and rights already in place, and which any such bill would seriously jeopardize to undo. Decisions can not be made at such an expense to freedom.

It is commendable that some concessions have been made in the proposed bill to protect religious freedom, but it is simply not enough. I am baffled at the tap dance around, and then over religious freedom that would result from this bill, and the unabashed manner in which economics has been used as a justification for trampling religious freedom. Words like "profit" have been dropped to somehow give the appearance that it will protect religious freedom in the proposed bill; however, the proposed language and its ambiguity continues to lack sufficient protections against church organizations and their holdings, and thus the bill must be rejected. The irony is that this initiative seeks to rob religious freedom in the name of "profits" for the state, sold to the highest bidder.

Religious freedom does not have a price-tag, and it is invaluable, and it can not, and must not be trampled upon. I continue to oppose redefining marriage, and this should not be done behind closed doors. If anything is to be redefined, it should happen by the voice of the people (which has already recently been done, and yet you continue to challenge it for your personal motivations, obviously at odds with what the law already defines). All of these issues proposed in the bill should be rejected. Religious freedom must prevail. It has been safeguarded and protected since the establishment of this country, and must continue to do so.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen
Aaron Schade

From: pregilj@gmail.com on behalf of [John Pregil](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: same sex legislative session
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:29:07 PM

John Pregil, Jr.

46-241 Lilipuna Rd.

247-7878

hfire04@hotmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very

important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special

legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights,

to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church

community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to

provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender

marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not

protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that

could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end

important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to

Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as

was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.

I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be

given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to

express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

John Pregil, Jr.

From: [Haunani](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition HB NO 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:50:01 PM

I am Haunani K. Jones, I represent my 5 keiki, my kane and 'ohana from Waihe'e, 'Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I come with an open heart and soul as I know this Bill would do more damage than good to the few of you who think this is the "right thing to do". This should NOT be strictly up to you are legislators, senators and Governor, however, decided wholly by us the people and citizens of this state.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Haunani K. Jones
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

[1 808 382-9481](tel:18083829481)

Aloha I'm Aaron Kaonohi I'm also a concerned father husband and Christian, as well as a Kanaka maoli. I'm testifying in regards to S.B. No.1 and let it be documented that I oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I take this stand to protect my moral rights and my constitutional rights as well. Marriage needs to be protected it is between a man and a women. I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1
Mahalo Aaron Kaonohi 47-357 mahakea rd Kaneohe Hi 96744

From: Connected2Faith@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:05:30 PM

Cristina Gilkey
47-376 A Mahakea Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-888-8404
Connected2Faith@aol.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Mr. Clayton Hee, Committee Chairman

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my District Senator, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Cristina Gilkey

From: [Roberto Martinez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: the HAWAII marriage equality act of 2013
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:09:46 PM

We as American's have a right to the full protection of the constitution of the United States of America as well as the right to have our most precious Constitution protected by those whom we have elected to political positions of power. The Hawaii Marriage act of 2013 I fear will deny a section of its citizens the right to practice our religious beliefs whether they be Christian or some other religion, as is protected in our constitution. We view marriage as a covenant between man and our creator as between a man and a woman, long ago established in our Christian Judeo scriptures. Be not deceived, It will force Pastors and Ministers to be outlaws in our land by a minority of individuals who have changed morality into civil rights for their own purposes. In their quest to force by political will all to accept their alternative life styles, since no true minister of God can marry two men or two women it is against everything we believe in. It will further destroy the fabric of our communities little by little in order to fill the pockets of business men who cannot see beyond the dollar bills in their bank accounts. It will further erode our Constitution which is already on a downward spiral.

I am against The Hawaii Marriage Act of 2013, let's put it to the ballot box for all our citizens.

A concerned Citizen
Roberto Martinez



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Sybil Schoenstein](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB-1 Oct. 28, 2013, 10:30am
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:18:38 PM

WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING SB-1, HEARING ON OCTOBER 28, 2013

I summarize several communiqués that I have sent to all state legislators and Governor Neil Abercrombie.

Before legislation passed to allow civil union, I sent warnings to all of you that you are opening a Pandora's box and that you would be inviting the door to be opened for future issues that would eventually lead to same-sex marriage. Well here it is at our doorstep.

Terminology

It is the term "marriage" that is an important issue here. "Same-sex marriage" should not be labeled as such. Marriage and legal rights are two different issues. If couples of the same sex want to be treated as equal in the eyes of the law, then so be it, but it should remain separate from the state of marriage. Ancient Hawaiian culture as in other cultures have accepted this relationship. No laws need to be made to sanction it. A same-sex relationship is just that. Marriage is just that. They are apples and oranges.

Civil Union should suffice as the terminology. There should be no need to change it. If the present Civil Union bill does not address legal equality, then make it do so without having to label it as same-sex marriage. I'm sure that you can find a way to label the bill as civil union with the same rights as married couples.

Religion

Regarding the religious aspect of the proposed bill, there should not be a problem with that if the intent is legal equality. Paragraphs 572-F and 572-G should be looked at carefully.

The language of the bill should reflect that religious organizations be allowed to make their own decisions in light of their beliefs. There should be no stipulations of the kind such as is stated in the bill at present. It is up to the religious entity to decide whether they wish to conduct any such ceremonies. If a same-sex couple wishes to bind their union with religious affiliation, it is up to them. I highly doubt they would want to do this in a place that does not fit their needs.

I still remain firm as an individual who strongly and deeply believes that marriage should remain between a man and a woman. Equality in this issue has to do with legal rights and should not make any stipulations on religious rights.

In paragraph 572C-2, which appears to have been eliminated, the first sentence "The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." should remain because it was voted on by the people and therefore should be respected.

If this following statement is true that "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couple", it leaves much open to interpretation by legislators. I do believe it was the intent of voters to preserve marriage between a man and a woman.

When civil union was presented to the voters, the wording was deceptive. I agree with those who believe that it was passed by voters, with the understanding that marriage would remain between a man and a woman. I for one voted with this understanding in mind.

I continue to impress on you the need to look at this bill very carefully before making your final decision. I'm sure you have had much feedback from others like myself asking you NOT to pass this bill at this time. If you are getting a lot of responses asking you not to pass this bill, it should indicate to you a real concern by many on both sides of the issue. That alone should set off a red light to be cautious.

DO NOT RUSH INTO THIS. TOO MUCH CONTROVERSY IS INVOLVED.

Take the time to truly listen to your constituents and think it through. If it be necessary to propose a bill, then word it properly.

May you be guided by good common sense!

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Schoenstein

From: [David Waite](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: S.b. No 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:02 PM

My name is David Stratton Waite; I am a member of the Laie, HI community. I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill. My reasons - the exceptions are not adequately stated. I would want clergy performing marriages the ability to accept or refuse based on the religious belief of the clergy. Additionally, those religions which own buildings to accept or refuse use of their buildings based on the beliefs of the religion. I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1. Thank You

From: [Kathie Mundy](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: The Senate: Committee on Judiciary & Labor, Regarding SB1 on Oct. 28, 2013 @ 10:30 am - Written Testimony Only
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:38:12 PM

To the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Regarding SB1:

I want to begin by thanking you for your dedication and desire to serve the people of Hawaii, trying to help protect our state and make it better for all of us. I know yours is not an easy task.

I am asking you to vote NO at the special session regarding the proposed Same Sex Marriage Bill (SB1). I am opposed to redefining the meaning of the word "marriage". That term was always meant to define marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. Same sex marriage debases the family, which is the basis for society and has been from the beginning. Let the term "civil union" stand which defines, by its terminology, what it is.

If this bill is passed and becomes law, I am concerned about the effect on the culture, values, and the rich pro family pro life traditions of Hawaii. Is this really the legacy we want to hand down to our children and grandchildren?

Have each of you honestly researched and analyzed the effects on those states (like Massachusetts) and places (like Canada) that have already made same sex marriage legal? It has been shown that some of the LGBT leaders have specific plans to change school curriculum and to change laws about churches being able to follow their faith in choosing whether or not to perform marriages, etc. based on their belief systems. What about the freedoms of individuals and businesses who are not gay or lesbian to live out our beliefs, too?

I ask you to vote NO on SB1 until we, the people of Hawaii, can see what has happened in other places and decide if this is/will be in the BEST interests of the people of Hawaii. If you vote no on this issue, it will give time for greater debate and input from Hawaii's people. I believe that, regarding this issue, you will best serve the people by letting each one of us have a vote in determining the outcome that we are being asked to live by.

Righteousness cannot be legislated. It is a matter of belief based on the principles and beliefs that our country was founded on. Legalizing immorality and attempting to legalize immorality into the culture is in direct opposition to our state motto: "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". We need to embrace our state motto.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my opinion,

Kathryn E. Mundy
(registered voter, born and raised in Hawaii, residing on Maui)

From: [Boyd Mossman](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1 Same Sex Marriage legislation
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:57:58 PM

SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 28, 2013
10:30am

Written Testimony of Hon. Boyd P. Mossman (Ret.) in opposition to SB 1.

I submit this written testimony in opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights or more accurately Same Sex Marriage.

In accordance with our state motto, marriage between a man and a woman is and has always been deemed "righteous." This statement about the continued life of our land is our guide to our future. Marriage between a man and a woman has defined the history of mankind as well as our state. From the indigenous to the immigrants, our ancestors labored and lived as families with mothers and fathers. Using equal rights to topple the foundations of the righteousness of our land with the cry of equal rights does not in and of itself provide equal rights. By removing rights currently enjoyed by the many religious organizations and their members and affiliates through unfair and biased legislation will make some more equal than others. Use of facilities by any who religious organizations deem they wish to allow use to is a right being taken away with this bill. Most may not recognize the jeopardy this bill will place our churches and families in without a more thorough review of the law.

I therefore respectfully recommend first that the legislature allow the people to decide again whether same gender marriage should be legalized in Hawaii and second that at least the rights and privileges currently allowed under our current laws to churches and their affiliates be preserved for our posterity.

Very truly,

Hon. Boyd P. Mossman (Ret.)
808 250-7654
boydpmossman@me.com

October 25, 13

Aloha Honorable Representative,

Growing up, I learned that as Americans, we have the protected right, privilege, and freedom of religion. I also learned that "all (men) are created equal". The Marriage Equality Act presents a problem: it cannot satisfy both. If it were to pass and ultimately become law, numerous religions' freedoms would be limited, and that wouldn't be good (a religion should not have to alter their beliefs to satisfy this bill, that seems almost unlawful to them). If the bill was tossed, those seeking equal rights related to marriage wouldn't receive the opportunities they are seeking.

I feel the only ways to make it just and fair for BOTH sides is to 1) revise bill to protect religious freedoms and 2) let the people vote on the issue.

I firmly believe that freedom of religion is a wonderful right in this great country. If a certain religious group were to change or alter their doctrines, beliefs, and/or

values, it is its right to do so, according to their own desires. The bill in its current state could very well FORCE change in religions themselves, not according to religions' desires. This immediately takes away religious freedom. If that were taken away, there may come even greater consequences not just to religions, but to all people in society.

Another thing I learned growing up is that every member of Congress is responsible for doing what the people (not just some, not just one Party, but ALL people) desire. It may be true that you, along with this bill, cannot satisfy everyone. If I was in your difficult shoes, I would let the people themselves decide; that only seems fair to ALL people.

It is my hope that as my representative you will: help to revise the bill to protect freedom of religion as well as equal rights, and help support the people voting on the issue (allowing another freedom to be seen in action), which is their right. Mahalo nui loa...

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Joshua and Makaiwi
Pearl City Resident

From: [gusty](#)
Subject: Oppose bill# SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:03:12 PM

I am writing to oppose the proposed Same-sex Marriage Bill. Marriage is defined by God as between a man and a woman. Even if God is left out of the discussion, the institution of marriage is a societal decision that should be decided by society. Whatever the motivation for hastily changing the definition of marriage, your highest priority should be to represent the people.

I plead with you to not erode the family, the most critical and beneficial structure for a child to be created and/or raised in. I request you read these three papers:

<http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=IS04C02> (Family Research Council)
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2004/03/marriage-still-the-safest-place-for-women-and-children>
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/09/marriage-america-s-greatest-weapon-against-child-poverty>

Thank you!!
Samiuela Tolutau

From: [Stephen Crowell](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: equal rights
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:10:02 PM

to all senators of Hawaii:

***I WANT YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THE SB-1 aka
The Marriage Equality Bill.***

Many do not want this bill to pass. I do not want our government officials choosing. I want the people of Hawaii to vote on this. Many of your voters will remember your vote on this bill and your re-election on November 4, 2014 hangs in the balance. your future in the Senate is dependent on your choice!!!

From: [Stephen Kaneshiro](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: NO on Marriage Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:18:35 PM

Public Testimony for the Senate hearing:

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

From: Stephen Kaneshiro

Pastor of Valley Isle Fellowship, Wailuku, Maui, HI.

P.O. Box 886

Wailuku, HI. 96793

(808) 244-0865

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

Please vote "NO" on the issue of "marriage equality."

The first issue that concerns me is that "marriage equality" presumes that those with same-sex attractions should have civil rights to re-define marriage on the same basis that people with different skin colors should enjoy equal protection. This line of reasoning leads many to the erroneous belief that people are born with uncontrollable inclinations to same-sex attraction.

With much research being done over the last 30 years, there has been no evidence that there is a biological, chemical, genetic, or any other scientific rationale for "being born with that inclination." If there is no scientific evidence for this assumption, then civil rights are being granted on the basis of one's behavioral

choices.

I do not want to see this “Pandora’s Box” of choices opened up. I would not want to see the nudists have civil rights to go unclothed anywhere and among anyone they would want to. I would not want to see that behavior around children and youth. I would not want to see pornographers granted the civil right to openly practice their trade anywhere they would want to with anyone they would want to do it with.

As far as marriage is concerned, if same-sex attraction would be a protected “civil right,” then what about the “civil rights” of the polygamists or the polyamorists? What about an extreme view like the “civil rights” of pedophiles? Will these choices also be covered by “civil rights?” Since there is no scientific proof that “same-sex attracted” people are born that way, we have no choice but to claim that it is a choice. If you say that you believe that they were “born” that way, then you are saying that it is a matter of faith and faith in religion is integral. So this would make it a faith issue and when you begin to speak about a faith issue, then all religious faith has to be considered here as well.

Another issue that is of great concern to me is that there is an enormous effort to try to remove the Judeo-Christian faith from all consideration in the formulation of this law. Yet in the establishment of our Nation’s Constitution, our Judeo-Christian faith was foundational in it’s formulation. As our nation is trying to move more and more into an amoral civil government, the end result is turning into a sorry failure. The more we move away from our foundations in the Judeo-Christian faith, the more and more social evils and pains seem to grow exponentially.

In the 60’s the “free love” movement led to the legalization of abortion in the mid 70’s. Now over 40 years after the legalization of the slaughter of unborn children, we have experienced more than 55 million unborn children being sacrificed on the altar of godless convenience. In my opinion this is a big contributor to the devaluation of human life in our society that we currently experience. How can this be good for anyone?

Now we are about to see the destruction of the sanctity of marriage with what is being termed marriage equality. This is an issue of morality, and the “faith community,” except those who are agreeing with marriage equality, are being marginalized and demonized. You who are legislators do have the choice to determine who you will hear and who you will let influence you.

Since there is no unassailable scientific proof that one is “born” with same-sex attractions, a legislator who votes in favor of “marriage equality” is applying his or her faith in the unfounded belief that such attractions are inborn. You are acting with inequality by discounting those who have a contrary faith and in denying them the right to actively engage in this very important process.

To dismiss, marginalize, and demonize those who disagree with your presuppositions is to be very unequal. With that kind of inequality, how can you even begin to address the very important issue of “marriage equality?” The heavy-handed spirit that is evident on this issue in the Governor’s office and among many in the Hawaii State Legislature on this issue really stands as a disgrace to the issue of “marriage equality.”

I urge you to vote “NO” on this issue until you can conclusively prove that there is verifiable scientific evidence that one is born with same-sex attractions. By rushing this through and voting “yes” on this issue would open the “Pandora’s Box” to the civil rights of all kinds of so called desires that would end up destroying our great state and our great nation. In the spirit of “equality” vote “NO” until there is scientific proof to support your suppositions.

Respectfully,

Stephen Kaneshiro

Pastor of Valley Isle Fellowship

Email: vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com

Phone: (808) 244-0865

P.O. Box 886

Wailuku, HI. 96793

From: [Ron Ebert](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:24:24 PM

I am totally against legalizing same sex marriage.

At the very least it should be put to a vote of the people! It might be legal to ram this into law without a vote of the people but is it the right thing to do?

Ron Ebert
PO Box 429
Pahala, Hi. 96777

Chairpersons of the House & Senate:
Honorable Members of the Hawaii House & Senate:

RE: SB1 - Equal Rights

For Legislative Session Meeting on Monday OCT 28, 2013

This is a testimony to publicly express my opposition to SB1.

As a Mililani resident, a community leader, a business owner, and concerned citizen for the wonderful state of Hawaii here are my reasons for opposing this bill.

- 1) Hawaii Senators and House Representatives are elected as 'representatives' of the people of Hawaii. You are here to serve the people of Hawaii. You are not here to represent outside special interest groups. Your voice should be that of the voice of the Hawaii residents. Your constituents should be who you listen to, not anyone else. Period. You were elected by your constituents, not anyone else. In addition, America is founded on the principle of the voice of the people, and especially of that by the majority. Majority rules. At this time, on this issue, if it is not clear what the people of Hawaii believe with regard to Marriage equality, then put it **on the ballot for all the people of Hawaii to decide.**
- 2) If this bill were about equal rights, then why are the rights of children not being discussed? Where are the equal rights for children who would say, "where is my mommy **and** my daddy?" This bill would deny children their right, and force them (truly force the, they would have no choice) to not have a choice. To be clear this would deny equal rights to young people (children/teens). To have a mom and dad has been a mainstay since the beginning of human civilization. So to be honest, this bill is not about 'equal rights' it is about adult people who are choosing to live the way they want, without any consideration of children. So in essence children don't have a right to a mom and dad. How sad.
- 3) In case this hasn't hit home, Let me as every single House and Senate Representative:

Did you grow up with a mother and father?

Think back on your childhood - what would it have been like if you had been forced to have two moms (no dad, ever) or two dads (no mom, ever)?

How would that have changed your childhood memories and experiences?

And now you are going to take that away for potential children here in Hawaii?

Again, this bill is not about equal rights. It is about adults whose will and rights are way more important than that of a child or teenager. In this case, children and teens have no rights.

4) Hawaii is a popular and sought after family destination of peoples all over the globe. Many love Hawaii because it is so 'family oriented.' Allowing less than one percent of the population and outside interest groups to change family orientation here in Hawaii will devastate the tourism industry, and send a message to the world that we are no longer a family friendly place to visit. Outside interest groups will spend millions now promoting that Hawaii is or will become the gay vacation capital or paradise of the world.

Is that the kind of image that each of you believe that your constituents want their state to be viewed? Will this help our local economy? Will this help people who move here because of our family atmosphere? Or will they think twice about brining their family here to live and therefore spend their money and resources somewhere else?

5) We already have a civil unions bill to accommodate same - sex couples. Again, if you are uncertain about this, LET the people of Hawaii decide on the ballot. Our freedom is based upon a government that was founded 'of the people, by the people, for the people.' NOT a government of the 'few' people. **Let the Majority decide.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

David Ameen Jr.
Mililani, Hawaii
808-971-1360

From: [Lionel Goo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same sex-vote no
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:10:40 PM

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

The Committee will meet to hear the following bill after its introduction and referral at the convening of the Second Special Session of 2013 on Monday, October 28, 2013:

SB 1

Status & Testimony

RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex.
Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Pending

Introduction and

Referral to JDL

One of the worst memories of my life was when I was a piano student. While playing the piano, my piano teacher used to stick his elbow in my groin. I thought I was being punished for not practicing enough. The very last piano lesson I ever had was when

he actually unzipped me and started fondling my penis. I never played piano again.

Please do not pass the same sex marriage bill.

Sincerely,

Ronald Lee (pseudonym)

From: [Kevin Hanna](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same Sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:56:19 PM

Though the Special Session now seems imminent, please remove from the agenda or or vote down the Same Sex marriage (SSM) bill proposed by the Governor's office.

The calling of a Special Session was never intended as a vehicle to change social behavior and make social public policy, it is a mechanism to handle legitimate emergencies which "REQUIRE" a timely response.

The SSM initiative in no way fits this intent.

The Special Session does not allow for adequate public input and/or the amending the proposed legislation. While I recognize that there are two days scheduled out of the 5 or 6 days of deliberation, this is not sufficient to hear the testimony of most of the people of these islands. To my knowledge, both of these hearings are in Oahu and none that I now of here in Hilo where or any of the other islands.

This is not the sort of issue that should be rushed into, just so that a very few may benefit for the tax implications which are sited as one of the main reasons to push this though quickly.

What is the MOST important result of this battle is not the passage or failure of any one legislative item, it is the adherence to the the democratic process.

If the public is not engaged in the processes on such an important issue, then indeed Democracy have taken a severe blow.

Please do not subvert the democratic process by forcing the issue in special session.

Please remove the Same Sex Marriage bill from the agenda of this session and allow the people of Hawaii to be stake holders in both this issue and the process of government.

I have voted in every election since I became of age, and that will not change in the future. However, who I elect or re-elect to represent will very much depend on the outcome of the next few days.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hanna

From: [Noe Nagamine](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:12:57 PM

Honorable Senator Hee, Chairman

"Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 1."

I am against same sex marriage and believe that marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a women and the Lord. Same sex partnerships can exists if they so choose outside of marriage as everyone has their agency, but marriage is a legal and binding act between a man and women and should remain as such.

I am for traditional marriage and strongly believe that it remains that way.

Sincerely,

Sandy Nagamine
1511 Nuuanu Avenue #205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

From: [Kamuela Kimokeo](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:22:54 PM

Aloha,

My Name is Kamuela Kimokeo and I am a Hawaii resident in currently living in Ewa Beach. I am writing to oppose the bill as it is currently written for the following reasons:

1. A special session is not the best and most democratic way to go about addressing such a sensitive and complex issue. 2. I love and respect all people, but my religious and parental freedoms and rights are not being protected in the current law, I feel my rights are being disregarded 4. As a teacher and parent, I worry about how it will impact the curriculum in the schools, teaching things to my children to be right and true, that go against my beliefs 5. As a musician I feel I should have the right to deny performing at a same-sex marriage being that it goes against my religion.

The crux of the issue is whether the law protects a personal and institutional right to disagree with [proponents of same-sex marriage].

My understanding is that Hawaii's proposed law does not provide enough protection to individuals or to institutions who -- for moral reasons -- disagree with your position on same-sex marriage and wish to opt out. If such protections have since been added, then obviously that changes things.

I personally don't care whether same-sex couples want to claim a right to marry each other. What I care about is when same-sex couples (and government agencies) claim the right to silence those who believe that homosexual marriage immoral and against the precepts of God.

Yes, a few other states have already passed laws to allow same-sex marriage. In more cases, same-sex marriage has been forced on states through the courts. Regardless, there hasn't been much protection given to those who disagree with same-sex marriage on moral bounds. In several states, people, companies and institutions who have exercised their constitutional right to free expression and free association have been sanctioned (fined or otherwise punished) by the states or the courts for refusing to provide services to same-sex couples. We've seen bakers, photographers and even venue owners punished by the courts for opting out of same-sex weddings. The Hawaii law, as I understand it, does not provide adequate protection to keep this from happening in Hawaii.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "It may be true that morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, religion and education will have to do that. But it can keep him from lynching me and I think that is very important, also." By attempting to regulate behavior by legislating same-sex marriage into existence, and putting the force of government behind those regulations without any protections for those who believe the construct to be immoral and destructive, the State of Hawaii infringes on the rights of some people to provide a brand new right -- cut out of whole cloth -- to others.

So what about a baker, a photographer, a wedding band, a venue, or any other business or organization that wishes to exercise a moral objection to same-sex marriage by not participating in same-sex weddings or by not providing services to same-sex couples? Will the State force those businesses to provide the service against the will of the business owner? How long until religious organizations are singled out and prosecuted for "hate speech" for speaking out against same-sex marriage? How long until a same-sex couple sues a church for refusing to allow a same-sex couple to marry within their church building?

By legislating same-sex marriage as "moral," without adequate protections for those who believe it not to be so, the State of Hawaii is making a gravely immoral (and probably unconstitutional) step. For this reason I ask you to vote "NO" to the current bill.

Mahalo For your Consideration
Kamuela Kimokeo
91-1066 Polea St.
Ewa Beach HI. 96706

From: [Becky DeMartini](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: I oppose the bill titled, S.B. NO. 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:26:12 PM

October 25, 2013

Aloha, my name is Becky DeMartini, speaking to represent my family and as a member of the Hau'ula community. I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof.

I up-hold that marriage is between a man and a woman only, and that society benefits from this remaining solid.

I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1.

Thank you,

Becky DeMartini
54-363 Kamehameha Hwy.
Hauula, HI 96717

From: [aolani esene](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB NO 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:46:40 PM

Aloha mai kakou,

I am Trina A.L. Esene, and I represent my 4-year-old son, my husband of 9 years (who hails from Samoa), and my 'ohana from Wahi'awa, O'ahu. I am testifying regarding SB NO 1. I oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I oppose any attempt to redefine "marriage." We, the people, will ultimately be affected by this vote in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our assemblies, etc. Please allow us to vote on this heated issue that affects the entire population of Hawai'i.

Here's why SB NO 1 is important to me. As one who follows (or tries to follow) Christ, I continue to show aloha and respect for my family, friends, and acquaintances who are homosexual. I understand their lifestyle is their choice. However, altering the definition of "marriage" equates to choosing to defy our Holy Father God, who created you and I and who graces us with each breath we take. To possibly have to live under our state's defiance of our Akua...is difficult to swallow.

God is God, we are not. He is beyond our comprehension, His ways and plans are higher than we can conceive. God's divine design for marriage is between man and woman.

How else were you and I created? It took a man and a woman. God created all things for His good purpose. And because our Akua does not force us to follow Him, He gifted us with the ability to choose whether we'll align to His purposes. Will I choose love and obey the Creator of this universe? Or will I forsake Him and any blessings that result from obedience and reverence to our Good God? Please do not lose awe and reverence for our Lord. Please do what is right.

Humbly requesting again that you allow the citizens of Hawai'i to vote on this issue vs. you all decide during a special session. Redefining "marriage" cannot be taken lightly. True, you have received numerous testimony from supporters and opposers of this bill, and you may have made your decision. However, if this is a true democracy, you will allow the people to make their voice known by casting their votes.

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. Praying you continue to be encouraged during this process.

Humbly,

Trina A.L. Esene | 2139 Pu'u Place, Wahi'awa, HI

[Me ke aloha a Iesu \(with the love of Jesus\)...ao esene](#)

I will give thanks for your unfailing love and faithfulness, because your promises are backed by all the honor of your name. ([Psalms 138:2](#))

We must be able to speak God's heart, not just His principles. - John Bevere

From: [Kainoa Fukumoto](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony OPPOSING Same-Sex Marriage Legislation
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:48:08 PM

To the Senate Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am sure you are well aware of the conversations and arguments for and against the proposed legislation to legalize same-sex marriage. I write to you today to express that I am opposed to such legislation and urge you, along with your fellow senators, to allow the people of Hawaii to make that decision for ourselves by a constitutional amendment. I am a Catholic, and although there are provisions respecting religious institutions, unfortunately, that protection is only afforded to the institution itself. It does not protect someone like me, a member of the Church, but also an everyday citizen of Hawaii whose business and family would be deeply affected by a law that violates our faith. My Catholic faith is not only practiced within the confines of the church walls. I am a Catholic every moment of every minute of every day of my life. As a musician, I am susceptible to being sued should I refuse to participate in providing music at the wedding of a same-sex couple. How is this just and equal? I highly doubt that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the father of the Civil Rights Movement, could accept this issue as one of civil liberties when our own religious liberties are being tramped upon.

I feel that I, along with countless fellow citizens of Hawaii, are being coerced into accepting a law that is simply unacceptable. I feel our voices, the voices of a majority striving to preserve marriage as an unchangeable institution between one man and one woman, are being trumped by politicians unwilling to let the actual voice of the people be heard. A law that has such a profound cultural impact on our society should be left up to the citizens of that society to determine. I pray that you and all our legislators will come to an agreement that a topic that has for so many years been a huge subject of debate should be so important that the people of Hawaii have the privilege of determining its result for themselves. So I urge you, let the people vote on this issue.

I make this testimony on behalf of myself, my wife and 2 1/2-year-old daughter, the ministries I direct and coordinate, and in the love and mercy of God.

Aloha,
Kainoa Fukumoto
220 Clark St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786
(808) 391-8732

From: [ShelbyK.Fernandez](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Same Sex Marriage Legislative Session - October 28, 2013
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:51:40 PM

Please stop this special legislative session scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2013.

Please allow the people of Hawaii to VOTE if they want to enact a same sex marriage bill which would redefine marriage and as such will contribute to the deterioration of the traditional family which will lead to the eventual downfall of our society and a domino effect of laws that will need to be upheld for those who don't agree.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shelby K. Fernandez
Waikoloa, Hawaii

October 25, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Aloha Chair Hee and Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor members,

I am writing to ask for your serious consideration on the proposed legislation that would redefine the relationship and nature of marriage in Hawaii. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, this is an important issue to me.

I strongly oppose SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, the Act known as Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, and ask for your support.

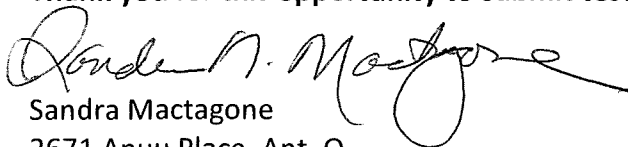
President Gordon B. Hinckley stated, "The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife. The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan."

Please also carefully consider to include in any legislation relating to Equal Rights a strong exemption for people and organizations of faith. The exemption should:

- Protect religious organizations and officials from being required to support or perform same-sex marriage or from having to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities; and
- Protect individuals and small businesses from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same-sex marriages.

The Church's opposition to same-sex marriage neither constitutes nor condones any kind of hostility toward gays and lesbians. Even more, the Church does not object to rights for same-sex couples regarding hospitalization and medical care, fair housing and employment rights, or probate rights, so long as these do not infringe on the integrity of the traditional family or the constitutional rights of churches.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **OPPOSITION of SB1.**



Sandra Mactagone
2671 Anuu Place, Apt. O
Honolulu, HI 96819

Yumi Seavey
825 Second Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it denies individual citizens and business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

It also fails to protect churches, religious groups, temples, not to mention church-affiliated organizations from lawsuits.

I believe in the freedom of expression and equal rights. Our religious freedoms will be taken away with this bill, and this is unconstitutional.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Yumi Seavey

Hawaii Voter

Written Testimony opposing SB1_ Relating to Equal Rights

My name is Jeff Darrow and I live in Pepeekeo. I do not support same sex marriage. I voted in 1998 to amend the state constitution to define marriage between a man and a woman. I do not support same sex marriage and am very frustrated that this issue is being pushed upon us instead of bringing this matter to the people of Hawaii for a vote. The vote in 1998 was brought to the people because it is a very personal and important matter to each person in Hawaii. It should not be left to a small group of representatives to make this decision for the people of Hawaii.

I am very frustrated to see the interpretation of our vote in 1998. It was to define marriage between a man and a woman. It did not give the authority to the Legislature to completely deceive the people of Hawaii allow same sex marriage. **THIS IS DECEPTION.** Do not proceed with this bill. Bring it back to the people of Hawaii to settle this matter once again. If the people of Hawaii want same sex marriage, so be it. But if they vote to keep marriage between a man and a woman, do not proceed on your God given authority to override the people and deceive.

I am counting on you to make the right decision in this matter and support that this issue be brought before the people. I rarely get involved in political matters but this is very important to me and to my family as well as to my children and their families.

Jeff Darrow
P.O. Box 231
Pepeekeo, HI 96783
808-937-6034

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
RE: SB 1 – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013 / 10:30am
TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Dear Hawaii State Senators and Representatives,

Thank you so much for reading my testimony. With the upcoming special session nearing (or already here), I wanted to inform you of concerns I have with the marriage equity bill as proposed by the Governor.

The First Amendment of The Constitution of the United States of America reads:
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

I believe that this bill (SB1) infringes upon, "...*the free exercise thereof...*"

He says that the bill protects religious organizations from performing same sex marriages, but with exceptions. I submit that protection with exceptions is not really protection at all. It is like a home security system that protects your whole house except the back door. On pg7, line 8, 9, 10 it states that a religious organization shall not be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage; provided that; "...for solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members..."

With all due respect, no church restricts their building use to members only. The mission of the church is to reach out beyond its members, beyond its four walls, and to extend love, mercy, and grace. Therefore under that exemption, I believe all churches would be susceptible to lawsuits.

Even if this and other exemptions are removed from the bill, there are other effects which this bill does not address but in fact creates. What if a religious business owner is approached by an LGBT couple requesting services (photography, baker, etc.)? Here is an article from the Huffington Post regarding issues that are already arising in other states because of the conflict between Religious Freedom vs Gay Rights

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/08/discrimination-lawsuits-gay-rights_n_3882450.html

I understand that we do not live in a Christian country. Values that certain Christians may have might not be held throughout the country, state, or city. I completely understand that. But what this bill will do, as it is written, will infringe upon the civil rights of private citizens who hold certain religious values (which we are allowed to have under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States) exchanging or lessening them for the civil rights of those who have LGBT values. If this bill is ultimately about civil rights and equality, it does not make sense that one group would gain rights while another loses theirs.

I would like to humbly request that the decision on same sex marriage not be rushed through during this special session, but be given more thought to the potential effects that this legislation will have on the *civil rights of private citizens, business owners, and others who have certain religious convictions.*

If legislation should pass (and it may) allowing for same sex marriage (granting civil rights), then I believe it is of equal importance and the duty of our representatives and senators to protect the existing civil rights of those who may disagree due to religious beliefs. I believe a good Marriage Equity Bill would honor the love and relationship that LGBT couples have for one another and also respect the values of citizens who may not agree due to religious convictions. That is a difficult bill to write, but that is the job and responsibility you accepted when you took office.

Thank you again for taking the time to read my testimony and thank you for your service. This is a very sensitive issue that I think we all would like to come to a resolution that honors and respects all parties involved. I hope that you would consider voting "no" this special session and work towards a bill that acknowledges the importance of both love and faith.

Respectfully,
Jared Miyamoto

From: [Victoria Cannon](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:19:22 PM

We oppose SB1. This has nothing to do with 'equal rights'. No to any legislation re same sex marriages.

Trudy Cannon
Victoria Cannon

From: [Muriel Mililani Hughes](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:34:02 AM

To the members of the Hawaii State Legislature
I am opposed to SB1: the Same Gender Marriage Bill. Marriage by definition is the moral, physical, and social union of a man and a woman. If two people of the same gender would like to form a union, then it should be called something else other than a marriage. If individuals desiring equality under the law, provide for the same legal rights but do not call the arrangement a marriage.

In light of how the local community has been suffering due to the federal shutdown, I am appalled by the decision to schedule a Special Session on taxpayers' money to determine this issue. In a small community such as Volcano, the closing of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park had far outreaching effect beyond the impact on federal workers...consider the people who had bed and breakfast units, restaurants, stores, service businesses. A travesty on the small people.

Muriel Mililani Hughes
P O Box 647
Volcano, HI 96785

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Muriel Mililani Hughes
Hele pu no me ka lima
Be willing to help others when going traveling and not make a burden of yourself.
Puku'i 759

Submitted Testimony

Date: 25 October, 2013

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Measure: SB 1 – Relating to equal rights

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30am

From: Rebecca Wolfersberger

I OPPOSE SB 1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act for the following reasons:

1. This debate seems to be focusing on the rights of consenting adults; but the rights of children are being ignored. Children have a right to be raised by their biological parents whose commitment to each other is attested to by the covenant of marriage. While recognising that this is an ideal, and that in practice mothers and fathers can be separated by death, by divorce or by lack of commitment, the fact remains that research supports the finding that children raised by both their biological parents who remain committed to each other do better on all measures of well-being. There will always be notable exceptions, but we should not be deconstructing the ideal of an institution which appears to be contributing to the general well-being of children.
2. Parents need to establish their relationship as a role model for their children. If the definition of marriage is altered to include same gender couples it sends mixed messages to children and contributes to gender confusion. The following is excerpted from an article entitled *Caring for Your School Age Child: Ages 5-12* (Copyright © 2004 American Academy of Pediatrics updated 30/12/2011).

“The gender-role behavior of children seems to be strongly influenced by their identification with the males and females in their lives. All children pick up characteristics from the men and women around them, incorporating these traits into their own personalities and value systems. They are also influenced by TV and sports heroes and adults in all other activities in their lives. Over time, the combined effect of these many influences may determine many of their masculine and feminine qualities. **Perhaps more than any other factor, the subtleties of every child's relationship with his or her father and mother—and the attitudes of the parents toward each other and toward the child—will influence his or her gender-related behaviors.**”

(Retrieved 15 October, 2012 from <http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx>)

3. The media has done a speedy job of changing public opinion on this issue in recent years. Marriage was once a sacred institution that was a clear pillar of society. To so quickly change to a new standard without examining the lasting effects it might have on society, and children in particular, is rash. Marriage as

an institution should not be altered on the whim of the media when society as a whole is affected. We look to our politicians to show moral leadership in society, rather than lead the downward charge.

4. The Judeo-Christian tradition sees marriage as being ordained of God between a man and a woman. It also calls on men and women to be chaste before marriage and faithful in marriage. It calls on parents take responsibility for the raising of their children in love and kindness. In its ideal form it is an institution worth defending and deserving of our support. If strong families are the building blocks of a strong country, and a strong society, then nothing will endanger our future more than the undermining of the family proposed in this Hawaii Marriage Equality Act.
5. The United States of America was built on Christian values that are inherent in the Judeo-Christian ethic and even though today it has become a much more secular society, and many of the Christian values have been eroded in the face of an evolving permissiveness, the influence of these values still permeates our culture. The erosion of these values and their positive moderation of human behaviour start with the idea, "I don't agree with this, but we live in a democratic country and I respect your right to think differently from the way I do." Having given way once, we become seduced by the logic of this argument and move to a tolerance which normalises practices which were previously regarded as not normal. Soon we embrace them wholeheartedly and their widespread acceptance means that those who try to remain faithful to the original premise are vilified and treated with less respect than those who lead the downward slide.

This process can be seen in a range of issues:

- (i) The abandonment of the sanctity of Sunday as the Sabbath day
- (ii) The abandonment of the notion of chastity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
- (iii) The notion of no-fault divorce
- (iv) Increasing violence and promiscuity of lifestyles promoted in the media
- (v) Lowering of the drinking age and proliferation of liquor outlets (including supermarkets)
- (vi) The decriminalisation of prostitution
- (vii) Increasing dishonesty in business, politics and indeed in all aspects of life
- (viii) The tolerance of sexually explicit material in movies and TV (and on the internet)

The results of this can be seen in:

- (i) The lack of spiritual reflection and refreshing which can accompany a day set aside for that purpose
- (ii) Increasing numbers of children born out of wedlock and raised in single parent homes
- (iii) Increasing incidence of intergenerational welfare dependency related to the above
- (iv) Increasing incidence of violence to children by partners of solo mothers (and failure of solo mothers to protect their children)
- (v) Increasing incidence of divorce with its concomitant negative impact on the lives of children

- (vi) Increasing incidence of promiscuity and incidence of sexually transmitted diseases
- (vii) Increasing incidence of violent crime
- (viii) Increasing participation by disenfranchised and disaffected youth (product of dysfunctional families) in gangs with the accompanying rise in gang related crime
- (ix) Increasing incidence of binge drinking and alcoholism (and drug use) among young people squandering the potential of their future life opportunities
- (x) Increasing incidence of theft as a servant, fraud, embezzlement, misrepresentation, political dishonesty
- (xi) Increasing incidence of pornography addiction among (particularly) males of all ages. It is interesting that we are permissive with regards to adult pornography but not to child pornography. As with any addiction, one thing leads to another. If we wish to reduce and even eliminate child pornography, we should be as strict on adult pornography.

A stand in favour of protecting the institution of marriage and against the amending of the definition of marriage to allow same sex marriage unfortunately inevitably attracts the ire of the proponents of this legislation. The Judeo-Christian ethic teaches us to strive to live peaceably with one another. I have no desire to denigrate those with same-gender attraction. In summary, I do, however, desire to reject this act because:

Summary:

1. It fails to take account of the rights of children to be part of a family environment which will give them the best chance of success in life.
2. It confuses the clarity of appropriate gender models for children.
3. The media has overinfluenced society into beliefs about same-sex marriage without considering the effects on society as a whole. Politicians need to show moral leadership and consider the potential for long-term negative downstream consequences that could flow from this redefinition.
4. Marriage is an institution worth protecting for the strong value it has on creating strong families, the building-block of our society.
5. Traditional values have positive worth in maintaining much that is good in society.

From: [Sean](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Bill #SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:38 AM

Aloha

I am writing in response to my opposition to same-sex marriage. I believe that God has ordained marriage to be between a man and a woman. I hope that

Testimony for in Opposition to SB1

I am writing to ask you to please vote "NO" on attempts to redefine marriage in the State of Hawaii and oppose all efforts to implement same sex marriage. I am trusting that you will hear and heed the voice of a constituent, a lifelong resident of Hawaii.

Biblically, marriage was established for a man and a woman as a precursor to procreation and the promulgation of generations. However, if you are not a believer, this is indisputable even scientifically. Procreation can only occur between man and woman. There is no question. There is nothing to debate. There is nothing to re-define.

Proponents characterize those who oppose same-sex marriage as being discriminatory. I would have to agree. With respect to a moral principle as marriage being between a man and woman, there is a definite right or wrong. Fairness and equality have no bearing when it comes to what is moral or ethical. That said, nothing about same-sex marriage is morally or ethically correct. Same-sex marriage and all its implications go against Biblical and scientific truths and truths don't evolve.

Please stand for truth and vote "NO".

Sincerely,
Lynette Araki

My name is Daniel Tomita and my wife and I are registered voters and residents of Hilo. We have lived here in Hawaii on Oahu and the Big Island since 1984. I was born and raised on Maui, and have resided in Hawaii for almost sixty years. We are concerned citizens and are asking you to vote "NO" on SB1 or more commonly called the Same Sex Marriage Bill. Please consider the following reasons we are asking for your kokua:

First, a five or six day special session is not enough time to discuss this very controversial issue. The democratic process is circumvented because no amendments can be made. No public hearings are scheduled whereas a minimum of at least two would be scheduled in a regular session.

Testimonies accepted will not be given their full voice because of the limitations of time. At best, only a few minutes would be granted to those wishing to speak for or against the bill. Public input would be minimized in this special session. Because of the time constraints, your role as a legislator is nominalized to address fully the concerns brought forward and to make the necessary amendments to craft a good bill. The governor's bill is inadequate, poorly crafted and does not adequately safeguard churches. Please vote NO!

Second, does it not seem odd that Hawaii is the only state to rush into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision referred to in the bill? Our governor would lead you to believe that we are in violation of the Supreme Court decision. If so, why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages also called for a special session? Ask yourself: Why is our governor pushing this through? Why the big rush? Why can't this wait for the regular session in January? Why spend valuable legislative time and money for something that should be more carefully weighed? This should be a red flag that the special interests that advocate the passing of this bill have ulterior motives that would impact Hawaii negatively. Please vote NO!

In 1998, the people decided this issue at the polls. Why can't we let the people decide again? This issue is now in the hands of the Legislature and not our Governor to declare that marriage is between a man and a woman.

The vast majority of our current population of over 1.3 million people were birthed by parents comprised of one man and one woman, NOT two men or two women. Our governor wants you to believe that this issue is about the violation of civil rights. Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court including the Supreme Court has ever said that it is. Please do not be deceived by our governor and a very vocal minority attempting to push their agenda on us. Currently, only 916 civil union couples (a total of 1,832 people) have registered in Hawaii. Compare this to the 1.392 million people residing in Hawaii and it is clear that only a very small segment of our population is being served by this legislation. Please vote NO!

Finally, the governor's bill will NOT protect church facilities and their leaders, contrary to what he wants you to believe. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations section. I am presently the senior pastor of the Kinoole Baptist Church. My wife and I came in 1995 to begin shepherding our congregation and this January marks 19 years that we have resided here in Hilo. Our church have been serving the Hilo community since 1946, almost sixty-seven years. We have 90 worshippers every Sunday and also permit a Russian congregation of 60 worshippers to meet every Sunday afternoons. We offer an afterschool program with a current enrollment of sixty children meeting Mondays through Fridays and on many holidays and school waiver days offer all-day care. We also allow a weight-loss Diets Anonymous group to meet every Tuesday evening. The governor would lead you to believe that the religious exemption clause adequately provides our church protection. In reality it does not! Because we service the public, we would be considered by definition a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage. This would violate our religious beliefs and severely impair our ability to continue serving the Hilo community. Please vote NO!

Previously, we have pastored churches on Oahu and in Kona here on the Big Island and are deeply concerned about this bill becoming law. Mahalo for your desire to do the right thing as our State Motto

mandates: "The Life of the Land Is Perpetuated In Righteousness" May God give you the wisdom and strength to stand with us, do the right thing and vote NO!

Sincerely, Daniel Tomita, resident and registered voter in Hilo, Hawaii since 1996 and senior pastor of the Kinoole Baptist Church

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Keilani Briones and have grown up in Hawaii. I am testifying regarding the Marriage Equity Act to recognized marriage between individuals of the same sex. I am testifying against this measure.

I believe marriage is a between a man and a woman and is a deeply religious issue. I also believe that America's 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I have a strong conviction that marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children. It is engrained in our very nature for children to need the positive influence of a father and mother. Thus, maintaining the traditional definition of marriage is important to the fabric of family and our society.

I also believe that the current draft of this bill is completely inadequate to safeguard my constitutional guaranteed religious freedoms. I believe the exemption language is too narrow to protect religious freedom for individuals, small business and religious organizations in our state.

I urge this body to vote no on this bill and to give the people the right to individually vote on an issue that will so closely affect our communities and the society in which we live and raise our family.

Thank you,
Keilani Briones
808-489-0057

From: [Benjamin Candari](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: S.B. NO. 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:48:42 AM

I am Sherry Elaine Candari. I represent my family.

I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1

I personally oppose this bill, and all parts thereof.

I oppose it first because of my religious beliefs that clearly teach that marriage is between a man and a woman, and is essential for a healthy society. I also oppose this bill because it infringes upon my rights as a U.S. citizen to freedom of religion.

Thank you for your time,

Sherry Candari
47-240 Kamakoi Rd.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Leilani Spencer](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:18:25 AM

Rochele Spencer
45-876 Luana Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
808-699-3636
Leis4girls@yahoo.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my committee representative, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need. I personally do not want to see my church be a victim of this and continue to service me and others.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one

will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Blessings be with you,
Leilani

From: hanaigirl@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Oct 28, 2013 Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage, please vote no
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:50 AM

Ms. Erin Castillo
46-318 Haiku Rd.
Kaneohe, Hi 96744
808.277.2967

Dear Committee Members,

My heart is burdened with this important issue that is before the legislature. I believe it is unfortunate it had to come

before the legislature as a "special session issue".

I am hoping this issue will be voted down as NO.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow

lawmakers to take
the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their
existing right to
express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Very respectfully,

Ms. Erin Iwalani Castillo

From: [cynthia Jean Arakaki](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:16:36 AM

Aloha, Chairman Senator Hee and Senate Committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Cynthia Jean Arakaki, a 60 year old registered voter. Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation.

I believe that same-sex marriage issue should not be passed in a special session because a five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. Everyone in Hawaii should be given the opportunity to be educated on the full impact of what would happen if this bill is passed. We need to be informed as to what doors have been opened in the states where same-sex marriage is a law, i.e. Massachusetts and that it will happen in Hawaii. I am especially concerned about teaching that sex between the same gender is normal and healthy to all our keikis and not given an opportunity as a parent or a grandparent to oppose this type of teaching.

May I urge you to vote NO to the passage of this legislation. Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cynthia Jean Arakaki
45-342 Kanaka Street
Kaneohe, Hi 96744

From: mjkfaux@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Special Session on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:26 AM

Monica Medina
92-650 Aoloko St., Kapolei, HI 96707
(808)672-4584
Mjkfaux@aol.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee Member:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. I appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my Representative, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an

adequate
opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will
not be
given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow
lawmakers to take
the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their
existing right to
express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Monica Medina

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

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

I am writing in strongly oppose of SB 1.

Marriage is a God ordained ceremony between a man and a woman. Government should not define the meaning of marriage, nor tell churches how or to whom the church should perform such a sacred ceremony.

I have nothing against gay nor lesbians. It is their right to decide how they want to live their lives; however, they cannot take away my right and affect my belief because they want to exercise their right and their belief.

We the people in Hawaii already voted that the definition of marriage is between a man and a woman. There should not be a further bill for the government to re-define the meaning of marriage.

I strongly believe that marriage is a God ordained ordinance between a man and a woman. Government should not re-define the meaning of marriage because the people of Hawaii already voted on this issue. It is unconstitutional to pass this bill and is hurtful to the families here in Hawaii. Please stop this bill to protect the families in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
25 October 2013

Aloha:

As a 30+ year resident of Hawaii and community influencer, I am deeply concerned about the unintended outcomes that have historically followed such legislation in other states. I am sure that those who have proposed this legislation have done so with the best of intentions, but in an attempt to provide a remedy for a minuscule percentage of people in Hawaii they are potentially imposing massive burdens upon the overwhelming majority of us.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1 for the following reasons:

(1) Any legal and/or financial inequities remaining since the passing of the Civil Unions bill can easily be addressed by amendments to that law WITHOUT redefining marriage.

(2) This is a divisive issue that should be decided by a plebiscite, not by political maneuvering.

(3) In attempting to provide some measure of protection for religious groups who have moral and theological objections to same-gender marriage the State of Hawaii is overstepping its Constitutional authority — the alleged protections for churches state that. **“unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration.”** That wording puts the State in the untenable position of defining who/what constitutes a church, and is based upon endorsement of a single understanding of church that does not reflect the latest scholarship and 21st Century church models.

I am both a Pastor and Presiding Bishop for my church denomination in Hawaii and the Republic of Kiribati. I earned a Masters degree in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary, and my definition of church includes both the **“church assembled”** (the weekly gatherings of believers we typically call *going to church*, in which citizens sing and pray together, encourage one another and learn about their faith), which leads to the **“church dispersed”** — the individual members of the church living out their faith in their political decisions, business ethics and personal relationships in their everyday lives. The **CHURCH DISPERSED** is individual, personal and every bit as much the church as the church assembled, yet the proposed law provides NO protection for the church dispersed, and little protection for the church assembled.

A local florist, baker, photographer or other service provider who is a devout believer is, in fact, the **CHURCH DISPERSED** and is provided NO legal

protection from being forced to violate their deeply held moral and theological stand against same-gender marriage, and they will be forced into situations that will clearly be a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the federal government from making a law “respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”. The Hawaii State Constitution mirrors that: **No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...** Any State law *prohibiting the free exercise of a person’s faith* as part of the church dispersed is inherently unconstitutional.

The state clearly has no understanding of contemporary missional church models and bases their understanding only upon models like the Roman Catholic Church, a highly hierarchal, institutional church.

Respectfully,

Gary R. Langley
Presiding Bishop
Church of God of Prophecy
Hawai’i and the Republic of Kiribati

45-416 Kamehameha Highway
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 25, 2013

S.B. No. 1 (JDL) – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Good morning Judiciary and Labor Committee members. My name is Jennifer Teixeira and as a registered voter in the State of Hawaii I would like to submit my testimony to OPPOSE SB1. I believe the proposed bill in its current form has serious constitutional issues that may infringe upon my family's 1st amendment protections and mine.

This matter of recognizing marriages between individuals of the same sex should be most carefully considered and I do not believe a special session provides adequate time to review all proposals, nor does it allow the people of Hawaii sufficient time to voice their opinions on this important matter.

Section 8 of SB1 (page 12) clearly states, "The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." In 1998 I was one of the 68% that voted for this Amendment to our State Constitution. Did I miss the vote to over turn this? How can the legislature overturn what the people of Hawaii voted for without holding another vote?

I propose that the people of the State of Hawaii decide on this matter in our next scheduled election.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Teixeira

Senator Clayton Hee,
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
SENATE BILL 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Introduction

My name is Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna and I am a Registered voter of Senate District 23. I am testifying against Senate Bill 1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of Hawaii.

Content

As written, SB-1 does not provide adequate religious protections. SB-1 should explicitly state that no religious organization, person, or business shall be required to provide or perform services for same sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires. SB-1 leaves churches and people of faith in the wedding-services industry vulnerable and at risk.

Many churches will be charged with discrimination if they refuse to allow same sex weddings to be solemnized on their properties. The exemptions included in SB-1 are only for the solemnization of the marriage. The exemptions do not cover same sex wedding receptions, celebrations, and anniversary parties.

On Page 2 of S.B. No. 1 line 11 it states that this bill protects religious freedom and liberty, but then it continues on line 17 with a condition. Clarifying that unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration. This means that any church which allows weddings for a profit will then be forced against their religious beliefs to perform same sex weddings. That is blatantly taking away our religious rights and freedoms. The laws were made to protect our rights and freedoms. You cannot create a new law that will take away our existing rights and freedoms. The First Amendment protects from government interference. The government has absolutely no business ordering the church to conform to the state's desire in order to qualify for the protections.

In order to qualify for the exemptions, a church must only allow members to get married on its properties. Any church that allows non-members to be married in its buildings will not be able to claim this exemption. Discrimination charges will be filed against such a church if it refuses to host same sex weddings.

In order to qualify for the protections, the church must regularly use the portions of the property for religious purposes. If a couple asks to be married at the church and they want to use the bathrooms, parking lot, grassy lawn, kitchen, and hall, the Civil Rights Commission will inquire whether the parking lot, bathroom, and lawn are regularly used for religious purposes. If the answer is that any one of those areas is not used regularly for religious purposes, the church will not qualify for the protections.

If the legislature really wanted to exempt churches, it would simply say, “Churches are exempt”. The conditions attached to this bill leaves many churches vulnerable and in danger of facing discrimination complaints if they decline to host same-sex weddings.

Under Hawaii law, every photographer, baker, florist, and entertainer that serves weddings will also have to serve same sex weddings, even if the owner has a genuine religious belief that same sex marriage is wrong for him or her to support. It is not only clergy and churches that have First Amendment rights; everyday citizens do too. When the government forces someone to act in a way that goes against his or her sincerely held religious beliefs this violates the First Amendment.

The federal appeals court ruled in June 2013 that businesses do in fact religious liberty rights that protect the business from compulsion to violate the sincerely held religious beliefs of the owners. See the 10th Circuit Court of appeals opinion in the Hobby Lobby case.

Closing

SB-1 should explicitly state that no religious organization, person, or business shall be required to provide or perform services for same sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires.

Mahalo,

Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna

(808) 489-2270

From: [Bobbie](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Against Same Gender Proposed Bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:27:52 PM

We are submitting our testimonial to state that we oppose the Same Gender- S B1 Bill.
Respectfully, Eduardo Luna and Barbara Luna
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karla Schade](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:31:18 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labour
Senate Bill 1
Monday October 28, 2013
10:30am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Karla Schade and I am a permanent resident of Laie Hawaii. I am writing to testify in opposition of the proposed Marriage Equity Act SB no1.

I am against redefining marriage, a marriage, as the fundamental unit of society, is between one man and one women. I greatly value the constitution of this country and the principles of its founding, namely the 1st amendment and the religious freedom granted there in. All the protections and benefits of marriage were provided in the 2011 Civil Unions Measure, which is prefaced by the statement that the people of Hawaii recognize marriage as between One Man and One Woman. I have read this bill and unlike others passed in many other states, provides completely inadequate protections for religious entities in this state.

I believe that this special session is designed to push through a bill that has been inadequately reviewed and to not allow the people of this state to voice their opinion. I think that not all of the unintended consequences of this bill have been thought through very well and the ramifications to small business owners/employees and religious individuals and organizations have not been protected. If it is a good bill why not give it time to be debated and the consequences discussed and/or voted upon by the people?

In closing, I urge you to **VOTE NO** ON THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE EQUITY ACT, and encourage other members of the legislative assembly to do so as well.

Karla Schade
Laie Hawaii
55-470 Moana St
808 293 9734

From: kukamalia888@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Cc: [Sepe Asher Ochoa](#); [Gordean Yoshij](#); [Vicky Kawamae Cell#](#); [Pastor Charley Westbrook](#); [Tina Abagon](#)
Subject: NO Same Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:43:26 PM

I am writing to protest this proposed bill on Same-Sex Marriage here in Hawaii. I have 6 children. 4 of them are married to hetero-sexual spouses. I have brought my children up in a household where there was a husband and a wife. Two men can not create a baby. Two women can not create a baby. Only the union of a man and a woman, can make a baby. That is my foundation and basis to protest this bill. That is my core belief. That is what I live by and teach my children and grandchildren! I will not accept my rights to be sold into believing otherwise. A gay person came from a man and a woman! Gays have moral issues where they are unhappy in their own bodies. Gays should not get married, not adopt nor raise children! I am protesting this Bill.
Susan Broussard
Mililani Mauka
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: [Steven Oishi](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: FOR THE SENATE HEARING : Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30 am
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:47:45 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

My Business colleagues from the United States, Japan and Europe feel that Hawaii would not be a good place to bring their family and children if the same sex marriage gets approved.

When this issue first came out it was evident that the majority of the people in Hawaii were against legalizing the Same Sex Marriage. As the people, we have elected you and all of the Committee Members to represent us. I am asking that you [let the people of Hawaii make that decision to vote in, or to decline this law.](#)

A L O H A

President

Steven I Oishi

Aloha State Brokerage Inc.
1001 Dillingham Blvd. Suite #212
Honolulu, HI 96817
stevenoishi@alohastatebrokerage.com
[808-847-4640](tel:808-847-4640) Office
[808-848-7781](tel:808-848-7781) Fax

From: [Bryana](#)
To: [JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly](#)
Subject: Regards to Same-Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:51:42 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am submitting a testimony in my stance of Opposing this Same-Sex Bill to be passed on Monday, October 28th, 2013. I am a citizen and a Christian striving to be heard in letting the People vote on Same-Sex Marriage. I believe that if this bill takes place that Freedom of Religion will be altered by the laws of the land and not the will of God. In the bible it testifies that marriage is ONLY to be between a man and a woman, a female and a male. We as citizens in the state; people on this earth, CAN NOT alter that law or belief that has been placed. People who do not practice any sort of belief may not feel that this will be a defining effect for them but for me as a Christian, born and raised, it will affect many dramatically. I know that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever and he does not move or change what he has said. And we as members who believe in him will stand by his side.

Society has pushed pressure on the Government to make this issue become of acceptance in this day and age and has made it feel that this life style is okay to practice. However it is NOT. I understand that you can not tell someone how to live their lives or what they should believe but for those of us who truly care about this issue, I KNOW that things will not be the same.

I am a Mormon speaking on behalf of myself and the issue that comes with this bill being passed is the allowing of same sex marriages to take place in the Temple. I strongly believe and have been taught that marriage is between man and a woman and those who are worthy are able to become eternally sealed when married in the temple. If this bill is passed, a same-sex couple can request to be married in the temple and BY LAW, they are able to, but through GOD'S eyes and his teachings, the marriage will mean nothing because it is not of what he has testified.

Most importantly, our Freedom of Religion will be taken from us. The Freedom of Religion is not fulfilled if we as members of a certain church or congregation have to accept the practice of Same-Sex marriage by law when it is AGAINST what we believe and teach. The choice to inform same sex couples that performing a marriage through the church is unacceptable under God's teachings is not granted because by law they are able to facilitate such.

As well with marriages, the essence of FAMILY goes hand in hand. It will be unsuccessful if there is not a Mother and Father to love, nurture, and teach their children. I have heard of same-sex couples raising adopted children and everything is okay, and that's fine, but I believe and have been taught that when we are married we must multiply and replenish this Earth. We must be loving parents to our children and instill in them teachings that will be with them where ever they may go. Same-sex couples are unable to fulfill this commandment if married within the church.

I understand that you may have heard this same testimony or of the similar once or twice or even hundreds. but I am a Christian, as well as a Citizen, who could NOT go without being heard. Whether you believe in him or not, God is there. And he is the same yesterday, today, and forever and I will stand by his side forever.

Once again I am Opposing the Same-Sex Marriage Bill.

Thank you for your time,

Bryana Kekauoha

Testimony Against Same-Sex Marriage

1. I am opposed because this bill, combined with the previously passed accommodations law, compels conscientious objectors to ACCOMMODATE lascivious behaviors
 - a. Forced accommodation is wrong, it violates the 1st amendment
 - b. Language of bill is insufficient to protect religious liberty
 - c. No protections at all for individuals, small businesses, & religious schools
2. Rights to freedom of conscience and religion are denied
 - a. This bill will lead to litigation
 - b. Do not leave it for the courts to settle; do it right the first time
3. The people of Hawai'i already decided this in 1998
 - a. This special session is political stunt by the Hawaii Democratic party which needs to reimburse the state of Hawaii for this unnecessary expense
 - b. Same-sex marriage has waited for millennia; it can wait a few more months
4. Slippery slope: is every behavior now a right? Are these next:
 - a. "Entertainment equality" for gamblers
 - b. "Driving equality" for drunks
 - c. "Expression equality" for graffiti vandals
 - d. "Buzz equality" for meth heads
 - e. "Printing equality" for counterfeiters
 - f. "Age equality" for pedophiles
5. Homosexual behavior is not a right, it is wrong! Religion has nothing to do with it
 - a. Same-sex *orientation* is neutral
 - b. Homosexual *behavior* is harmful to individuals and communities
 - i. High risk, irresponsible; their sexual activity is unspeakably perverse
 - ii. Gay males have hundreds of "partners" in a lifetime
 - iii. Coercive, exploitive, deceptive, violent, pernicious: it has always been
6. Beware the use of deceptive vocabulary
 - a. "Marriage equality" for unequal, counterfeit relationships
 - b. "Rights": sodomy is not a civil right. No rights should be granted to special groups for special behaviors.
 - c. "Homophobe" is used to attack anyone who dares to disagree
 - d. Gays are portrayed as "victims" but they behave rudely, vandalize, physically intimidate their opponents with threats of violence
 - e. "Unfair". It also unfair to discriminate against drunk drivers but it is necessary
 - f. "Separation of church and state" is trotted out anytime there is a mention of religion; meanwhile, gays commit hate-crimes against church buildings
 - g. Tolerance: Gays demand it yet will not tolerate any who disagree with them (ask Mike Gabbard what happened to him for opposing gays)
7. Mixed message: the state mandates safety (seat belts laws, prohibiting texting while driving, etc) but now endorses harmful "gay" behavior
8. This is not about religion: 1000s of years of human experience teach us that homosexual behavior is wrong
 - a. Change to public opinion in last 20yrs is based upon distortions (see 6 above)
 - b. Now days, anything goes; are there no limits to behavior or decency?
 - c. Our kupuna were wiser; listen to them: Say no to homosexual behavior

Conscientious Objector of Same-Sex marriage



**State compulsory ACCOMMODATION
violates constitutional rights!**

Hawaii State Government Says



You must ACCOMMODATE homosexual **behavior**
You are not allowed to disagree!

**OPPOSED to mandatory
ACCOMMODATIONS of
same sex marriage**

**Freedom of religion
language is insufficient**

**Respect for people with
same-sex orientation!**

**No to Government
endorsement of lascivious
behavior!**

No to counterfeit marriage

October 26, 2013

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB1

For Hearing on 10/28/31

Aloha,

I am not okay with SB1 being passed. I do not believe that same sex marriage is appropriate or right. I do NOT want my children to be taught that same sex relationships are normal or right. I believe marriage is ONLY between one man and one woman. If this bill gets passed then the State of Hawaii will be mandating that I have to believe same sex marriage is normal. That is wrong. I have a right to believe same sex marriage is wrong. Just as much right as the one who says it is not wrong. I am a citizen of the United States of America and a local resident of the State Of Hawaii. I do not want this bill passed.

I will be present to testify.

Thank you,

Grace Alarcio

91-1156 Ho'Omahana Street

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

808-445-1450

Grace.Alarcio@yahoo.com

Chantelle Nakata
98-1068 #98B Komo Mai Drive
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: *The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
3. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
4. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
5. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Chantelle Nakata
Hawaii Voter

This bill is a disaster at best, and the demise of a culture at its worst. This bill is a 'rage against society', attempting to silence any opposition. It removes Freedom of Religion and Speech. It wants all freedom FROM religion, and wants no condemnation or opposition in speech. It is a bill to satisfy a few at the cost of the majority. And it is being rushed, to be jammed through at all costs. This is WRONG, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, and UNDEMOCRATIC. This is Not OHANA, OR ALOHA.

It is a bill that is **EXTREMELY CONTENTIOUS**, and 5 days cannot address all the issues associated with this bill adequately in this short of time. Some of these issues are the lack of protection this bill covers regarding Freedom of Speech. It does not allow any opposition from anyone regarding this topic. It would allow the Civil Rights Commission to determine if someone, or some place of business, is not in compliance. The same goes for the Freedom of Religion, and once again, it will give the Civil Rights Commission the power to determine if someone, or some place of business, is or is not in compliance. This is a conflict of interest as they assisted in writing the bill. It also allows the possibility of a 'power grab', which could lead to a thug style of business. This is NOT our Ohana way.

Redefining marriage was given in 1998 to the legislation to define marriage. In that year, 76% of the voters clearly stated that marriage was to be defined between the opposite sex. It did NOT state that the legislative branch could alter the definition between same sexes. It is a bogus argument to try and justify the position that the legislative branch has the power to change the wording of the meaning of the bill that the masses understood to be of marriage between opposite sex couples. Trying to define marriage to include same sex is a deliberate deception.

Also, this bill of a 'no amendment' clause, states 'marriage for 15 years and older', allowing the legislation to **legalize statutory rape**, as defined in the Hawaii code of legal talk. A 15 year old in Hawaii is considered a minor. You are also circumventing the parents responsibility for allowing the courts and NOT parents, to decide on such a set-up. This bill also does NOT protect religious institutions, facilities, and/or properties from frivolous lawsuits as we have seen on the mainland. The lack of clarity on this issue is a can of worms to say the least. Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and Hawaii are a few of the states that faced unnecessary lawsuits because someone's feelings were 'hurt'. Not one of those cases was refused any service or product where another place of business was offered as an alternative. No satisfaction to the 'offended' homosexual was acceptable except for the demise of the companies. This law will open up more such lawsuits, with the threat of putting businesses on edge, especially in such an unstable economy that we have now.

Looking at this bill and the rush to pass it shows the willful and deceitful intent of this bill. There was NO JUSTIFICATION for this special session that the taxpayers will have to pay. Sadly, it is the politicians who have to 'dog and pony' this show for the governor. And sadly, it is Hawaii's legislation that is being made pawns in a knee-jerk reaction of 'feelings' for those wanting this bill rushed to passage. It is also a projection of a false discrimination, of 'inequality' regarding marriage. Marriage is NOT a right.

Civil Unions was made into law to satisfy the desire for marriage in the homosexual community. There are presently two or more open bills to amend for any inadequacies that the current Civil Union laws

affect. This would AVOID the whole issue of radically redefining marriage as it is historically, traditionally, and culturally defined.

In Summary this special session should be stopped IMMEDIATELY. If not stopped, then voted NO due to:

- It is UNCONSTITUTIONAL
- It is UNDEMOCRATIC
- It is INTENTIONALLY DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING
- It allows STATUTORY RAPE and CIRCUMVENTING Parental Rights
- It allows lawmakers to be used as PAWNS
- It denies FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

IT IS THE **MOST CONTENTIOUS** BILL THAT NEEDS MORE THAN 5 DAYS TO BE ADEQUATELY HEARD.

IT NEEDS TO BE PUT TO THE VOTERS----P E R I O D .