

Aloha Senators and Representatives,

I am strong oppose to Senate Bill 1 and I feel that the religious exemptions are not adequate to protect individuals, religious organizations, and their affiliates. While I believed in equal rights, there is nothing equal about this bill. Same sex couples already receive all of their state benefits through the Civil Union Law and have access to their federal benefits through the recent Supreme Court ruling. Meanwhile, this bill will negatively impact individuals religious organizations and their affiliates. Just because the public accommodation section was deleted from the final version of the bill, it does not mean that religious organizations and their affiliates are not subject to the public accommodations law. An entire state department does not just disappear overnight. Hawaii Civil Rights Commission will still enforce the public accommodations laws and with no protection written into our current bills, many religious organizations and their affiliates will be left vulnerable. Washington, a very liberal state, has explicitly stated in their laws that even if a religious organization is considered to be a public accommodation they still cannot be sued. In addition, this bill violates our First Amendment rights, the freedom of religion As a basic constitutional right, everyone should have the right to believe and practice what they believe in. They should not be forced to participate in anything goes against their religious beliefs. Our society is a very litigious society and this bill does not provide sufficient religious protections.

I also do not support this bill and do not believe that we should have a special session for several different reasons. The governor should not be calling a special session for a bill that did not receive a single hearing during regular session. This bill was ignored during regular session but now we are having a special session that will cost tax payers thousand of dollars?! The governor should also not have been contribution to the writing bills because it is outside of his branch of government. The legislative branch writes and passes bills, the executive branch enforces laws, and the judiciary branch interprets laws. The special session is limited to the least amount of days to hear the least amount of people. There will be no hearings held on the neighbor islands even though this bill will affect them too. Testimonies will be limited to two minutes per a person. Lastly, the bill wasn't released until five days before the special session starts. An entire section on religious exemptions that was completed replaced, leaving the public less than a week to analyze the bill.

This bill will affect so many individuals, religious organizations and their affiliates, businesses, non profits, education, and so forth. ONE WEEK IS TOO SHORT to even begin to understand and analyze the bill. feel like the legislators are shoving this bill through the special session without any regard for the people that voted them into office. This bill does not represent the will the people and will negatively impact Hawaii.

Again, I am in strong opposition to SB 1 and urge you to vote NO to this bill..

Annora Ng

Honolulu, HI 96817

**Eric K. Keawe**  
**S District 13**  
**R District 24**

To: Committee members

Subject: SB 1 Same Sex Marriage

My opposition to this Bill

Dear Committee:

I would like to ask you to oppose the legalization of same sex marriage in the state of Hawaii for the following reasons:

- 1) It's not physically natural to maintain humanity
- 2) The destruction of the family.
  - a. Same sex marriage does not produce children
  - b. Same sex marriage purposes is not an equality issue, it is a moral law
- 3) Creates the loss of freedom to choose for the people.
  - a. Public
  - b. Education
  - c. Welfare
  - d. Media / Entertainment

Above I have listed what I believe to be core purposes of my belief and many others through out our state. I plead for your attention and ask for your support to reject this proposal to legalize same sex marriage in our state of Hawaii under the current Bill proposed. For the sake of my children, grandchildren and posterity to follow.

I have friends and family members who live same sex lifestyle and we love each other because of our mutual bond. We respect each other, we share, we laugh, we hurt and we cry. We respect their desires, their passion and give them their space in our ohana whether it be family or friend. Why are we redefining marriage to include same sex? Why? Why? Why? There are laws already in place to give them their rights and their free agency to share their lives with each other as they wish. These laws are the EXCEPTION! Why is it now that we the people who are the majority will be taking the back seat and WE THE MAJORITY WILL NOW BECOME THE EXCEPTION. Whether it be in public places, education, private organizations, in sports, in media and yes, even in the movies. We the MAJORITY will be forced to watch all of these same sex scenarios occur even if it hurts our society. I will not lay down to see my society be harmed by becoming The EXCEPTION.

This is not an issue on equality. This is an issue on morality and what's natural. Listen carefully to this equation and ask yourself where did I come from? 1 man + 1 woman will produce 1 child. Now listen to this next equation, 1 man + 1 man will produce 0 child or 1 woman + 1 woman will also produce 0 child. The point of my testimony is, what is natural to maintain our human race? Would you be here today if your father married John? Or, would you be here today if you mother married Jane? This is not an issue on equality. This is an issue of morality and keeping the human race in order.

Mahalo,

Eric K. Keawe

Hawaii State Legislature

Hawaii State Capitol

In regards to SB1 under consideration:

It is a misnomer to call this bill "Equal Rights" or give it similar designation. It is also not a "Civil Rights Issue". This bill circumvents the will of the people of Hawai'i who have already voted on this issue in the past and have confirmed they do not want their legislators to redefine marriage. Marriage is a religious tradition which can only rightfully occur among one man and one woman. No other interpretation including same sex marriage is recognized by the vast majority of religious congregations and should not be changed by the legislature at tax payer expense. Since the Special Session was convened anyway you should vote according to the wishes of your constituents and remember the people are watching and will be active in the next election cycle should you decide to defy their will on the matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Fenton

1419 Dominis Street Apt. 1206

Honolulu, HI 96822

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Michael Tom	Individual	Oppose	Yes



To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1.

As this is one of the most contentious social issues in Hawaii's history, we must consider the consequences and weight of this decision. It is necessary to consider the far reaching consequences this bill will have on our state impacting every arena of life including public health, education, and business. Examining how same sex marriage has directly and indirectly affected communities in which it currently exists is essential.

One of my greatest concerns is how same sex marriage will impact our education system and the children of Hawaii. In school systems in Canada and states like Massachusetts where same sex marriage is legal, school curriculum has changed to include inappropriate and highly sexualized teaching content, material, and activities. Parents of students have also been denied access and even punished for wanting to know what their child is taught in the classroom in relation to same sex marriage curriculum. Being a part of a family of educators, we do not believe a safe, positive learning environment for children can be created by teaching with such curriculum as has been implemented in places where same sex marriage is legal.

Please consider how same sex marriage can negatively impact educators, students, and their families. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sharene Chow  
92-120 Puliko Place  
Kapolei, HI 96707

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads, Vice Chairman Sharon Har, and Judiciary Committee Members.

RE: SB-1 Relating to Equal Rights  
Second Special Session 2013  
Thursday, October 31, 2013  
10 am Auditorium, State Capital

**I will be testifying in Person.**

My name is Ed Smith and I am a resident of Hawaii having been born and raised on Oahu. Thank you for the opportunity for me to testify on SB-1.

I am here to testify against SB -1 for the following reasons;

1. 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. As a result, true democracy does not exist.

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. There are many people who including myself are not clear on some of the language in the Bill. Most, importantly the so-called religious exemption language.

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?

2. You are in your positions because of the people who voted for you. People today are asking for the same constitutional right to vote to better address same-sex marriage. Voting is a result of Liberty and Freedom we have earned.

3. It is my belief that the governor's current bill will NOT protect church leaders' and individual rights. More time should be spent to discuss this with church leaders and enable all sides to work together.

Lastly, a portion of President Lincoln speech at Gettysburg brings home what government is about. Each of you are leaders and public servants to all.

**"that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."**

Thank you for this time to share and again I am opposed to SB-1.

Ed Smith

## HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m. Auditorium State Capitol

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs and members of the Committees.

My name is Bart Dame and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 and urge its passage.

I first testified in favor of equal protection for gay and lesbian couples at a Senate hearing in this Auditorium nearly 20 years ago. Contrary to the claims this bill is being "rushed" without adequate debate, I challenge people to cite another piece of legislation which has been debated as long, as thoroughly, with as many hours of hearings as this question has received in this state over the past 20 years.

Having listened to much of the testimony delivered on Monday, I can see the arguments in opposition to equality have not evolved much in that time. Opponents of equality have, in general, toned down their rhetoric. They are now more polite, more likely to smile as they tell our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters they deserve to be second class citizens.

I ask you to reach out, finally, after too long a delay, to set aside the cherry-picked Bible verses, ignore the threats, and embrace our brothers and sisters as family, as FULL members of the community, as FULL citizens of the State of Hawaii, equal in the eyes of the law.

I know you can see that vision, can FEEL that vision of equality. I now ask you to embrace it as your own. No more delays and no more excuses. The time is WAY past due.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**TESTIMONY ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE AT THE 31 OCTOBER 2013 SPECIAL  
SESSION OF THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE.**

**THE PEOPLE MUST VOTE:** By now we should all know that the Governor's legal team has out done themselves with the legal gymnastics justifying this Special Session. Although the people of Hawaii could hardly have stated a clearer opinion in support of traditional marriage the Governor now attempts to force his definition of marriage upon the people of Hawaii.

Some words on Senate Bill No. 1 itself:

1. **POWER:** The same power seized by the Governor for this special session can now be used to define marriage in any way he and the Legislature want. Why not polygamy?
2. **FAMILY:** Since the "Family Court will have jurisdiction over all S.B.No.1 relationships, all relationships are now "Family."
3. **Marriage of Minors:** Fifteen and 16 year old children can be legally married as long as the "Family Court of the Circuit" approves. No mention of parents or other adults.
4. **The Department of Health Rules:** The Governor's "Department of Health" may, at its discretion, make any changes it deems necessary..... To aid in implementation of this act!"
  - **So S.B.No. 1 will be the law of the STATE, but no one will know what it means until the DOH gets through playing with it???**
  - **Sound familiar? Just a small indication of the compromises we will all be making so the Governor can bypass the ballot box to achieve his agenda.**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Carl E. Harris	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: House of Representatives Date & Time of Hearing Oct. 29, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Re: Strong Opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights From: Carl E. Harris Dear Honorable Representative: I am writing in strong opposition to the passage of SB1. Let the people's voices be heard! 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 Legislature the power to re-define marriage, rather, reserve it for opposite sex couples only. It is very important that our voices be heard now. As we all know we are facing the same sex marriage issue AGAIN, Civil Unions was not what the LGBT Movement/Constituents wanted in the first place. Under the guise of civil rights this issue has been shrouded to pull on the heart strings of the ignorant, the uninformed, the indifferent as well as the liberal minded people of Hawaii who simply believe we should just all get along. And in some cases trying to simply spread Aloha. But Aloha does not mean that we allow the very fabric and purity of Hawaii be stripped away. Unfortunately wisdom and discretion must kick in at some point in our decision-making or we will find ourselves without boundaries, without restraint in any areas of life and thereby victims of complete chaos. For soon, more reckless behaviors, more ratings for equality because of the confusion of what is a 'right' or what is 'civil.' Such schools of thought and mind sets such as this proposed legislation is unfathomable in a rational mind. Even nature; beasts of the field, fowl of the air and fish of the sea know better than to commit union between same sexes. It goes against the design of our Creator who made it possible that we reproduce. 'The Life of the Land cannot be perpetuated in Righteousness' by perverting the intent of the Creator and adulterating the foundations of Hawaiian Culture and practice. If not from a Christian perspective, one should not seek to make public policy based upon the private practices of a percentage of society that is debased in their thinking and expect all of society to pay for their misconceptions or ideology. For our elected officials to ignore the voice of the people they are supposed to represent is reprehensible! We elected you on the premise that you would be loyal/faithful to your commitment to represent the people. I strongly oppose this legislation as well as the Special session to promote passage of this bill. I pray that each of you will take note of the progression that has taken place and that will take place if you allow passage of this bill. Bi-sexuals, polygamy, pedophiles, bestiality, and God only knows what else will scream for their right to express themselves in the face of Hawaii because they will claim "they were born that way." Your children, grand-children and mine will grow up in a state that looks more like Hell than Hawaii. I strongly oppose passage of this bill. Let the people decide this very important issue; listen to the voice of your constituents. Vote NO, on SB1. Respectfully, Carl E. Harris Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
john luna	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee 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. 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! Do not let a small group of people dictate how our nation or state should change without allowing the whole state to vote.

## Same Sex Marriage Legislation

The process is always equally important to the product in all areas of life.

Each of you campaigned on a promise of open access to you as legislators and to the government in general. Participating in a Special Session called unilaterally by the Governor violates your promise.

Each of you has a legal responsibility to conduct the business of the State in an open and honest format characterized by fairness and good faith, ensuring that the rights of all citizens are protected. Participating in this Special Session abdicates your legal responsibilities.

Each of you has an ethical responsibility to help create with personal integrity the best legislation determinable for the people of Hawai'i. The rules and procedures of this Special Session circumvent the most foundational fundamentals of democracy currently in place to insure professional, unbiased, and legally sustainable language and structure in the creation of this legislation.

Each of you has the moral responsibility to immediately put a stop to the further erosion of the rights of the people of Hawai'i you represent and prevent this Special Session from moving forward.

As a former professor of Political Science in higher education, I can attest that this is the type of process that is more identifiable and embraced by the State of California, not the State of Hawai'i.

In summation: BAD BILL \* BAD PROCESS \* BAD LEGISLATION (if you vote for it)

Rev. Dr. Bob Flores

Kaneohe, HI

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am a retired Marine of which I am privilege to have served our country for 22 years. Although I respect the supporters of this Bill I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. After hearing testimonies from both supporter and opposing parties on 28 October 2013 I have concluded my rights of free speech and my rights to freedom of religion could be compromised. It is no longer whether or not this bill will be passed into law but whether this Bill will get the due process that we the people are asking for.

I have fought along in battle with many who have shed their blood and given their life so that we could live in a country where we have these liberties. I would like to believe that neither their deaths nor the thousands of lives sacrificed in the past be in vain. I respectfully urge you to allow this Bill to be decided by the people. If the people do choose to pass this Bill then at least we can say "the people's voice was truly heard". I ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. "Let the People Decide".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Semper Fidelis

Always Faithful,

Retired GySgt Timothy Pagud

Mililani Hawaii



To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House  
Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

As I look at what has been happening to Massachusetts and Ontario,  
Canada, I realize that the homosexuals are preying after our children.  
They also want to take away our parental rights to protect our children.

Once Same Sex Marriage was legalized in these places, school  
curriculum changed to teach the children to tolerate, and step by step to  
celebrate and eventually to embrace homosexuality. They follow a  
GLSEN handbook written by Kevin Jennings. This handbook has been  
used all over the world by the gay communities as training manual. 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%. 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.

The schools do not even need to notify the parents when these contents  
are being taught in school. When a parent took his child from class when  
these things were taught to his children, he was arrested and jailed  
overnight.

This SB1 threatens the wellbeing of our children spiritually, emotionally and physically. This Bill allows the homosexual to impose their agenda to force us and our future generation to embrace homosexuality as acceptable lifestyle. This is totally against my conviction as a Christian.

As our elected officials, please represent us to vote NO to SB1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sukwah Lin, M.S., R.D.N.  
Mililani, HI

To: Judiciary Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Rep. Sharon Har, and Finance Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke and Vice Chairs Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson and Rep. Scott Nishimoto

Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Rev. Kyle Ann Lovett, and I serve as the pastor of Church of the Crossroads, United Church of Christ, in Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of SB 1 and of marriage equality for Hawaii.

Twenty-one years ago, Church of the Crossroads declared itself open and affirming – welcoming into the full life and leadership of the church lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender people. The church has celebrated holy unions, civil unions, and marriages for same-sex couples in our congregation, and we would dearly love to celebrate state-recognized marriages as well. Many Crossroaders have already written to you in support of HB1 and I do the same, not speaking for the church but for myself.

Thank you for the chance to provide this testimony.

Many of my clergy colleagues have also written thoughtfully to you and your Senate colleagues, about their theological perspective on marriage equality, their clarity about justice in the civic realm, and their stories of loving couples in their faith communities whose enduring life-commitments need recognition. I hope that the many testimonies you have received – by email, phone, in person, and in the public media – have helped you see what we, in Christianity in particular, know: there is not unanimity of opinion among people of faith about marriage equality.

Nonetheless, there is no question at all in my mind: God blesses committed couples, regardless of their sex, gender, orientation, race, creed, or any other life condition.

The state has a vested interest in the stability of family units. Families of all configurations – ‘ohana large and small – face many challenges in our day. There’s less and less in the way of social support, resources, and encouragement to help families to be stable units of society. Anything the state can do to support, acknowledge, and enhance stable, loving relationships is a good thing.

Why does marriage equality matter to me?

I have had the honor of officiating at same-sex weddings in California during the window in 2008 and same-sex civil unions in Hawaii beginning in 2012. That’s in addition to officiating at opposite-sex weddings in both states. I have spent countless hours with families of all configurations as they struggle to sort out their lives together and to find honor and recognition from institutions both secular and sacred. Like it or not, recognition of worth and our interrelatedness are communicated through social institutions like that of marriage.

Just this past weekend I spent many hours with three couples visiting Hawaii from California, here on vacation right now. One couple had already decided to get married here (in Maui), and the other two couples are seriously considering doing the same – inviting their friends and family from all over the United States and the world to meet them in Hawaii, to celebrate their lifelong commitment to each other. Of course, since one couple is two men and the other two couples consist of women, they can only do so if Hawaii enacts marriage equality.

Two members of the church I serve flew to California last month to get married. Why? One of the women serves on active duty in the military, and their Hawaii Civil Union still didn’t allow her spouse to be recognized by the Navy. I’m sure you know that the military has granted 10 days of uncharged leave to same-sex couples who serve in states that do not have marriage equality, so they can travel to states where marriage equality exists, to get married. This couple from the church I serve is just one example of the flood of people going elsewhere for their weddings, taking their travel, hotel, and celebration dollars with them—as well as the joy of their love and the memories of their wedding. I wouldn’t be so crass as

to argue for marriage equality in Hawaii just on economic impact alone, but it surely is a factor for a state with such a high percentage of its economy based on tourism.

The state decides which relationships it will recognize based on the state's interest. Religious groups decide which relationships they will consecrate, based on the faith group's values and teachings. You all are to be commended for having crafted legislation that masterfully allows the state to act in its best interest (and consistent with the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning Section 3 of DOMA), while also allowing religious organizations to decide for themselves how broad or narrow their ceremonies will be.

Please leave intact the public accommodation clause that treats religious institutions like any other business when those religious institutions serve the public - and host revenue-generating weddings for folk beyond their flock. Please do not modify the exemption for churches and religious institutions, lest we codify discrimination.

Hawaii recognizes the complexity of family ties, of 'ohana, better than most states. Please do pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kyle Lovett

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nolan K. Yogi	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Members of the State House of Representatives: Thank you for the valuable service you perform for the State of Hawaii. In regard to SB1, a bill favoring the redefinition of Marriage, I wish to express my opposition and ask that you allow the people of Hawaii to decide this critical issue. Please let this not be Governor Abrocrombie's will, but rather what all of the people of Hawaii truly desire. Your actions on this bill, your vote I assure you, will be counted as your legacy for generations to follow. I ask that you not be remembered as the person who voted to destroy traditional marriage, to refine what is normal sexual relationships for our children and grandchildren as they are doing in Ontario, Canada and the State of Massachusetts. As you may be aware, the HSTA has approved in advance of your vote, curriculum that will encourage our children to believe that homosexuality is just another acceptable lifestyle. This is not what parents in this state want to teach their children. If this state approves same sex marriage, what will eventually follow be the so-called "necessary re-education" forced upon our children and grandchildren regardless of the will of parents. What about the forgotten business man or woman? What about their freedom of religion and freedom of speech? If you legalize same sex marriage, will you force people to have to support the marriage ceremonies or activities with services and products of Christians although it goes against their earnestly held spiritual beliefs. Where is the fairness in this? Have you not enabled a small segment of the population to subjugate the will of the majority? These ramifications of the passage of SB1 has not been thought out. There has been no consideration of modifying the current state law to protect the rights of sincere religious people who are in business. The Public Accommodation Law will fully apply to Christian who cannot in any way support same sex marriage, its celebration or supportive activities. These issues have not been considered? The governor is attempting to "ram" this legislation, social philosophy, indeed this experiment which goes against thousands of years of tradition regarding the definition of marriage, upon the people of Hawaii. There is no long-term study that the legislature can put to that proves that homosexuals parenting a child does not detrimentally impact that child in social development, educational achievement, etc. Again, this is an experiment, a "tinkering" with the basic nuclear family structure without any idea what damage will occur. Please do not participate in this attempt to circumvent the will of the people. Respectfully, Nolan K. Yogi

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Kaleiali'i Daven Baldwin. I am a Native Hawaiian and I also represent a part of the younger generation.

I strongly oppose SB1 and strongly oppose the SPECIAL SESSION.

I have friends and family that are gay/lesbian and want them to be happy with their partners but after reading the SB1 bill, my conclusion is this; this bill is not about marriage equality. It is about a small minority group infringing on the rights of churches, businesses, and other public accommodations who do not share the same beliefs. That is not equality. If the gay/lesbians want equality, then let the gay/lesbians and the people of Hawaii vote on SB1. 51 individuals should not be allowed to make the final deciding vote on SB1 and we all know that's true.

SB1 will also impose on all schools from elementary to high school in the state Hawaii. In Ontario Canada and Massachusetts, the Aids Action committee and the school system gave Gay sex education books to the elementary and middle school students. It's called My Little Black Book-Queer in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This book is disgusting and immoral. They are not using this book to educate the kids on MARRIAGE EQUALITY (which this bill is suppose to be about) but rather to POLLUTE their innocent young minds. I can understand these gay sex ed. books being given to high school students who are gay/lesbian but not elementary and middle school students. That is immorally wrong.

I strongly oppose HB7 and strongly oppose the SPECIAL SESSION.

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for this chance to testify. Please do not take offence as I express my views openly.

My name is Joshua Sweet. I am 17 years old and I turn 18 next month. I have lived in Kapahulu all my life. Though you may dismiss me as an uninformed, uneducated, and unimportant constituent, please hear me out.

I ask that you all vote NO on SB1 because, for one, that I do not believe that the consequences of legalizing Same-Sex marriage are fully understood. We do not know how it will affect the economy, society, morality, or other equally important laws and rights.

Also, I know that the people of Hawaii voted back before I was born to keep marriage between one man and one woman. If it is to be changed, and if it is really popular and needed, why is there a big rush to avoid a vote by the people? Such a matter should not be decided by a few, when the majority must decide.

Finally, may I remind the Representatives that, as your title implies, you represent the people of Hawaii. You do not work for nor represent the State, the president, the governor or even the Democratic or Republican parties. You represent the people, and your decisions must not be for the agendas of others or personal opinion, but in the interest of the people of Hawaii.

So I ask you to vote no because we do not know the consequences of such an action, this is not the way to approve such legislation and you represent the people, not lobbyists.



Pakela Akaka  
3263 Mokihana St. Honolulu HI 968160 - [mr.pkillah@gmail.com](mailto:mr.pkillah@gmail.com)

The Honorable Representatives of the State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 25, 2013

**RE: Opposition to Proposed Marriage Bill**

Aloha Representatives of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Pakela Alfred Akaka; I am a 19 year old resident from Honolulu, Hawaii. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal thoughts and insight to you and your colleagues. For the past month I have been very involved in getting informed on the issue of same sex marriage. I have spoken with several lawyers, attorneys, as well as scholars of both marriage and religious liberties. As a sufficiently informed concerned individual I find this Bill to be inadequate regarding its protections to religious freedoms.

I am strongly opposed to this bill because I feel that it does not grant the proper protections to religious freedoms that I feel should be addressed if this bill is to be considered acceptable. I am also opposed to this bill because of the special session. I feel it is being rushed without complete understanding, and that misunderstanding is creating a great division in the people that will only get worse if this bill should pass.

**1. Religious Protections that must be addressed.**

The religious exemptions in the bill are just too narrow to create any kind secure protection for religious organizations. The protections for clergy only apply to solemnization of marriage. An important clarification that I feel should be addressed is a protection for the celebration of marriage as well. Many of the other states that have passed same sex marriage have wording regarding not only the solemnization of marriage but the celebration of it as well. This will grant better protection for clergy than currently stated.

Secondly, I do not see much protection at all for religious individuals. What proponents of this bill fail to realize is that religion and churches are made up of religious individuals. Just as the gay community is made up of gay individuals deserving of the rights they are fighting for, so too is the religious community made up of religious individuals who are fighting to protect the rights they currently have. Many examples can be found in other states regarding lawsuits against religious individuals who face lengthy litigations because they have chosen to follow their beliefs. Being limited in the allowance to practice your beliefs is not the freedom to believe. Here are some points of protection that I feel should be addressed in some way in the bill stating that there are protections or stating that civil actions will be made:

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- Accreditation
- Tax exempt status
- Public officials (individual protections)
- Religious non-profits
- Small businesses offering wedding services
- Employment eligibility
- Employment benefits
- Licensing (doctors, counselors, psychologists, food service, adoption agency, etc.)
- Schools (protected from forced teachings, and protections for parental beliefs)
- Private Lawsuits
- Withdrawal of government benefits
- Denial of access to government facilities

Addressing all of these things in the bill and stating how it should be interpreted is something that I feel would be necessary in granting protections, and understanding where/how an individual would seek to protect them better.

## **2. Contention of a Special Session**

Please know that I am a loving and caring person. I have a deep respect and love for others who do not share my faith or personal beliefs, and I would not seek to hurt the people of the gay community. It saddens me to think that anyone who speaks out against gay advocacy is rigidly and with lasting recognition as an ignorant homophobe, or a religious bigot. I have been striving from day one of getting involved to remove that stereotype with respect and understanding. Unfortunately not everyone is as willing to do the same in this issue.

Since getting involved with this issue I have been privileged to work with many different people, and also speak with those who stand opposed to me in their thought on the same sex marriage bill. Between those that are informed, those that are partially informed, and those that know little to nothing about what is going on here in Hawaii, there is just too much misunderstandings, assumptions, and misinformed lies. A very big division is something that I have noticed in the people of Hawaii because of this Bill and the special session.

In the church I have seen some of this contention among the members. Several members of the church who are actively engaged in this ordeal unjustly judge those who are not involved as being poor followers of Christ. Those who are not engaged become resentful of the members that are involved because they feel the contention created by poor judgment. These judgments and assumptions all done out of ignorance create a division among the hearts of men that take away from the potential for people to create an environment of happiness and love.

Another sad example of the division created herein is between society and the churches themselves. Some Christians/other religious folk go around preaching their

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beliefs and discounting the rights of others to believe differently. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the general public is being led by the media to believe that the religious folk are the only ones who will be affected and that they are just being radical fanatics. This discounts the beliefs of those churches as well as the efforts of their members. The gay community, from my experience, feel that the churches are slated out to suppress them of their freedoms, and the churches feel most of them to be unaware of the potential damages to religious freedoms. The problem is that there is so much misunderstanding and contention because of how fast this special session is occurring that Hawaii's society is really becoming divided.

The most heartbreaking news for me is how my friend Sheri Bren, who is currently pregnant with her 9<sup>th</sup> child, and her husband were both attacked while they were waving signs on Friday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 2013. Her description is as follows:

A man ripped down & stole our banner, intentionally banged my husband's truck (twice), and tried to run us over as we were getting his license number. He continued to step on his gas & hit us with his car as I yelled for him to stop & that I was pregnant (yes, baby #9) he drug us both for a distance and only stopped because my husband smashed his windshield & stopped him.

I ask that you will all consider the word in the Hawaii Revised Statutes §5-7.5 "The Law of Aloha".

**§ 5-7.5 "Aloha Spirit".** (a) "**Aloha Spirit**" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "**Aloha**", the following **unuhi laulā loa** may be used:

"**Akahai**", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"**Lōkahi**", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"**Olu'olu**" meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"**Ha'aha'a**", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"**Ahonui**", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i. "**Aloha**" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "**Aloha**" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "**Aloha**" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "**Aloha**" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "**Aloha Spirit**". [L 1986, c 202, § 1]

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I am opposed to this bill because I feel that religious freedoms must be protected. I am opposed to this special session because I feel that the Aloha and love of this land and people must be protected as well. The contention and hatred has already begun to divide us, and passing this bill in a special session will only make things worse here. I pray that you will seriously consider the concerns of this 19 yr. old young man. These are matters of great importance for All of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration and for your service as Senators and Representatives.

Mahalo,

Pakela Akaka  
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Honolulu, HI 96816  
(808)-469-2642 (Cell)  
Mr.pkillah@gmail.com

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

29 Oct 2013

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades and Luke:

I am an active registered voter in the State of Hawaii and it is of GREAT concern to me as to why bill S.B. NO. 1 has been called into special session. I understand that Hawaii is the only state that is RUSHING into a special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If it is so urgent, then why aren't the other 34 States, that do not permit same-sex marriages, holding a special session too? What is the urgency? I am placing my trust and voice in you, the law makers, to uphold democracy in Hawaii. Please vote "NO" to special session and let the voice of the people be heard. By RUSHING into Special Session, you are NOT letting the people's voice be heard in this short period and we are going to be subjected to a Bill that has many loopholes and opens the door to other areas that are of major concern to me. I am, respectfully, urging you to vote "NO" on this bill, and to re-introduce it during the regular session, allowing the people's voice to be heard.

Thank you and may God Bless you and your decision,  
Lisa M. Santos

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
LM Inouye	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am in opposition to this bill. Please do not pass this. I will divulge more information in person.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Roy Kevin Salts	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii concerning SB1 the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. OPPOSED to SB1 the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 Kevin Salts Hauula, Hawaii 96717 Go Red Raiders!!!! I am writing to voice my objection to passing a law in the state of Hawaii that legalizes Same Sex Marriage. I have studied this issue for more than 15 years. I voted to preserve the definition of marriage to be a union between one man and one woman in 1998. My opinions have not changed. There is a story about a man who was traveling across the desert and a sandstorm ensued. So the man setup his tent to get out of the stinging wind and sand blasting. His camel was also being pelted by the stinging sand, and asked if he could put a foot in the tent, and after a short time he complained about his head, and eventually his hind quarters, and eventually his whole body ended up in the tent, and the man ended up outside the tent because the camel took up all the room. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage is like letting the camel put its whole body in the tent. We Christians are now being pushed outside the tent, and government as allowed this to happen. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage is a social experiment that will have detrimental impacts on religious freedoms and freedom of expression and speech among other things. Our society does not know enough about the effects of Same Sex Marriage will have on families and children to make this kind of change to the definition of Marriage. We have thousands of years of data on heterosexual marriage and it works! Being forced to comply with the demands of the homosexual community and the laws they lobby for and get passed are eroding our personal freedoms and choices. For every law passed to protect Gays and Lesbians we need to have a companion law protecting the rights and freedoms of Heterosexuals. But, we no longer can talk about God, and traditional marriage without being forced to tell an opposing opinion from the gay and lesbian community. Is that Equality? This has infiltrated our school system, and soon including those who are homeschooled through Common Corr. Freedom of Religion and Speech are under attack. This bill attacks freedom of Religion, and the freedom to practice ones religion by forcing us the citizen, to comply with the whims and desires of the homosexual community should the SB1 bill pass. In other places like Massachusetts where same sex marriage has been legalized, children are being FORCED to learn Homosexuality in their classrooms. Teachers are forced to teach it even if it is against their religious beliefs. Parents are powerless to do anything about it as they cannot keep their children out of the classroom. We are going to lose teachers with Religious beliefs that do not agree with Homosexuality. Doctors could be forced to teach homosexuality as an alternative to birth control. The Hawaiian Culture would also be trampled upon by legalizing Gay and Lesbian Marriage in the State. WE will lose good men and women in Education, Medicine, in the Judicial System, and in Public office because Homosexuality and Gay Marriage is not in agreement with their Religious Beliefs. Should our society recognize a special class of citizens based on how they have sex? New laws are being written across the US and throughout the entire world that try to prevent discrimination based on sexual preference. These laws do not bring about

equality for all. Usually only the ones it was intended for get the benefit, and everyone else has to suffer the consequences. We are the ones who have to get out of the way, our children too have to suffer the consequences of passing so called nondiscrimination laws. Whenever government tries to make things fair, someone will lose a right or a freedom or be inconvenienced. That is not equality. We need less government tampering and trampling of freedoms in our lives not more. How will legalizing same sex marriage affect the many children who are adopted. That child who is adopted into a same sex family will have to by "no choice of his own" to learn the ways of Homosexuality. There have not been enough studies to determine if it is good for the child to live in this type of family. Common Sense tells us that there will need to be some sort of explaining to do as to why the child has two daddies or two mommies instead of a mother and father. The child will need counseling to be able to cope with the unnatural affection it is witnessing first hand in his daily life. Heterosexual marriage has been tried and tested for thousands of years and it works! It absolutely works and has stood the test of time. Why are you folks considering changing thousands of years of a successful institution of Marriage between a man and a woman? Does this not cross the line of playing God? The marriage union of a man and a woman is ordained by God, and is a sacred institution where children are reared under the protection of the laws of the land. Governments have recognized the importance of heterosexual unions by providing benefits to encourage its success and existence in society. Can you imagine what society would be like without the proper rearing of children in a loving home where a father and mother teach their children to love their state, country, God, and their neighbor? Legalizing Same sex marriage will not encourage the right kind of marriage union which will build a strong society. A father and mother make sacrifices based on their natural affection towards children that they helped to create through their heterosexual union. Children are protected in this union as they know who their father and mother are and knowing the he or she is the offspring of their parents will give them unconditional support and love. It has been proven over thousands of years in every country in the world that heterosexual marriage is the best option in society for the rearing of children. Numerous studies have proven this point as well. One example included here is from sociologist Mark Regnerus of the University of Texas at Austin. See <http://www.frc.org/issuebrief/new-study-on-homosexual-parents-tops-all-previous-research> Compared with children raised by their married biological parents (IBF), children of homosexual parents (LM and GF):

- Are much more likely to have received welfare (IBF 17%; LM 69%; GF 57%)
- Have lower educational attainment
- Report less safety and security in their family of origin
- Report more ongoing "negative impact" from their family of origin
- Are more likely to suffer from depression
- Have been arrested more often
- If they are female, have had more sexual partners--both male and female

As an adoptive parent believe it is best for adopted children to be raised in a Traditional family with one man and one woman as their parents. I can testify that raising a child in a family with a male father and a female mother is providing our son the best opportunity for growing up mentally, socially, and spiritually healthy. Who knows entirely where legalizing Same Sex Marriage will lead? Perhaps the Roman Empire gives us a glimpse of what our future holds.... Let's not forget that Marriage is not all about benefits. Marriage is about protecting children and families. Within the bounds of marriage a child is cared for, nurtured and taught the values of his/her parents. Those



values come almost entirely from religious observance. Legalizing same sex marriage will lead to the dissolution of Religious Freedoms and thus the family along with the values taught therein will wither away and society will fall. Governments recognized long ago that they needed to encourage the marriage relationship to strengthen society. That is why federal and state governments put those benefits into the system in the first place. The homosexual, Gay and Lesbian groups seeking to legalize their unions led you the House of Representative of the State of Hawaii to believe that all they wanted was the benefits. Governor Cayatono signed the domestic partnership bill into law, and that was supposed to be the end of it. Earlier in Governor Abercrombie's administration he signed a bill allowing Civil Unions and that was supposed to be the end of it. Now only a little over year later, the state is considering legalizing Same Sex Marriage. The people of Hawaii spoke against this back in 1998 when over 70% of the state voted against Same Sex Marriage. This was amazing considering that the language of the bill was confusing and some voted "NO" thinking it meant they were voting against Same Sex Marriage. I believe the true percentage of Hawaii that voted against Same Sex Marriage was somewhat higher. My opinion and views have not changed. The end game for the same sex marriage movement is not same sex marriage, but to destroy religious freedoms altogether. The end game for this Homosexual, Gay and Lesbian movement is to break down all the barriers to sexual expression in any setting imaginable. Where does it end? It will end with the destruction of our society the same fate that took down the Roman Empire. I am including just a few items that show what is happening in other parts of the Country as the Gay and Lesbian movement begins to take hold there. We have an opportunity to keep this from destroying our culture and society here in Hawaii by voting against this bill. In Hawaii from January to May of this year there were approximately 300 same sex civil unions solemnized while during that same time approximately 12,000 heterosexual unions were solemnized. Same sex Marriage is not about equality, it will create much inequality in our culture and society. Please watch the following YouTube video that chronicles the effects of Legalizing same sex marriage in Massachusetts. It will give you a look into the future of what will happen in Hawaii. This is still new in Massachusetts and this is just the beginning. Please do not pass this legislation to legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii. Please put this up for vote by the people. Let the people decide what they believe is best for their state. I would love to visit you in person and discuss in detail why I oppose this legislation. This is not about civil rights, or equality. Every citizen in this State already have the same legal rights to marry an opposite sex couple and that is fair. Creating a new marital status would setup a special class that is given more rights and protections than that of heterosexual marriages. I implore you to please not pass any legislation that gives legal marital status to same sex couples. Doing so would be to open the Pandora's box. We don't know all that will happen, we don't know the destruction to culture and society that will result. We do know from what happened to Rome, that destruction will follow. Same Sex Marriage and Religious Freedoms cannot coexist. Same Sex Marriage and Homosexual laws will and do infringe on religious freedoms. Please watch the 30 minute video that is linked below. Please let me know what your thoughts are after you have read my comments and read the articles and watched the video. Thank you for considering my testimony and allowing me to participate in the political process. Please do not pass SB1 the Marriage Equality act of 2013 as it is

nothing close to equality and will only serve to destroy families and the religious and constitutional freedoms in our society we all enjoy. Aloha, Kevin  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU> Also, look at anti-discrimination laws and how they are infringing on religious freedoms and freedom of speech.  
<http://radio.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/san-antonio-passes-non-discrimination-law-christians-fear-reprisals.html>  
<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/official-statement/religious-freedom>

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

I am voicing my opposition to Bill SB1.

I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. If this bill is signed into law, it will open the door to discrimination against people who believe in opposite-sex marriage and strip away their rights.

I do not want Hawaii to go down the same path as other places where same-sex marriage has been legalized. I do not want this bill to be used as a trump card which will override the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and parental rights over the education of their children.

Those who favor same-sex marriage will be able to freely express their views, but those who believe otherwise will be afraid to express their beliefs for fear of being sued, fined, fired from their jobs, suspended from school, or even arrested.

Priests and pastors will be banned from preaching against homosexuality and the Bible will become an illegal document. The possible negative scenarios are endless.

Although same-sex marriage is essentially an adult rights issue, children are the ones who stand to suffer the most from this legal battle. I do not want to see Hawaii parents suffer like those on the mainland who have no say or opt-out option regarding the exposure of their young, impressionable children to mandatory training and strong encouragement at school to develop homosexual, transgender, and bisexual interests or behaviors.

We need to study what the long-term impact on children will be as well as how parent-child relationships will be affected.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on this very important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mary Lou F. N. Chai  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822

**Committee on Judiciary**

Rep. Karl Roads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E Har, Vice Chair

**Committee on Finance**

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Roads, Chair Luke, members on the Committee on Judiciary, and members on the Committee on Finance,

My name is Kari Benes **and I oppose SB1.**

James Madison wrote in regards to separation of church and state, " Practical distinction between Religion and Civil Government is **essential to the purity of both**, and as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States."

I oppose SB1, because stating religious exemptions<sup>1</sup> means that the state would be required to regulate the exemptions.

Hawaii Civil Rights Commission doesn't state in their, "response to inquiries" to the people on how they would enforce this measure or what penalties could occur if individuals do not meet the exemptions in this bill.<sup>2</sup>

SB1 implies that the state desires to govern the religious, religious activities and clergy, which this bill also fails to define.

Thank you Chairs and members of both committees for your long hours and hard work poured into this process and please vote no on SB1.

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<sup>1</sup> SB1: HRS 572-E **Refusal to solemnize a marriage** and HRS 572-F **Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances**

<sup>2</sup> Hawaii Civil Rights Commission: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/hcrc/hcrc-news/hcrc-response-regarding-marriage-equality-religious-organizations-and-facilities-and-public-accommodations-law/>

October 29, 2013

To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee

Hearing Date: October 31, 2013 10:00am  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhodes and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I wish to voice my concerns about Bill SB1 and ask at a minimum that a vote of the people be endorsed as opposed to the special session vote.

There are four points and a few suggestions I would like to make.

1. The economic difficulties in the U.S. and around the world are intimately connected to aging populations, the decrease in the working population and the population at large<sup>1</sup>. The fertility replacement ratio is dropping in nearly every nation on the planet<sup>1</sup>.

**Phil Longman**, Author, *The Empty Cradle*, and Schwartz Senior Fellow of the New America Foundation, states that “there is not much quibble, there is not much controversy among people in the know”.

2. All attempts to use economic incentives to increase the fertility replacement ratio have failed<sup>1</sup>. The reverse is also true. That is, using social modification that negatively impacts the family having children above the fertility replacement ratio, cannot provide a long-term environment of economic prosperity. In my analysis, this is exactly what SB1 is intended to accomplish.

**Phil Longman again** states, that “never in history have we had economic prosperity accompanied by depopulation<sup>1</sup>”.

I assume that the purpose of SB1 is to provide an environment of prosperity and freedom for all. It may give a short term boost to revenues, but when the growth that inevitably returns to decline occurs, these frivolous laws will remain hindering future attempts to engender economic growth again.

**Viktor Medkov**, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at the Lomonossov Moscow State University states that Russia's government is going to be dealing with a collapsing economy and is paying its citizens to have children. He continues, “It is not working ... economic solutions will not fix these problems, they are being tried by the government. Because the root causes stem from other forces that weaken the family<sup>1</sup>”.

3. **Alan Viard**, Ph.D. Harvard, Economics, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute states, “The current generations particularly those who are now retired and those who are approaching retirement are not fulfilling their proper responsibilities towards future generations<sup>1</sup>”. I would like to submit to you that I see no legislation including SB1 that gives any meaningful attention to this pending economic crisis.

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<sup>1</sup>“The Demographic Winter”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZeyYlsGdAA>

4. The only segment of society that has an increasing fertility replacement ratio is found with people of faith<sup>1</sup>.

SB1 does not adequately address the protections required to preserve the rights of those of faith. Or the very segment of society that will be on the vanguard of population expansion, which is the engine for recovering economies. Tolerance works two ways, and HB1 is not providing this basic element of freedom.

### **Suggestions**

1. Vote No to allow a more informed discussion to occur and provide an environment that will produce a bill that takes into account the needs of all people, not just a small segment. Alternatively have the people of Hawaii decide if HB1 should be passed into law by putting it on the ballot. If the people approve the bill, then the consequences (good or bad) will be shared.

2. Hawaii has the rare opportunity to lead the nation and the world by demonstrating its understanding and clear thought on some of the most pressing issues facing Hawaii and the world today. Proposed legislation should always be directed toward increasing the fertility replacement ration. In proposing legislation that addresses, head-on, the issues that have been building over the decades, Hawaii's legislature can take true leadership, and thus be the spark that helps turn the national and global economy around. This general increase in economic activity will then have a meaningful impact on the long-term economic environment at home.

### **Final Remark**

The HB1 bill does little to provide a meaningful environment for economic growth while at the same time threatens the freedom of the very group of people who have been contributing the most toward stemming the decreasing population threat. Research shows that some countries like Japan are already experiencing an economic crisis triggered by a decreasing population. This same research demonstrates that if things do not change, the world population will decrease at dramatic rates starting around 2065. That is a little more than 50 years from now, or possibly within the lifetime of some in this room.

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: DATE: Thursday, October 31, 2013 TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Rhoads and Luke and members of the committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing in strong support of SB1.

I believe in the freedom to express religion and would like the government not to define marriage strictly to opposite-gendered individuals. Many religious organizations have married resident same-sex couples here in Hawaii of which the state does not recognize as being married. I don't believe it is the government's role to limit who a church feels is a qualified partner for holy matrimony.

Due to our State's current definition we restrict citizen's equal benefits and rights such as Social Security benefits, retiree & life insurance, federal estate taxes, legal rights, parental rights. I understand some believe that the people that want these benefits and rights should go to another state where "this sort of thing" is legal, but this is not reasonable of the people of Hawaii. 'Ohana being present for my marriage to the person that I love is very important to me. This is not a viable option to me or others in my same situation.

Moreover I feel that continuing this law that segregates family concepts by naming their parents as civil partners or married further encourage an intolerant, hateful and damaging mindset. I feel that by delaying or killing this legislation is not in the spirit of Aloha. You have the opportunity to make it clear that the Aloha State extends not just tolerance, by unconditional love to all. People that want equal rights, protections, and government recognition regardless of their life-partner's sexual organs are not inferior. I feel this separate, but "equal" mentality has been proven to be not acceptable. Additionally, I feel it adds to bullying in our schools. It is in our best interest to teach tolerance and promote understanding. This is how we ensure humanities future. I am frankly surprised to be writing about this as I've always considered Hawaii a forerunner in understanding the importance of tolerance.

I never chose to be gay. I didn't understand what my attraction to males meant growing up because I didn't consider myself as an evil person that was going to burn in hell for eternity. It was hard to come to terms with, but I met the challenge and it was not perverted.

Terms such as sexual orientation, sexual preference and the assumption that it is simply a choice is not true and these terms are misleading.

I have absolutely no desire for incest, bestiality, or molestation and am deeply offended by the reckless affiliation of such activities for the simple reason of loving a same-gendered person. Lest I remind that certain churches have a certain historical affinity of such perversion.



I have no doubt that you realize that passing SB1 will not make all of the people in Hawaii gay thereby ending natural procreation bringing the end of civilization.

To assert that acceptance of same-sex relations are not tradition is lacking facts. I have no doubt that King Kamehameha I and King Liholiho would be in support of this act due to their documented history or support.

I've read citations of the first amendment of the 1840 Hawaiian constitution, but I feel that we pride ourselves on the changes that have been made. At this time Hula, the chant (olioli), and the song of pleasure (mele) were forbidden. These are qualities that now define and exemplify what is known of Hawaiian culture.

Hawaii's existing system, which denies gay and lesbian residents and visitors the dignity and equality of marriage, is not consistent with the Aloha spirit and the diversity that defines our State.

I want to cite American Academy of Pediatrics Supports Same Gender Marriage - See more at: <http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/American-Academy-of-Pediatrics-Supports-Same-Gender-Civil-Marriage.aspx#sthash.u3MsSSDJ.JaSTgqzQ.dpuf>

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony,

Jeremy Heyer



To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Re: **Strong Opposition to SB1**

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

Testimony submitted by Eric Yuasa, Hawaii Voter District 32 and I am testifying in person.

We respectfully request that this bill be killed in your committees, as we are deeply concerned about the negative impacts of this bill on Hawaii's families, children and grandchildren, teachers, churches and small business owners. The special session does not allow enough time to properly discuss such an important issue that has strong opposition from the many Hawaii residents. This issue should be decided by a constitutional amendment so that it truly reflects the will of the people. It should not be decided by the legislature.

We believe that Marriage is a sacred, legal, and social union ordained by God to be a life-long, sexually exclusive relationship between one man and one woman. This was clearly voiced by the people of Hawaii in 1998 constitutional amendment. We do not know how this bill will affect our families, especially our children and their children, and our fragile economy, which is dependent of tourism. Based on information from Canada and other States that have passed similar measures to legalize "gay marriage" we do know that there are negative impacts on families. We also know that the normalization of the gay lifestyle has made it into the public school curriculum. This will impact our children, parents and teachers who object to the gay lifestyle.

Churches have had to change their policies to restrict public use of their facilities, and inspite of these changes have had to defend against frivolous lawsuits. We also know that small business owners, who have expressed their personnel beliefs that marriage should be between one man and one woman will be negatively impacted. The legalization of same sex marriage may negatively impact our tourism market which depends heavily on visitors from Asia, as we know that these cultures are more conservative, and may be deeply offended this action.

I am concerned that the special session is pushing forward an issue and silencing the voice of the people. We are supposed to have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. However, the special session does not allow adequate time to discuss such an important issue that so many feel deeply about. This issue should best be decided by a constitutional amendment so that it truly reflects the will of the people.

If not this issue should be properly vetted and discussed during the regular session. Please respect democracy and do not let the democratic process be circumvented.

Sincerely,  
Eric Yuasa

HAWAII STATE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 10:00 a.m.  
Auditorium, State Capitol

Aloha, Judiciary Chair Representative Rhoads and Finance Chair Representative Luke, Vice Chairs Har, Nishimoto, and Johanson, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express strong support for SB 1 relating to Equal Rights. This bill would give same-sex couples the right to marry in the state of Hawaii.

I am a resident of the state living in Pearl City, and have been in a committed same sex relationship for more than eleven years. Passage of this legislation would afford the opportunity to marry in the state in which I reside. It would also give legal recognition to our relationship on par with opposite-sex couples, ending discriminatory legal distinctions that thus far have relegated our relationship to a second-class status.

With the recent Supreme Court Decision striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, SB 1 would also ensure that same sex couples in this state are now able to take advantage of the over 1000 federal rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities granted to married opposite sex couples.

Further, SB 1 protects the right of religious freedom for those faith communities who choose not to solemnize such relationships.

For years, lesbian and gay couples have paid a higher price economically for our committed relationships. Economic marginalization has an impact on our families. As a marginalized group, we have also paid a high price socially. That price has come in the form of job discrimination, religious persecution, physical violence and threats of violence and in many, many cases, exile from our families of origin. It is a testament to our perseverance that the crucible under which we have been forced to live, love, and die has not shaken our belief in the value of family, marriage and community.

Let justice prevail. There is no compelling reason to continue to discriminate between same-sex and opposite-sex couples that wish to marry and have that marriage recognized under state law. SB 1 corrects a longstanding inequity and will ensure that all of Hawaii's families enjoy the benefits and responsibilities associated with legally recognized marriage in the state.

I urge STRONG SUPPORT for SB 1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Lisa Horan  
Pearl City, HI

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Michael	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

House Judiciary Committee – Testimony

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

My name is Thelma Siders and 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.

Thelma Siders

From: Marcia R Peterson-Harris

To: House Judiciary Committee and House Finance Committee

Hearing Day& Date: 10:00am at Thursday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

I will be testifying in person

To: Chair Karl Rhoades, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke and the Finance Committee

I am writing in strong opposition to Bill SB 1. I am asking that you let the people decide..

Let the people's voices be heard! I still remember - [of the people, by the people, for the people!](#)

The people decided in 1998, the people must decide today. We did not give the Legislatures the power to [re-define](#) marriage, rather, reserve it for opposite sex couples only. It is very important that our voices be heard now.

We are facing the same [sex marriage](#) issue AGAIN. Civil Unions was not what the LGBT Movement/Constituents wanted in the first place. I was here in 2009 when LGBT began the process of demanding their rights. I listened while most LGBT supporter insisted that they had no interest in marriage. One after the other asserted repeatedly that all they wanted was EQUAL RIGHTS for their partners. All they wanted was for their partnerships to be sanctioned. 2010 the same issue was re-addressed. We testified each of these times that testimonies were heard that LGBT did not want benefits only. We tried to convince all who would listen to us that the LGBT had another agenda. LGBT was granted their request with the assistance of Governor Abercrombie. That should have been the end of this matter for you as Legislatures and us as tax paying constituents. They had apparently won what they had requested. Even though the voice of the people was still one of opposition, LGBT had their victory.

I support getting along with mutual respect for our neighbor. I support respect of individuals. . I believe that even those who oppose the lifestyle of homosexuality have been tolerant of individuals choice to co- habitat with their choice of a partner without jeopardizing future securities. As an African American Woman I am very offended that LGBT has convinced so many that the struggle they have endured because of the choices that they have made are the same as the struggles I have endured because of my gender and color. Under the guise of civil rights this issue has been shrouded to pull on the heart string of the ignorant ,the indifferent and those who simply believe we should just all get along. I am all for getting along but I am already resentful that I am being targeted as a hater because I do not agree that my grandchildren be indoctrinated to celebrate this lifestyle.

It is becoming more and more apparent that there is very limited respect for the Christian perspective, in this matter. So I will not bore you with any Biblical references, but I will suggest to

you that if we are not going to allow our boundaries to be influenced by a spiritual source, may I appeal to your conscience of wisdom and discretion?

Wisdom and discretion must kick in at some point in our decision-making or we will find ourselves without boundaries, without restraint in any areas of life and thereby victims of complete chaos. For soon, more reckless behaviors, more ratings for equality because of the confusion of what is a 'right' or what is 'civil.'

I strongly oppose this legislation as well as the proposed special session to promote passage of this bill. I pray that each of you will take note of the progression that has taken place and that will take place if you allow passage. Without boundaries, who will be next, bi-sexuals, pedophilia, polygamy? What about the rights of the mistress of a married man? Who else will scream for their right to express themselves in the face of this state because they assert that they were "born that way."

1998-2013 have been a clear picture to me of a masterfully orchestrated agenda. Since we started this process, pictures of my husband and I have been printed on websites, we have received phone calls to our home and the church we pastor because we exercised our right to voice our position on this matter. We have been threatened and we have been accused of hate on these websites and in these phone messages. We have endured these minor attacks silently because the issue and its relevance to our society meant more to us than the personal attacks. This process that was intended to be civil and a fair exchange of reasonable individuals, we have been strategically and intentionally lied to, manipulated and seduced into disrespecting an institution that has always been respected and honored as a bedrock of our society-Marriage between one man and one woman.....Let the people of the society that we all live in decide whether those boundaries should no longer be respected or valued.

Your children, grand-children and mine will grow up in a nation that has no respect for order. You will leave a legacy of re-defining the family structure-Yes, but at the risk of society that has no respect for its elected officials and their willingness to reflect the voice of the people. Let the people decide and regain the trust and confidence of the people you have been elected to serve. We will not be silenced. We have found our voice. After LGBT has left Hawaii to move on to the next State to conquer, you will still be herewith the constituents in your District. We may have been apathetic and lazy before but we are WIDE AWAKE now. We will remember your vote and we will vote. We will fill the courts with lawsuits when our rights to train our children are stripped from us.

*Because of Grace* 🙏  
*Evangelist Marcia R.P. Harris*  
*(808)676-9712*





To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Re: **Strong Opposition to SB1**

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

Testimony submitted by Janette Yuasa, Hawaii Voter District 32 and I am testifying in person.

We respectfully request that this bill be killed in your committees, as we are deeply concerned about the negative impacts of this bill on Hawaii's families, children and grandchildren, teachers, churches and small business owners. The special session does not allow enough time to properly discuss such an important issue that has strong opposition from the many Hawaii residents. This issue should be decided by a constitutional amendment so that it truly reflects the will of the people. It should not be decided by the legislature.

We believe that Marriage is a sacred, legal, and social union ordained by God to be a life-long, sexually exclusive relationship between one man and one woman. This was clearly voiced by the people of Hawaii in 1998 constitutional amendment. We do not know how this bill will affect our families, especially our children and their children, and our fragile economy, which is dependent of tourism. Based on information from Canada and other States that have passed similar measures to legalize "gay marriage" we do know that there are negative impacts on families. We also know that the normalization of the gay lifestyle has made it into the public school curriculum. This will impact our children, parents and teachers who object to the gay lifestyle.

Churches have had to change their policies to restrict public use of their facilities, and inspite of these changes have had to defend against frivolous lawsuits. We also know that small business owners, who have expressed their personnel beliefs that marriage should be between one man and one woman will be negatively impacted. The legalization of same sex marriage may negatively impact our tourism market which depends heavily on visitors from Asia, as we know that these cultures are more conservative, and may be deeply offended this action.

I am concerned that the special session is pushing forward an issue and silencing the voice of the people. We are supposed to have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. However, the special session does not allow adequate time to discuss such an important issue that so many feel deeply about. This issue should best be decided by a constitutional amendment so that it truly reflects the will of the people.

If not this issue should be properly vetted and discussed during the regular session. Please respect democracy and do not let the democratic process be circumvented.

Sincerely,  
Janette Yuasa

Karl Rhoades, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:00 am State Capitol Auditorium  
Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights ( In Opposition)

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. I will try to summarize my testimony.

My most important job and passion is raising my children to walk in their faith, to love and bless others and to positively impact their generation. We teach them that they should always love others even if they don't agree with them. We also teach them that unlike many other societies they are blessed to live in a country where they can freely express their values, faith and morals without ridicule: and that they should not be forced to embrace values that do not line up with their personal faith. This bill threatens those rights.

The opposition against same sex marriage is not to deny anyone their rights. Up to now, the tolerance and acceptance of an alternative lifestyle had virtually had little to no impact in our lives and the lives of our children. However, this bill will force the acceptance through laws, policies, and the teaching of alternative lifestyle in the sex education curriculum in our schools. It will also bring us in conflict with people's and organization's religious freedom rights.

It is difficult to imagine that when we made a choice to go to church and live by the principle's of the bible in loving and blessing others and by living in faith in someone greater than ourselves that we will find ourselves outside of societal norms. How did this happen?

Same sex marriage presents many challenges in the area of parental authority, who is primarily responsible for the education of our children (parents or the government), and creating a battle between the right to marry vs. religious freedom. With this type of impact in the basic foundation of family and society, I humbly ask that we not rush into this decision. We know the majority of you have made a decision to support this bill but we ask you to at least delay its passage to be able to address the concerns many of us have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:00 a.m. State Capitol Auditorium  
**RE: SB1 – Relating to Equal Rights (In Opposition)**

Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke and members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committee;

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in strong opposition to SB1.

Through reports from the media, most of you have taken a position on this bill and for many of you, this is simply a matter of giving a recognized group of people the right to marry.

But look around you, many of us here today see same sex marriage as a moral issue, not a civil rights issue. Unfortunately, like many moral issues, the people of Hawaii are split over what is right and wrong. Our political system says you are elected to represent the people but how can you do that when we are so sharply divided over this issue? In today's world, there is a great deal of confusion when it comes to matters of truth, meaning, morality, our origin, and our destiny.

I am convinced that many of you who support SB 1 truly believe you are doing the right thing. However, I am concerned about the longer term consequences of this decision in our society and the impact it will have on our children.

As parents and lawmakers, we have a great responsibility to the next generation. Throughout my life, I have been asked to be tolerant of other people's beliefs. Up to now, this tolerance has had little to no impact on my belief system, my parental rights and authority over my children and the education of them.

Unfortunately, as we look to the impact that same sex marriage has had in societies where this has been legalized, we see parental authority undermined overtly and in subtle ways. In the spirit of providing a safe and tolerant environment for children in our schools the ability to express religious beliefs is suppressed in fear of being labeled as intolerant. In many ways, the message that will be delivered to our children is that a belief system based upon God is wrong and in turn, that their parents are wrong to teach those belief systems.

I am saddened that we are raising a generation to value material possessions, live a life without faith except in oneself, and deciding what is right and wrong based on what is legal and illegal or that right and wrong is left up to the individual to decide. Is this the legacy we really want to leave for our children?

These are large questions that many of us have not had time to ponder and discuss with each other. I ask that you not pass SB1 if only to give the people of Hawaii time to ponder these type of questions and time to be able to determine what we stand for and not simply what we are against.

Thank you for your service and the opportunity to testify to you.

Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
House Finance Committee

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 would like to thank our elected officials for taking this time to hear our concerns. My name is Daniel DeLuz Jr. I am born and raised in the state of Hawaii. It is with great concern I address you today. Parental and individual rights will be relinquished by the marriage equality bill before us. We only have to look at the 13 states that have already redefined traditional marriage to know it is a reality. Our educational system will be altered as it was in those 13 states. Teachers will be required to teach and affirm material not only offensive to their religious views but may be age inappropriate for their students. Students will receive sexual education disagreeable to parents, allowing parents no say in the matter. Small businesses will be at risk of lawsuits as well as churches. The removal of lines 15 - 18 on page 12 of the bill is the open door for these rights to be taken from us. Even the bill in its amended form does not provide sufficient protection of our rights.

I offer up for your consideration:

1. Why is Hawaii the only state out of 34 rushing into special session?
2. Marriage is not a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said it is. Why are we treating it as it is? This alone should be enough to stop this bill.
3. We believed we voted on this in 1998, we're we not heard then?
4. Are we not being expected to alter our culture, society, laws and educational systems in an unreasonable fashion at the cost of our religious freedom, parental and individual rights?

No one would ask a person of race to redefine their identity as a race so they could have equal rights.. Racial equality did not require a redefinition of one's racial identity. Traditional marriage cannot be redefined without sacrificing its identity for something it is not. No other union has the privilege of ushering in new life as that of a traditional marriage between one man and one woman which must have clear definition within our legal system to have clear legal protection. While races may coexist with equal rights and maintain their racial identities, Sexuality defined as a civil right will sacrifice the civil rights of heterosexuals that any other sexuality may have theirs. We will not be eliminating a form of racism but introducing a new form of discrimination into our society and state with long reaching legal and social consequences.

I do not believe I or those of similar opinion are being unreasonable. Please vote no on this bill or at least allow us the people to vote.

Thank You for your time and service.  
Daniel DeLuz Jr.

October 17, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo Nui for your time and consideration,

Jeremy White  
(808) 927-9977



**To:** Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

**From:** Jeremy White  
600 Queen Street, #2506  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
jgwhite1972@yahoo.com

**RE:** In-Person Testimony on SB 1  
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium  
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people 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 the eldest of three siblings and am the only one who has not been allowed to get married. My partner and I have been together for several years and have decided that until we can be married in the state we love (and the state he grew up in), we will not get married or accept a civil union, which is a second-class option for gay couples. I refuse to leave the state I love in order to get married. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

29 Oct 2013

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades and Luke:

I am an active registered voter in the State of Hawaii and am in OPPOSITION of S.B. No. 1. My few and simple comments on this matter are:

- 1) Why the rush to redefine an institution that goes back thousands of years in such a short time?
- 2) Why are we not living our democracy and letting the people decide?
- 3) Why this issue vs. bigger and more ethical issues such as addressing the rights of Native Hawaiians or the Homeless?

I urge your support and vote in opposition of this bill representing the MAJORITY of the people of Hawaii.

Aloha and God Bless,

Robert J. Santos

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

From: Annette Oda 8086393683 ; amohawaii@hotmail.com  
(p. 1 of 3)

Dear Honorable Chair Rhoads and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Aloha, my name is Mrs. Annette Oda, 60 + years resident , retired, tenured, Hawaii DOE, Teacher of 30 + years , mother of 3 grown children, grandmother of 5 3/4, wife for 37+ years from Kauai , THE GARDEN ISLAND giving testimony for my family and friends.

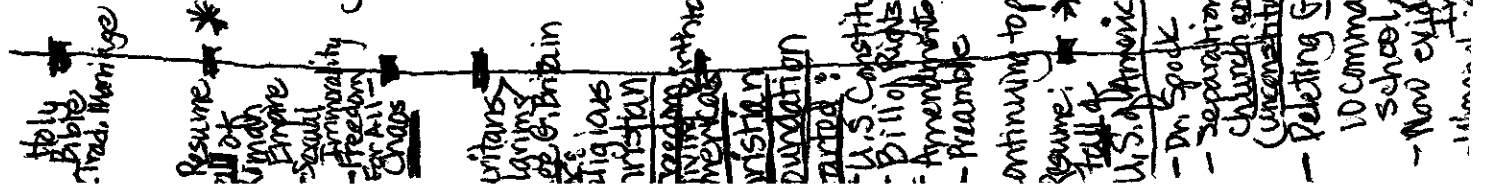
These are my reasons in opposition to SB 1 ARE:

1. Marriage for thousands of years established by GOD has been between ONLY 1 Man and 1 Woman FOR the purpose of procreation. No other " Marriage or union" specifically described in the Bible has been created by GOD, for example, Man (men) and Man(men), Woman (women) and Woman ( women), etc. are NOT ACCEPTABLE AND DESCRIBED CLEARLY , AND SPECIFICALLY NOT ALLOWED. GOD inspired the writers and collaborators of the HOLY BIBLE and this centuries old World Wide, Best Seller has NO Mistakes. We are Never to add or subtract to the Holy Bible as it is clearly stated in the Old Testament. All the standards, parameters, answers to Life's questions are completely found in the Holy Bible.

2. The U.S Constitution , the Bill of Rights , The Preamble to the Constitution, and the Amendments to the Constitution All have it's Foundations set upon Christian Principles of the HOLY Bible. All of our Laws of the Land over 200 + years have been / should have always been based on those cornerstone documents created and established by our Honorable Forefathers who came to America for Religious Freedom in the United States Government.

What happened since? An example , If your child was reported as bullying children at school, and He/She admitted to bullying another child(ren) do you support your child and his/her bullying wholeheartedly no matter what? If you do , that's exactly what has been happening to our Governments, Schools, Communities, and families. No Solid Christian standards, guidelines, and foundation causes CHAOS.

Brief summary: Timeline of USA.



Christianity  
- However, whatever, whatever = Chaos

p. 2 of 3

Cont. p. 2 To Chrm Rhoads and members.

Annette Oda p. 2 of 3 House of Rep.  
808 639 3683 amohawaii@hotmail.com

3. "Fast Track Lawmaking Process "on a monumental human and moral issue is Unconstitutional. You are our representatives to "REPRESENT US, YOUR CONSTITUENTS" , so therefore, you are to vote ONLY ON OUR BEHALF NOT , what you want, believe, etc. You also took an Oath to the United States of America Government and Countrymen, that you Promise to defend, protect, and preserve the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, NOT what Anyone wants, whenever, and whatever , with your left hand on the HOLY BIBLE and right hand up . That's how it all started , but since then America's government(s) haven't been upholding the Principles of the HOLY BIBLE according to Our Forefathers: Honestly, our Forefathers have been cringing in Heaven for years as the USA heads toward a spiral spin similarly to the Fall of the Roman Empire:

Notice the similarities:

\*pornography, bizarre sex, sex scandals, drugs, violence, chaos, evil, satanic worship, etc. among officials and society.

\*definition of freedom is eroding, no longer based on solid, Christian Principles.

\* supporting ACLU, LGBT, ETC. which facts show direct link and increase in HIV POSITIVE, AIDS, ETC. Do the research on Massachusetts and Canada since becoming an SSM state and country. FACTS DON'T LIE.

\* Separation of Church and State

4. If the supporters of SSM , SB 1 , Gay Marriage Equality are so sure that they are the majority in our communities across the state, then it's all simple:

**LET THE PEOPLE VOTE. REMEMBER REPRESENTATIVES IN EXACTLY ONE YEAR , AT ELECTION TIME, WE WILL ALL REMEMBER HOW YOU VOTED.**

**Facts : 10/29/13 Tues. Star Advertiser Front page : LEFT SIDE OF ARTICLE, NOT PICTURES: OPPOSITION . . . . . thousands cheering in "Wanting the People to Vote" on this Monumental Issue. . . . .**

Annette Oda pg. 3 of 3 To: House of Rep. amohawaii@hotmail.com  
808 639 3683

RIGHT SIDE OF ARTICLE : . . . . . More than 100 supporters of same-sex marriage, most donning rainbow lei, . . . . .

At the end of the session, Chairman Hee noted that less 1500 of more than 3,000 testimonies are yes.

Quick survey of 70% of testimonies are NO's.

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE !!! THAT IS OUR WILL THAT MUST BE DONE. WE INSIST TO RELIEVE YOU OF REPRESENTING US.

4. 1998 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ELECTION CLEARLY DEFINED MARRIAGE BETWEEN 1 MAN AND 1 WOMAN. WE ONLY GAVE LEGISLATORS THE POWER TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE, NOT TO REDEFINE IT. READ IT CAREFULLY. I VOTED, AND I KNOW AND I READ THE HEADLINES IN THE NEWSPAPER, GO DO THE RESEARCH.

To further protect and preserve the government, the CHECKS AND BALANCE SYSTEM SHOULD BE EFFICIENTLY preventing any one of the three Branches of the government to have more power than any other branch

America started and have been based on Christian Foundations =  
Solid.  
Wrong choices → Weaken Foundations → CHAOS Spels (Downfall) of Roman Empire American Empire

My name is Danielle, I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I am against SB-1. My family has been living in Hawaii for many generations past and it's my hope to raise my family and future generations here as well. I love the laid back environment, the sense of community and ohana, and the fresh aloha spirit that is in this land, the land that was seeded into by the great Kamehamehas. The foundation they laid was built on Christianity, a foundation that has sustained us for hundreds of years. Why should we take away from that? Why are we changing that? Why are we choosing to learn from consequence instead of wisdom? I want my children to grow up in the Hawaii that I knew, where their religious freedom won't be oppressed and where they won't be scared or confused or forced to do things they don't believe in or agree with. I want to teach them to love all people, regardless of race, orientation, social status, etc. Marriage was intended for one man and one woman...Why do we need to change what thousands of years of history has shown was good? Be strong, take heart, and stand on truth!

Testifier: Janella N. Hung  
Bill Number and Title: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights  
Committee: House Joint Judiciary & Finance Committees  
Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013  
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Hearing Location: Auditorium

Greetings, Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees.

I am strongly opposed to SB 1 for two reasons. First, this bill is *not* about giving equal rights with regards to marriage to same-sex couples, but is in truth according *new* rights to same-sex couples, at the expense of destroying the historical, cultural, and societal definition of marriage in Hawaii, as well as rushing headlong into a course of action without carefully considering and allowing public input into the many intended and unintended consequences that will follow. Second and more importantly, at its heart the issue of same-sex marriage is really a question of ethics, whether same-sex attraction is a matter of choice or not. If it is a choice, then it does not deserve equal treatment; if it is not a choice, then it does. Since both sides are being argued emphatically and neither side is willing to concede, this is an issue that should best be decided by the people of Hawaii via a constitutional referendum. America's founding fathers created our U.S. Constitution in such a way so that controversial ethical issues such as this could be decided by the people, and Hawaii's constitution mirrors this.

Therefore, I implore you, the elected public servants of the state of Hawaii, to respect the process of democracy and let the people decide in this issue. This is an issue that generates such controversy and will have such a widespread effect on everyone in Hawaii. It is not right that such a small number of people make the choice for the approximately 1.5 million people of Hawaii on such a divisive issue. Please put this issue to a public referendum to truly settle the question about whether the people of Hawaii are ready to embrace the new institution of same-sex marriage or if they have not changed their minds since 1998, and want to continue to reserve marriage to opposite –sex couples. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Janella Hung  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

House of Representative  
Committee on Judiciary

RE: Strong support for SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I write to the committee as an educator, as a doctorate student, as a Canadian educated in Toronto's public school system, as a former sexual education instructor (in Toronto), as a former public health evaluator of Hawaii's health education program, and as an individual woman married to a locally born and raised man.

I strongly urge the committee to support and pass marriage equality legislation for Hawaii to grant equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities to all citizens and permanent residents of this wonderful state regardless of sexual orientation. As a Japanese-Canadian married to my Caucasian-American husband, I'm acutely aware that my sexual orientation grants me the privilege to love, care, and be responsible for my amazing husband. But history reminds me that in many states anti-miscegenation laws, that were upheld until the late 1960s, would have denied us the very rights, responsibilities and privileges we are granted today. We are at another critical crossroad for civil rights.

Many opponents of this bill argue that marriage equality threatens "traditional" marriage and families, endangers children, and would corrupt the education system. To counter these myth, in my years growing up in Toronto, learning and teaching comprehensive sex ed in public schools, and living among some of the most diverse people in the world, I have witnessed a growing public tolerance, acceptance, and kindness towards all types of people preceding and since Canada's decision to enact marriage equality in 2005; not a destruction to the institution of marriage. While this bill does not speak directly to educational curriculum, I'd like to clarify that that regarding Ontario's sexual education, parents are entitled to withdraw their children from portions of the program; however, in my two years of teaching in Toronto (prior to the 2010 curriculum reform), I've only had one child removed from my lessons without any stigma or recourse. Furthermore, there has been no empirical evidence to indicate that children educated by Ontario's inclusive curriculum has led to immoral behavior or sexual deviance among youth. Rather, schools and classrooms have become safer places where students of varying sexual orientation can feel accepted. The 2010 curriculum reform was largely demanded and supported by the public.

Marriage equality legislation not only impacts LGBT individuals and communities, it also impacts heterosexual couples, especially those with children. It's important to my husband and I that our future children will grow up in a Hawaii that does not reduce people by their sexuality and place them on a hierarchy that implies non-



heterosexuals are less worthy as a citizen and as a human beings. Just as opponents of this bill are concerned for children, so are we with equal ferocity. The difference is that we are simply placing human equality and dignity as our guiding principle and not religious ideology. Isn't this how a secular state should operate?

Passing marriage equality legislation would in no way threaten my heterosexual marriage or "traditional" marriage. Rather, it would reinforce, to my husband and I, that our union is defined and validated by the state and NOT religious rhetoric. However, not passing this bill would send a message, to us and our future children, that Hawaii insists on upholding regressive definitions of marriage, full citizenship, and human dignity, that institutionally oppresses certain individuals based on who they chose to love.

Thank you very much for considering this testimony.

Kind regards,

Yuka Polovina

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tileree	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha. My name is Tileree Johnson, and I am a sophomore in high school. I strongly oppose SB1 and this Special Session. As an indigenous Hawaiian, I truly believe that everyone should have a voice. Holding a Special Session is unfair to the people because the time is too short to adequately discuss such an important topic. As a Christian, I believe that the bible teaches to love the sinner, but not the sin. God loves all people, and we are all equal in His eyes. But marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman...it's a choice, not a right. The first amendment in our constitution grants us the freedom of religion and speech. If this law were to pass, will we still have that freedom? Or will that freedom be restricted? Watching all that has been going on with the special session shows me that the government system does not work. This was proven to me on Monday night when the majority of the verbal and written testimonies were in opposition of SB1, and the bill still passed. I feel that what we say as citizens does not matter. I thought that the government was supposed to work for us and not the other way around. As a youth, I look up to you - the elected officials - to set the example and to speak on my behalf. Is mocking the democratic process what you want me and my generation to learn? Do we really know how this law will affect my generation and the future generations to come? If we don't, then why are we rushing to pass this law? 34 other states do not permit same sex marriage. If they aren't running into a special session, then why do we have to? Time is on our side, so please take into consideration all possibilities before rushing into making a decision. Thank you and God bless.

**For the House Joint Hearing:** Hearing on 10/31

Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Finance Committee

**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 a family nurse practitioner and a mother of two young children. Recent evidence based study conducted by Professor Regnerus showed that children raised up by traditional mother and father married family are doing much better than those raised up by same sex couples in the area of education, depression, employment and marijuana use (1). This study by far is the largest, most vigorous and strongest study in the related field. Raising up children is not just about loving, caring them, and providing them food, education, but also set up an example for them. Set up an example of how to be a responsible and accountable man and woman, set up an example of how to be a future wife and a husband! As a mother of two young daughters, I know there is no one else can take place of my daughters' daddy's role. Parents are children's first and important lifetime teachers, counselors and role models. Mother and father's roles in a marriage are not equally replaceable.

I am also a health care provider. The statistic data from CDC, Massachusetts and Hawaii's HIV/AIDS surveillance survey(2, 3, 4) persistently indicate male to male sex is a predominant high risk factor for HIV and AIDS. Less than 5% gay/bisexual male population accounts for 60-70% of the HIV cases versus heterosexual individual only accounts for 6-8% of the cases. It is alarming that new infections among the young gay and bisexual men aged 13-24 increased 22% from 2008 to 2010. It is my obligation to tell my son, my nephew, my grandson and my patients that male to male sex is not healthy, it is an extremely high risk behavior. How can I twist the fact and tell them same sex marriage is equally healthy as traditional marriage! It is not equal at all! But if our legislators put an legal stamp on SB 1, I will be forced to silent on this! My parents' right of educating my children/grandchildren regarding on healthy lifestyles will be taken away! My obligation as a health care provider to provide honest medical facts on risk factors of HIV will be shadowed and influenced. This invades my fundamental rights of parenting and being an honest health care provider!

In conclusion, traditional marriage provides better family environment for raising up children; traditional one man and one woman marriage is healthier than gay/bisexual relationship physically. There is no equality at all, therefore traditional marriage deserves our whole heart defense for its dignity. Please vote No on SB1, knowing that your courageous vote are backed up by large crowd of community people and professionals like me! Their opposing voices are showed on the more than 10,000 people Rally on 10/28 evening. This critically important issue cannot be rushed to pass! At least we request this to be put on the bullet and let the PEOPLE decide! Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Thank you for your hardwork for the people of Hawaii!

Reference:

1. Mark Regnerus, How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study, *Social Science Research*, 41(2012) 752-770

2. CDC fact sheet: New HIV infections in the United States: available at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/#supplemental>

3. Massachusetts HIV/AIDS data fact sheet: available at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/aids>

4. Hawaii State Department of Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance annual report: available at: <http://healthuser.hawaii.gov/health/healthylives/std-aids/aboutus/prg-aids>

Re: Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB1 relating to equality

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

As a concerned citizen and registered voter in Hawaii, I am submitting this testimony in opposition to this special session and in strong opposition of the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

In 1998, I was among the 70% of Hawaii's voters that voted for what we understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. Here we stand, 15 years later, and this is still an issue. If Governor Abercrombie and my legislative representatives have a plan to redefine marriage, I ask that you let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment - one that means what it says and does not have legal loopholes. It appears that you, as our elected official, are taking upon yourself to undo what the Hawaii voters have already decided.

As a mother of 2 young children, I'm opposed to this bill and the faulty democratic process because the passing of this bill into law will have far-reaching negative and detrimental affects on society and the culture that my children and many future generations grow up in.

Additionally, I oppose this bill because the religious protection clauses are inadequate for people of faith to exercise their First Amendment right of speech and religion.

In the spirit of true democracy, I ask you to please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years and the way we thought we defined it in 1998

OR

B. Take the issue to the citizens of the State of Hawaii and allow us to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment

Thank you for representing the voting and concerned public of Hawaii accurately in our strong opposition to this bill and special session.

Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Lynnette Lwin  
91-1325 Kuanoo St  
Ewa Beach 96706  
808-384-5966

Testifier: Esther Hung  
Bill Number and Title: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights  
Committee: House Joint Judiciary & Finance Committees  
Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013  
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Hearing Location: Auditorium

Greetings, Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees.

I am writing to voice my strong 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, and I'm ask you to respect these as our elected leaders. This bill does not preserve these rights.

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.

Esther Hung  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emeline	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I do not want this bill to get pass because i have witness how young generations especially children are affected because of this. My sister who lives in a state which allows gay marriage is really sad of what her children with young ages know about gay marriage all from their school and enviroment. I believe that heavenly father loves each and everyone of us but he doesnt love sin. Same sex marriage is sin and will allways be a sin. People who support this do not think of the younger generation and how it will affect them. Marriage is ordained of god that is why it was first from adam and eve, a man and a woman. Marriage of men to men and woman to woman is just for their feelings and its not true love.. That is why there is competition always in the way they dress up and the way they act because its not real love and it was not of god. Mahalo,

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cindy Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is Cindy Arakaki and I am opposed to this bill. Please give the people a chance to review this bill and have time to absorb and understand how this will affect each of us as a citizen of the State of Hawaii and more of America. I ask each of you to have the heart of crimson red, and not of waiving faith. What is the legacy that you are leaving behind, what will your grandchildren and their children hear from others about those that came before, will they be able to stand proud and say " I am proud to be the great grandson of a man/women that made a difference" or will they be the ones who moved out of state to Hide from their ancestors history, not wanting to carry the given name, will they be lost in the crowd of many with no voice to heard, with a heart for the people but no platform to stand on. I humbly ask for you to consider being the ONE the one that made a difference. Vote, no on this bill and let the people decide. Stand strong and know that you are loved and have the ability to be Faithful and honorable with respect and dignity. Aloha, Cindy Arakaki



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Myra Taketa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Many of us believe in a God. As such, we know that God loves ALL of his children, and we know and understand that we, in turn, must love and respect ALL of our brothers and sisters, regardless of color, religion, creed, sexual identity. Given this belief, many of us--whether or not we believe in a God-- also hold a deep and abiding belief in the sanctity, the sacredness, the solemnity of the institution of marriage. Many of us believe that God has ordained marriage as a sacred institution joining one man and one woman, and that, through this sacred union, families are created. Husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children, a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, to teach them to love and serve one another, to observe the commandments of God, and to be law-abiding citizens. Thus, many of us believe and understand that families are the foundation of a strong and righteous society. Given our heartfelt belief in the sanctity and the sacredness of marriage and family, we ask you who represent us to please, please respect and consider our beliefs – the deep beliefs of many citizens of this State. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT S.B. 1, THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL.

To: the House Judiciary Committee and the House Finance Committee  
Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:30 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and distinguished members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to not vote in this special session and to let this issue be discussed in the general legislature sessions and to let SB1 go through due process. With a room full of people, it was evident on Monday October 28 2013's special session addressing the senators that more time is needed for the legislature to fully examine all issues before passing SB1. There were unresolved questions regarding tax exemptions issues (which is the reason the Governor is requesting this session). Also the attorney general was not clear regarding federal tax benefits if 2 individuals of the same sex marry outside of Hawaii and return to Hawaii.

I continue to oppose the manner in which the Governor called this special session without consulting the legislative leaders. Please do not support the continuation of this SB1 special session and do not allow it to be voted on hastily. Marriage is a critical social institution and redefining it is not a matter of emergency, nor does it best serve the people of Hawaii.

Please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process in which are being disregarded in this special session. Take the time to hear the people who elected you, and to best serve and represent their voices and their rights. Not voting allows you to address this bill at a later time with careful consideration of consequences, social and economical costs, and to consider policies and administration adjustments that will not undermine democracy for the people at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Leona Lin)  
(Honolulu, HI, and 96821)

To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on  
Judiciary and Finance:

I strongly oppose SB1 and I also oppose this Special Session. My testimony today is based on three points against SB1.

The first opposing point is the purpose of the bill. The only purpose of this bill is to promote the personal agenda of one of the least favored governors in America. He forced this bill on the legislature and on the people of Hawaii. This is not about providing equality; it is a politically motivated agenda showing no Aloha or respect of the people of Hawaii.

The second opposing point is the process. This special session is a waste of time and money for the people of Hawaii. Save this subject for the next legislative session and give the people time to voice their concerns. Five days is not enough time to consider the redefining of marriage, as it has been known for thousands of years. In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted to give the legislature the responsibility to reserve marriage to one man and one woman. The only thing that's changed is the members of this legislature. We trusted that you would honor the process and protect the will of the people.

The third point is simple. I strongly oppose this bill, SB1.

Fix the civil union bill to give equal protection and equal rights to all people.

**Leave marriage between one man and one woman alone.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nancy Monahan  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**For the House Joint Hearing:** Hearing on 10/31

Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Finance Committee

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 here to voice my opposition to Bill SB 1.**

If same sex marriage is truly considered civil right issue, people should be given adequate time of notice and be involved in the decision making! Traditional one man and one woman marriage has been there for thousands of years. Marriage and Family have been the fundamental structures of the society no matter in old days or now days, no matter in developed or in developing countries, no matter in East or in West! They are the backbone of every prosper society! Redefine marriage in such a short special session without considering peoples' voices is not a democratic way to solve important social issues.

Hawaii is the melting place where East meet West! It is an important window for the East to look into the West civilization and democracy process. Rush same sex marriage bill in such as a short special session is a poor example of democracy. A SIX day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. The SIX day special session does not allow the House of Representatives to make amendments to the legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of. A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a SIX-day special session-

Therefore, I plead to you to Let the People vote on such a critically important issue. Thank you for your hardwork for the people of Hawaii

Zheng Lan

PhD, Microbiology

Environmental Scientist

Honolulu, HI 96818

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
anthony garingan	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chairman Rhoads and members of the committee. I oppose SB1.

House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary  
Committee on Finance

Re: Hearing on Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

SB1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Testimony to be given in person.

Dear Committee Members:

For several years I faced the immense challenges of caregiving for my wife, Theresa, who had cancer in a society and healthcare system in which we were not legally recognized as married. Because I was not eligible under the law for Family Medical Leave, I was unable to spend many important days caring for my wife when she was ill and alone, as I knew I would need to save my vacation leave for only the most critical days. At a former job, I was forced to resign because my employer did not understand or recognize our relationship, and expressed that I should not be taking time off work to take Theresa to chemotherapy or remain at her hospital bedside after surgery when she needed someone to advocate for her and talk with her doctors. She was not eligible to be covered under my medical plan and was without health insurance for over two years. During that time we were unable to file taxes jointly but in an effort to pay some of the medical bills and support us both financially while she was ill, I ended up filing for bankruptcy. Without the legal acknowledgement that we were married, healthcare providers treated us with misunderstanding, disrespect, and at times disdain, even on her deathbed. Those times of facing blatant discrimination and hatred were so emotionally painful that I prefer to just forget them.

Theresa was the love of my life. Being married to her, caring for her in sickness and in health was the most meaningful thing I have ever done. She passed away in 2010. In planning for her memorial, I had to fight for her mother's permission to keep some of her ashes because we were not legally married.

It is so important that other same sex couples be allowed to marry and take care of one another without experiencing the additional social, financial, and systemic barriers that Theresa and I faced. Please vote in favor of SB1.

Mahalo,

Kimberly Allen  
2922 Dole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
808-398-8199

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1, A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Mark B. Au

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND FINANCE

Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Capitol Auditorium

Chairs Rhoads and Luke, Vice-Chairs Har, Nishimoto, Johanson and Members of the Committees:

I am Mark Au, and was born and raised in Hawaii and live in Kailua and am opposed to SB 1 for the following reasons:

- 1) **It is illegal:** In 1998, the “marriage amendment” in the State Constitution, Article 1, Section 23 was ratified by over 70% of the voters giving the legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite couples. This did not empower the legislature to offer marriage to same- sex couples as in this proposed legislation. If so, this would require a further amendment to the marriage amendment, i.e. by letting the people decide through another referendum.
- 2) **It violates the rights of parents to educate their children:** In Massachusetts and Canada where these same sex marriage laws have passed, the courts have thrown out lawsuits of parents who were opposed to having their children forced to be taught that the teaching of homosexuality relationships are identical to heterosexual ones and part of human sexuality. The courts have even prohibited parents from “opting out” of these teachings of the “normalization” of homosexuality with a “take it or leave it’ attitude. If passed, this will happen in our schools and to our children.
- 3) **It violates the freedom of conscience and religious beliefs:** If this law is passed, persons of faith and conscience who oppose same-sex unions will be threatened if they speak out against this law because same-sex unions, and therefore, homosexual behavior and relationships are to be accepted and “normalized” and viewed as the same as traditional marriage under the law. Same sex marriage advocates will apply and/or pass “hates crimes” legislation to muzzle and prevent priests, pastors, and religious leaders from speaking out against the homosexual lifestyle. In Massachusetts, justices of the peace who refused to preside over same-sex marriages due to moral or religious objections were fired. In Canada, those speaking freely against this behavior and relationships have been challenged as “hate crimes”. If this law is passed, Hawaii would soon follow with this type of actions against persons of faith and conscience. Any proposed religious exemptions in this bill could be challenged in the courts.
- 4) **It negatively impacts businesses:** Businesses who refuse to provide service to a same-sex couple based on religious beliefs and conscience will be sued and taken to court. In Albuquerque, New Mexico a wedding photographer was held liable under the state’s anti-discrimination laws for refusing to photograph a same-sex couple commitment ceremony. Even same-sex marriage supporters opposed this New Mexico ruling. If this law is passed, businesses will be threatened by lawsuits by same sex marriage advocates.

- 5) **Why will this law, if passed, be so punitive, as described in earlier cases, especially toward those who oppose it because of religious and moral reasons?** I believe that marriage is not the true intent of same sex marriage advocates. Since the passing of these laws, not a large number of same-sex couples want to marry. Hawaii's Legislature passed laws providing marriage benefits, rights and obligations - reciprocal beneficiaries act, domestic partnerships and most recently, civil unions - with advocates promising the public that these laws will satisfy their request for marriage equality and will not lead to same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage advocates' strategy here and across the country in the past, now, and in the future is not truly marriage, rather it is about legalizing the approval of homosexuality and imposing it throughout the various social institutions, which includes marriage, and political institutions of in our community without tolerance to other differing views based on conscience and/or faith.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote no on to SB. 1 because an unjust law isn't a law at all.

Thank you.



Thank you for representing us, the people of Hawaii. I urge you to continue that by letting US decide on this issue of same sex marriage. First of all, this special session is unconstitutional, for it does not allow sufficient time to make a wise decision on a matter as huge as this one.

Just like all of you, I believe in equal rights. However, this is not an argument about rights. Marriage is not a right; it's an institution – an institution between a man and a woman. This has been so since the beginning of time! Think about it: Why were gay relationships almost unheard of over the past millennia? Because it was unnatural and immoral. And it still is today. In the words of author George Barna, “Unchanging moral truths create non-debatable standards of right and wrong.”

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ellie	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha, I strongly oppose SB1! Born and raised in Hawaii. Graduated from Waipahu High School and University of Hawaii Manoa; Hawaii is my home. I have no plans of living anywhere else. I'm very disturbed with this bill. There are very limited protections for and rights on this bill. "As a minister, will my First Amendment rights be violated if preach against the homosexual lifestyle?" "If a same sex marriage couple wants to use our church for their wedding, is there anything I can do to prevent them from using the place?" What about section 572c, parentage presumption; how can a non native Hawaiian child receive rights and privileges of a native Hawaiian just because they become part of a same sex marriage family? In education, will the teachers be forced to educate students about the GLBT lifestyle and beliefs? When sex education is taught from the GLBT perspective, will my kids be forced to listen and will I as a parent have the right to pull them out of the class without being prosecuted? What about the special rights that same sex couples will have if they file for divorce? According to the bill they will be waived the 6 month resident time frame. Why are they exempt from this rule? If this bill passes, we run the risk of having the nickname of our state, the Aloha state being changed to the Gay capitol of the world. Is that what you want? Millions of people from all of the world will come to Hawaii for Same sex marriage; what kind of message will we send to the families of traditional marriages? Hawaii has long-lasting values and traditions that are worth keeping. We can keep these core values while being relevant for today and future generations. Let's stop following other states and start leading our own. Make the right decision for you and the people of Hawaii by voting NO to SB1. The proponents of this bill are a small percentage and, they're not even from Hawaii. Mahalo, Ellie

**Donald Young  
909 Kahauloa Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
808-395-6694**

**Representative Karl Rhoades, Chair House Judiciary Committee  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair House Finance Committee**

**Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

**Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades and Luke:**

**My name is Don Young --- I strongly oppose SB 1 ---- and I vote!**

**As you know, Hawaii's Civil Union law was enacted in 2011, effective as of January 1, 2012. The stated rationale was to provide equal State benefits for same-sex partners as were available to heterosexual couples, and marriage was not on their agenda. Sounds, fair enough – but that wasn't the end of it. It was a smoke screen.**

**As of May 2013, only 916 people in Hawaii have taken advantage of civil unions – that's a total of 1832 people - less than 2/10ths of 1% of our total population. Not a very big number – so it became obvious that something else was afoot. And, sure enough, it was!**

**Now, less than 2 years later, we're being asked to change the more-than-2000-year old definition of traditional marriage. The reason? - to qualify same-sex couples for Federal benefits, which are denied those in a civil union. A boss of mine had a name for this: "creeping incrementalism". The term describes a strategy to attain a long-range goal by making a series of short-term steps, each of which appear relatively harmless by and of themselves. But, before your opponent realizes it, it becomes a fait accompli. This is exactly what's happening here!**

**To top it off, this urgent "need" to approve same-sex marriage is not even**

needed. Currently, it's an easy thing to take a quick round-trip to California or Washington state, tie the knot, and then be eligible for their Federal benefits.

Problem solved – right?

Not really, because that's not the real long-term agenda of this whole creeping incrementalism step. The ultimate goal is to change our culture, traditions, & even religious beliefs. Hawaii is not the first place where this strategy has been employed; other places have been led down this path – just look at Mass. & Canada. The issue of marriage is only the surface issue – just look at the rest of the bill. It opens up the opportunity to infringe upon our religious practices. (The mission of churches will be severely limited once they're deemed to be public accommodations, because it will force them to choose between their firmly-held beliefs and their public outreach programs.) It will precipitate massive changes to our educational system (from SSM recognition, to promotion, & even to indoctrination). It will also lead to curtailing our Constitutional freedom of speech. Their strategy has even led to imprisonment of pastors for reading Bible passages that were be viewed as “hate speech).

This is what is in store for Hawaii if you pass this bill. You say it will never happen in Hawaii – but that's just what they said in Mass. & Canada, & Sweden.

There's really no urgent need to pass this bill, never mind bypassing the voters and rushing it through a special session. Please let the people decide the fate of traditional marriage.

-- Thank you.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:12 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** isi.nau@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Isi Nau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: 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. Isi Nau Mililani, Hi. 96789

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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**KATSUHIRO KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM

**Location:** Auditorium, State Capitol

**Bill:** Senate Bill 1

**I WILL BE PRESENT TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MY TESTIMONY.**

***Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013***

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Katsuhiko Kajiyama, and I am a 50-year resident from Laie, Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. I have spent a great deal of time researching the issue, as well as speaking with religious liberty scholars and attorneys. Further as an educator at BYU-Hawaii, father, grandfather, and concerned citizen I find that this bill severely endangers religious freedom and the democratic process for the following reasons. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions.

**1. The Legislature Does Not Have to Pass This Law At This Time**

First, the legislature does not have to pass this piece of legislation through a special session. We are two months from the start of the regular legislative session starting. The Hawaii State Legislature could hold off voting on this issue until this time. This would allow committee hearings to be held on the neighbor islands. This would allow ample time for discussion and public input. A regular session is also 120 days long versus a special session which is scheduled to be finished within the week. In addition, this law

**KATSUHIRO KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

will go into effect barely two weeks later on November 18. There is not enough time for the State of Hawaii to change all of its policies, procedures, and practices to abide by these new laws. There is not enough time to discuss the effects of these changes on society, education, housing, adoptions, universities, etc. Finally, this the first unilateral special session in 20 years, and none of the other 35 states that do not have same-sex marriage laws are not planning special sessions.

**2. There is Not Enough Demand for Same-sex Marriage to Require Fundamental Changes in Society**

Secondly, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Since the Civil Union law went into effect on January 1, 2013, only 916 couples or 1,832 individuals entered into civil unions in Hawaii. With a population of 1.392 million people (2012), persons in civil unions account for less than 1/5 of 1% of our state population. Yet this law would affect everyone in Hawaii, and specifically negatively impinge on religious groups and individuals. The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

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.

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.

**3. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Religious Institutions**

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.

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

**KATSUHIRO KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

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.

Finally, there is no religious exemption in Hawaii's public accommodations law. Many religious groups and entities will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission that serves to prevent discrimination on sexual orientation. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission could view churches as public accommodations as most facilities will be considered as public accommodations, thus disqualifying them from any protections offered by this bill against lawsuits and litigation. A religious entity may be forced to choose between following their faith, or facing lawsuits, fines, or penalties. Since there is no protection for religious groups from the public accommodations laws it makes the immunity provisions ineffective and illusory.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and urge you to vote NO on this measure. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Katsuhiro Kajiyama  
BYUH #1970  
55-220 Kulanui St.  
Laie, HI 96762



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Timothy Nishida	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to reject this bill it was not thought out completely! 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. (Timothy Nishida) (Ewa Beach Hawaii 96706)

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Theresa A Sorensen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: 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. Did you do due diligence on the effects of other states that have approved Same Sex Marriage? or are you just rushing through this blindly? 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! Please ask God for guidance. All wisdom comes from God. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Theresa A. Sorensen Honolulu, Hawaii

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:14 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** sheydan.dano@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Sheydan Dano	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am strongly opposed to the Bill SB1. Please do NOT pass this Bill into law!!! It is such a complex and heated topic and is dividing this beautiful state!!! The vast majority of the citizens here are NOT in favor of same sexed marriages passing like this. Why are we in a special session and in a predicament like this? Because a few people in power have made up their minds that this is what THEY want, and will stop at NOTHING! How can we, the people, believe that you are acting in our best interests and REPRESENTING us, the people that voted you into office...we need you to stop this from happening. Please stand for DEMOCRACY and remember the oath you took when you entered into this office. We appreciate your handwork...we respect you..PLEASE SHOW RESPECT TO US! Show us that you care about what we think. Show us that you deserve our respect and our votes. Vote NO on SB1!!!! Mahalo, Sheydan Dano Kaneohe, HI 96744

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Susan Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: 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! My name is Susan Asentista Solomon and I am a Roaman Catholic..I come from a family of nine and I have been married for 33 years. We have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. To pass this bill would be a violation to God...Bottom line...we will become a Godless society...all innocence and sacredness gone for what....for selfish pleasure...to distort our young minds...to confuse and finally....and own genocide by our own hands. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. (Susan Solomon (Waianae, Hawaii

**JENNIFER MIE KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM

**Location:** Auditorium, State Capitol

**Bill:** Senate Bill 1

**I WILL BE PRESENT TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MY TESTIMONY.**

***Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013***

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Jennifer Mie Kajiyama, and I am a 33-year resident from Laie, Hawaii. I am **strongly opposed** to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. I have spent a great deal of time researching the issue, as well as speaking with religious liberty scholars and attorneys. Further as an attorney, educator at BYU-Hawaii, mother, and concerned citizen I find that this Bill severely restricts religious freedom and the democratic process. I am strongly opposed to the Marriage Equality Bill for four main reasons. First, the religious exemption does not properly protect religious organizations. Second, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Third, the Senate Bill does not protect individuals from being forced to support same-sex marriage, nor does it protect parents. Finally, there are no affirmative protections for religious organizations.

**1. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Religious Institutions**

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.

**JENNIFER MIE KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

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.

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.

Finally, there is no religious exemption in Hawaii's public accommodations law. Many religious groups and entities will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission that serves to prevent discrimination on sexual orientation. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission could view churches as public accommodations as most facilities will be considered as public accommodations, thus disqualifying them from any protections offered by this Bill against lawsuits and litigation. A religious entity may be forced to choose between following their faith, or facing lawsuits, fines, or penalties. Since there is no protection for religious groups from the public accommodations laws it makes the immunity provisions ineffective and illusory.

**2. There is Not Enough Demand for Same-sex Marriage to Require Fundamental Changes in Society**

Secondly, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Since the Civil Union law went into effect on January 1, 2013, only 916 couples or 1,832 individuals entered into civil unions in Hawaii. With a population of 1.392 million people (2012), persons in civil unions account for less than 1/5 of 1% of our state population. Yet this law would affect everyone in Hawaii, and specifically negatively impinge on religious groups and individuals. The Senate Bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

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.

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.

**JENNIFER MIE KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

**3. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage, Nor Does it Protect Parents.**

The Senate Bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

First, 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.

Secondly, 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.

Thirdly, 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.

**4. Religious Exemption Provides No Affirmative Protections for Religious Organizations**

The proposed marriage bill provides one of the most restrictive religious freedoms exemption, and provides no affirmative protections. 13 states and Washington D.C. have adopted similar laws that have provided broad protections for religious organizations and their subordinate organizations. For instance, the District of Columbia's religious exemption clause, found in Section E, states that a "religious organization is not required to provide services, accommodations, facilities, solemnization," etc., and is "protected from any civil claims in this area."

Delaware's exemption states in Section 8, that nothing in the Act should be construed to "violate any person's rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution" or "interfere with or regulate the religious practice of any religious society. Any religious society is free to choose which marriages it will solemnize." The exemptions found in other states such as Minnesota specifically broaden the religious agents covered by the exemption. Not only does this apply to the religious organizations

**JENNIFER MIE KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

leaders but to “employees, agents, volunteers acting within the capacity of their employment or responsibilities with a religious association, religious corporation, or religious society.”

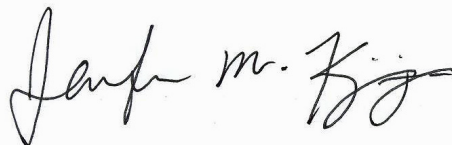
Further, Washington, D.C., also reaffirms the right of religious organizations to have freedom of conscience and freedom of believe. “Each religious society has exclusive control over its own theological doctrine, teachings, and beliefs regarding who may marry within that particular religious society’s faith.”

The proposed bill in Hawaii must affirmatively state the protections for a religious organization. The proposed bill should reaffirm the fundamental right of freedom of religion and state that it will not interfere with the religious society’s choice on which marriages to solemnize. The proposed exemption should also state that the exemption applies to all individuals who are employed or volunteer with a religious organization. Finally, the exemption should specifically provided that each religious organization has exclusive control over their own theological doctrine without worry of penalty or fine.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and urge you to vote **NO** on this measure for the following reasons. First, the religious exemption does not properly protect religious organizations. Second, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Third, the Senate Bill does not protect individuals from being forced to support same-sex marriage, nor does it protect parents. Finally, there are no affirmative protections for religious organizations.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our State.

Thank you,



Jennifer Kajiya, **JD, MPA**  
Instructor of Political Science, BYU-Hawaii  
Prelaw Advisor, BYU-Hawaii  
Hawaii-Pacific Chapter President, BYU Political Affairs Society  
BYUH #1970  
55-220 Kulanui St.  
Laie, HI 96762



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Stephen Nishihara	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am 20 years old and was born and raised in Waipio, Oahu.

To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on  
Judiciary and Finance:

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.

Noel Baker  
Honolulu, HI

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: 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. Terri Yoshinaga Honolulu, HI

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Ben Tamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose this bill because it does not do enough to protect our rights of conscience and religious expression. It also shortcuts the democratic process with the abbreviated session.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Lisa LeBrun	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Rhoads and others, I am a registered voter living in Waikiki. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1. For almost 20 years, I lived in Germany in the very area that was the epicenter of where Nazism was founded and thrived. History shows us the horrors that occurred there because of a very small minority that was given too much power, and because the majority either REMAINED silent, or WERE silenced. Generations in my family served in the military. They fought different enemies, but all with a similar goal: To DEMOLISH democracy, to COERCE others to accept their beliefs, and to REMOVE freedom and truth from society. Just as the sands on our Waikiki beaches are eroding, I see evidence of our freedoms and truth quickly being eroded every day - yes, even here in Hawaii. 1. I am here because: This bill does not adequately protect my First Amendment rights. It does not protect the First Amendment rights of ANY who are opposed to same-sex marriage. That includes atheists as well as people of ALL faiths. ----- 2. I am here to protect our keiki: This bill will open the floodgates to further SEXUALIZING and STEALING their innocence in order to meet the WANTS, not the NEEDS of a very small minority. This is extremely selfish. ----- 3. I am here because I believe: This decision should be put to ALL the people. You have been put into office to serve and represent ALL of us. Please respect US and the democratic process and do not rush this through. I BEG OF YOU: - Hear the voices of the vast majority of the people of Hawaii that do not want same-sex marriage in these islands. - Hear the voices of Hawaii's past. - Hear the voices of the future - especially the voices of those that are the most innocent, our children. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today. Lisa LeBrun Honolulu, Hawaii, 96830

Dear House Committee,

My name is Summer Taosoga and I live at 55-603 Moana Street in Laie, which makes me one of the constituents whom you represent. I understand that a bill has been given to you for review by our Governor that will re-define marriage in Hawaii. I also understand that in the special session called by our Governor you will be asked to vote in the affirmative or the negative on the proposed legislation to legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

The purpose of this e-mail is to ask you to please vote in the Negative on any piece of legislation that would change the definition of marriage from the currently stated "a man and a woman". The people should have the right to make this decision by placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot next year that they may vote and make the voice of the general public known regarding this decree that will affect the entire state.

As you review and contemplate the decision to vote on the legislature proposed, I want you to know that I do not support same-sex "marriage". More so I do not support the fact that our legislature is making this decision for us. This is my voice.

Sincerely,

Summer Taosoga

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ron Arnold	Kaimuki Christian Church	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is Ron Arnold and I'm the Senior Pastor of Kaimuki Christian Church. I'm here to appeal to you to vote "No" on SB1, or to vote to let the people decide. Our church, like so many churches here in Hawaii, teach our people to love all people, be they gay or straight. The Bible and Jesus specifically teach us to love all people. The Bible and Jesus also specifically teach us that marriage is God's plan for one man and one woman, a sacred covenant. Committed to loving all people, we're also committed to upholding the truth of Scripture. Voting to allow same-sex marriage will deeply violate the conscience of so many citizens of this state, forcing their children to be subjected to teaching they deem immoral and inappropriate, funded by their own tax dollars! This is unconscionable. A psychology professor from UH testified before the Senate on Monday that classroom instruction on this subject, which Governor Abercrombie said would become reality, would not be "how to's" but rather cover health issues. That is simply not true, as has been evidenced in states like Massachusetts. Activist groups have used the open door of the public schools to instruct on how to perform oral sex, disguising it in the guise of health considerations. She also said being gay was not a choice. That too was misinformation. No credible study has ever proven this, and I can point you to many people who have left the gay lifestyle. To equate this with race is also misleading. Race is determined at birth; homosexual practice is a choice. Have you ever seen an add and thought "Wow, that's great!" then you got the product and realized it didn't work?! You'd been lied to, the product had been misrepresented and you were stuck with it! (No refund, No return That's what's happening here. Those in support of same sex marriage are intentionally distorting the truth and hiding the facts. They talk about marriage equality and have people testify about their love for one another, the long-term committed relationship a gay or lesbian couple has been in. That may be the case with them, but they do not represent the vast majority of those in the gay lifestyle. We KNOW that most gays do not marry once this passes, because most gays in the homosexual lifestyle have a continual stream of multiple partners. They want us to focus on the very small percentage who represent this issue as being all about long-term committed relationships. This is smoke and mirrors. We won't get what they're attempting to sell us. Instead, we'll get our children indoctrinated that homosexuality is a normal and acceptable lifestyle. Evidence from Massachusetts show that we'll get lawsuits and threats and bullying if we object to that teaching. This is smoke and mirrors. Don't buy this product! I appeal to you, for the sake of our children, for the sake of our grandchildren, for the sake of our beloved Hawaii, please vote "NO" or let the people decide. Thank you for your consideration.

**To:** Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

**From:** Alan Spector  
970 N. Kalaheo Ave, C208  
Kailua, HI 96734  
aspectoricsw@gmail.com

**RE:** In-Person Testimony on SB 1  
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium  
Position: Strong Support

Members of the House JUD/FIN Committees: Thank you for allowing me to testify today in strong support of SB1, Hawaii's Marriage Equality Bill. I am Alan Spector and I live in Kaneohe with my husband, Jon-Paul Bingham. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a private psychotherapy practice in Kailua. My husband is a Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Hawaii. While I have testified many times before the legislature, this is the first time sharing my personal story. Imagine getting married to the person you love. This is the happiest day in your life. At the conclusion of the ceremony, your parents hug your spouse and say, "Welcome to the Family." Now imagine, shortly after your marriage, your spouse is at risk for being deported from the USA and you have absolutely no legal recourse since the Federal Gov't doesn't recognize your marriage, doesn't recognize your status as family, and considers you absolutely nothing to each other. How would you feel? Well that was me after I fell in love with and married an Australian, Jon-Paul Bingham, who was in the USA doing a post-doctoral fellowship at UCSF. He was in our country legally on a special work visa sponsored by the university. Unfortunately, due to an unanticipated loss of funding, his position was eliminated. No employer sponsor = no visa = return to Australia. This was the predicament we found ourselves in just after our wedding. It was a catastrophic tragedy. Of course, if we were an opposite sex couple, our marriage would have been recognized and I would have been able to sponsor my foreign-born spouse for US Permanent Residency, aka "Green Card." But since we were considered legal strangers and our marital status was not recognized, we were at serious risk for being separated. I did what any loving husband would do. Separation from Jon-Paul was not an option and I would stay with him at all costs. We got lucky. Unlike most couples in our situation back in those Pre-DOMA repeal days, we weren't separated. My husband was able to obtain a new post-doctoral fellowship at another university, however, it required a cross country move. So off I went, sight unseen, to New Haven, CT. This enabled us to stay together, however, it was a great sacrifice. Not only were we dealing with the adjustment issues of any newlywed couple, we were doing so in a new environment, with no support system, and with me being unemployed. To make matters worse, I had to cope with a range of feelings of loss and anger associated with this forced move and invalidation by my country. Our love enabled us to make the best of a bad situation and we built a new life for ourselves in



Connecticut. Unfortunately, just three years later, it happened again when his laboratory decided to relocate to another university, 400 miles away in another state. It was either move with the job or Jon-Paul would lose his H1-B visa. So move again we did, only this time the adjustment was much harder as I became unemployed and couldn't find work in my field for 1.5 years. Eventually, due to his scientific research, my husband was able to apply for Permanent Residency as a self-petition based on the criteria of "Outstanding Researcher" and obtained a green card in 2005. We subsequently moved to Hawaii in 2007 when he was recruited by UH. Fast forward to 2013 and the United States Supreme Court has repealed DOMA. Same-sex married couples are now treated the same as opposite-sex married couples under federal law. Our marriages are recognized and we are considered family under immigration law. But these rights don't extend to couples in civil unions. Please pass SB1 so no binational same-sex couple in Hawaii will have to be faced with a similar ordeal as Jon-Paul and me. Mahalo for your time.

**To:** Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

**From:** Steven Levinson  
3430-F Keahi Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
stevenhlevinson@gmail.com

**RE:** In-Person Testimony on SB 1  
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium  
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. In its 1993 decision in *Baehr v. Lewin*, the Hawaii Supreme Court held that the state's marriage law presumptively denied otherwise eligible same-sex couples the equal protection of the laws under the state constitution by withholding access on the part of such couples to the legal status of marriage. I authored the lead pinion. The *Baehr* appeal convinced me that what is now called Marriage Equality was not only compelled by the Hawaii Constitution, but was also the only fair course to pursue. I saw no rational basis for blackballing otherwise eligible loving and committed couples, simply on the basis of their sexual orientation, from following their hearts and receiving the legal and social recognition, approval, and respect that only the institution of marriage can confer. In 1998, the Hawaii electorate ratified an amendment to the state constitution, proposed by this legislature, reserving to the legislature the power to determine marriage eligibility. It was the legislature's prerogative to do so. SB1, if approved, would exercise the legislature's constitutional authority and prerogative to extend marriage eligibility to couples who could marry right now were it not for the fortuity of their gender. The time has come for the legislature to take that important step. Marriage Equality is no longer a new idea. The list of Marriage Equality jurisdictions in the United States of America is growing inexorably and with accelerating speed. Marriage Equality is now recognized in California (2008, 2013), Connecticut (2008), Delaware (2013), the District of Columbia (2010), Iowa (2009), Maine (2012), Maryland (2013), Massachusetts (2004), Minnesota (2013), New Hampshire (2010), New Jersey (2013), New Mexico (six counties, 2013), New York (2011), Rhode Island (2013), Vermont (2009), and Washington (2012). The Marriage Equality wave is washing onto shores on four continents and Oceania all around the world, having been formally adopted in the Netherlands (2001), Belgium (2003), Spain (2005), Canada (2005), South Africa (2006), Norway (2009), Sweden (2009), Portugal (2010), Iceland (2010), Argentina (2010), Denmark (2012), Brazil (2013), France (2013), Uruguay (2013), New Zealand (2013), and England and Wales (effective 2014). I respectfully urge the legislature to pass SB1. As presently drafted, SB1 would allow Hawaii to join the growing list of jurisdictions that have discharged a long-overdue debt to the LGBT community, while at the same time honoring and protecting First

**Amendment freedom of religious expression and belief. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Steven H. Levinson Associate Justice (Retired) Hawaii Supreme Court**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kenneth Fukumoto	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: We live in an era where commitment is cheap. The spirit of our age, maintains that commitment's should be honored only while convenient. You made a commitment to us, the people of Hawaii to represent us. Not, special interest groups from out of state. Why aren't you listening to the people? All the testimonies that were giving in the senate----so many against SB1 and yet---No difference in the voting. Are you listening to us, we are crying out to be heard! I look at my grand-daughter and it breaks my heart to know that if this bill passes, what she'll have to go through in her life. Not only her but all the children in Hawaii. Why aren't you letting the people vote? If you believe that the people of Hawaii wants this bill to pass---then let us vote! Thank you Ken Fukumoto 1 Corinthians 4:2 " Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 6:20 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** jasonatalie@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Natalie Earl	member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Karl Rhoads, Chair Sylvia Luke, Chair House Judiciary Committee House Finance Committee Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY Hearing Date: October 31, 2013 Hearing Time: 10 am Testifying In Person as a resident from Laie, HI Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees: I am grateful that our government has established this system to allow even a common person as myself to speak today. My name is Natalie Earl, a former resident of Waialua (as my driver's license indicates) but recently moved to Laie this past month to shorten the commute. Besides voting at elections, this is my first time becoming involved in a political issue, so please forgive me as I am in the learning process. If this SB 1 is passed it will violate my constitutional freedom as outlined in the First Amendments..... "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." The established religion I am a part of is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or as some people know us, Mormons. As you are aware, our church has a private university, Brigham Young University-Hawaii in Laie on Oahu. The school was established in 1955 and has contributed so much good to many communities--not just Laie. The University employs 183 academic personnel plus obviously more staffing personnel plus provides low cost, higher education to thousands of students each semester. This University was established and is still run under the direction of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The same church that made a world wide proclamation 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." As a

private church university, we uphold to these words and values and only preform marriages between a man and a woman in our temples and chapels today. Likewise, the university provides married student housing to couples (who are husband and wife, a man and a woman) to students attending the university. The church rents at low costs to help as many as possible to receive a higher education, especially as they start their family. If this SB 1 is passed, won't my constitutional freedoms, along with so many others of our established religion be prohibited to exercise freely what we believe are God's commandments? We will be discriminated against and lawsuits will follow because we feel marriage is between a man and a woman and will not perform same-sex marriages in our temples nor recognize the marriages of same-sex couples who apply for married student housing? When our established religion believes one thing, but the government now dictates that we have to accept same-sex marriages (through SB 1), even though that is against our Prophet's words, isn't that against the constitutional freedoms we have already been given and protected against? Could this bill even be written so that we would be exempt from discrimination after it is passed? We just feel like we are following God's commandments. The church does so much good around the world. We try to take care of our own and even others not of our faith. We try to help others find happiness in their life--spiritual and temporal. We are not about destroying. Please let us live in manner that we can be protected by the law, as we have enjoyed up to this day. I heard from one member on the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee 'What if the State of Hawaii recognized the marriages performed in other states?' Wouldn't this still effect BYU-Hawaii's University married student housing dilemma? Wouldn't that still not allow us to live and practice our religion freely without discrimination? I don't know what the answer should be, but it seems like this bill would really hurt us--those who are of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Please protect us. Please hear my plea, to change SB 1 or not pass it at all, as then we could continue to live as we do now. Thank you for considering again my plea. Please, I'll do anything to keep on practicing and living the way I do, we all do. My best regards, Natalie Earl Sent with love

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
robert tokunaga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose this measure. I am a descendant of the the first settles from the Mayflower. Our ancestors left Englang, in 1610 and went to Holland for ten years. Then came to America in 1620. It was another 156 years before we were birth as the great nation of USA. We are now 237 years old as the greatest nation on earth. There were many lives and blood lost for the freedoms we enjoy today. As Americans working together can be long, difficult and emotional. We need to work this out were all are benifitted.

**To:** Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

**From:** Clyde Wadsworth  
2233 Nuna Street  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
cwadsworth@ahfi.com

**RE:** In-Person Testimony on SB 1  
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium  
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Clyde Wadsworth. I am an attorney with the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, and co-counsel with John D'Amato representing the plaintiff couples in the marriage equality case—Jackson v. Abercrombie—that is currently before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have 30 years of civil litigation experience, and I have worked as a cooperating attorney with Lambda Legal and the ACLU in cases involving marriage equality and religious exemptions to anti-discrimination laws. I am testifying today in my personal capacity. I testify in strong support of SB1. My partner and I recently celebrated our twentieth anniversary together. We look forward to the day when the State of Hawai'i will treat our commitment and our ohana with equal dignity and respect. As an attorney, I believe the freedom to marry the person you love is a fundamental constitutional right. And as a citizen of Hawai'i, I believe the freedom to marry is also the promise of aloha—an invitation to share both the benefits and responsibilities of living in this paradise. The marriage equality bill is a natural outgrowth of that aloha. It remedies a basic inequality in our system that denies gay and lesbian families—and make no mistake about it, we are ohana in every way that matters—the same rights and responsibilities that protect other married couples. Importantly, federal benefits that are tied to the married couple's state of domicile are not available to same-sex couples who travel to other states to marry. The bottom line is that enacting SB1 is the only way to assure marriage equality for same-sex couples. The religious exemption in SB1 protects religious freedom. The broader exemption sought by the bill's opponents would undermine the purpose of the bill. It would also open the door to exactly the kind of discrimination that Hawai'i's public accommodations law was designed to prevent. Would we allow religiously-affiliated organizations that are providing commercial services to discriminate against interracial couples on religious grounds? I doubt it. It doesn't make policy sense – and I believe it is constitutionally unsound – to start cutting piecemeal holes in Hawai'i's public accommodations law targeted at same-sex couples. A broader religious exemption is also unnecessary as a matter of First Amendment law. The U.S. Supreme Court made clear in the case of Employment Division v. Smith that religious beliefs do not excuse compliance with valid, generally applied laws regulating matters that the state is free to regulate, even if the



law has the side effect of burdening a particular religious belief or practice. To permit religious exemptions to such laws, the Court said, would make professed religious belief superior to the law of the land, and permit every citizen to become a law unto himself. In addition, the marriage equality bill does not interfere with internal church governance under the so-called church property cases. It does not involve employment decisions by religious organizations affecting employees who have the religious duties of ministers, which is what the recent case of *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC* involved. *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, which has been cited by advocates of a broader exemption, also does not apply here. SB1 does not force any church or other religious organization to take on a married same-sex spouse as their members. When a religiously-affiliated organization enters the public, secular world to make a buck, it is like any other business subject to anti-discrimination laws. Inserting a broad exemption into the marriage equality bill that allows religiously affiliated businesses to discriminate against same-sex couples is simply not a constitutional requirement. There is no reason to dilute HB1 to allow discrimination against same-sex couples. That's not what the constitution requires and it's not what Hawai'i is about. Thank you for your consideration.

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
kimberly saifoloi	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose same sex marriage and am a registered voter!

**HILDA KAJIYAMA**  
BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM

**Location:** Auditorium, State Capitol

**Bill:** Senate Bill 1

**I WILL BE PRESENT TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MY TESTIMONY.**

***Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013***

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Hilda Kajiyama, and I am a 68-year resident from Laie, Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. I have spent a great deal of time researching the issue, as well as speaking with religious liberty scholars and attorneys. Further as an accountant at BYU-Hawaii, mother, grandmother, and concerned citizen I find that this bill severely endangers religious freedom and the democratic process for the following reasons. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions.

**1. The Legislature Does Not Have to Pass This Law At This Time**

First, the legislature does not have to pass this piece of legislation through a special session. We are two months from the start of the regular legislative session starting. The Hawaii State Legislature could hold off voting on this issue until this time. This would allow committee hearings to be held on the neighbor islands. This would allow ample time for discussion and public input. A regular

## **HILDA KAJIYAMA**

BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

session is also 120 days long versus a special session which is scheduled to be finished within the week. In addition, this law will go into effect barely two weeks later on November 18. There is not enough time for the State of Hawaii to change all of its policies, procedures, and practices to abide by these new laws. There is not enough time to discuss the effects of these changes on society, education, housing, adoptions, universities, etc. Finally, this the first unilateral special session in 20 years, and none of the other 35 states that do not have same-sex marriage laws are not planning special sessions.

### **2. There is Not Enough Demand for Same-sex Marriage to Require Fundamental Changes in Society**

Secondly, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Since the Civil Union law went into effect on January 1, 2013, only 916 couples or 1,832 individuals entered into civil unions in Hawaii. With a population of 1.392 million people (2012), persons in civil unions account for less than 1/5 of 1% of our state population. Yet this law would affect everyone in Hawaii, and specifically negatively impinge on religious groups and individuals. The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

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.

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.

### **3. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Religious Institutions**

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.

**HILDA KAJIYAMA**

BYUH #1970, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762

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.

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.

Finally, there is no religious exemption in Hawaii's public accommodations law. Many religious groups and entities will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission that serves to prevent discrimination on sexual orientation. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission could view churches as public accommodations as most facilities will be considered as public accommodations, thus disqualifying them from any protections offered by this bill against lawsuits and litigation. A religious entity may be forced to choose between following their faith, or facing lawsuits, fines, or penalties. Since there is no protection for religious groups from the public accommodations laws it makes the immunity provisions ineffective and illusory.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and urge you to vote **NO** on this measure for the following reasons. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Hilda Kajiyama  
BYUH #1970  
55-220 Kulanui St.  
Laie, HI 96762

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kurt Kamikawa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is Kurt Kamikawa - I am a statehood baby and registered voter who cherishes and exercises that right. Some of you compare the opposition to same-sex marriage as though we are living in the deep south during slavery, or the pre-World War I opposition to women's suffrage. Really is that how you feel about the intelligence and character of the people of Hawaii? Are the people of Hawaii so incapable of voting to define marriage that you elected officials have to decide for us? "You think that we are that clueless?" Really, shouldn't both sides accept the result of a vote by the people as representing the will of the people in the state of Hawaii? Not Massachusetts. Not California. Hawaii! Many of us have grown weary, even distrustful, of the democratic process because of all the politics instead of statesmanship being exemplified. Statesmanship is serving the greatest public good, while strong-armed politics could also be defined as bullying --- something we are trying to discourage our young people from engaging in. When you took the oath of office you raised your hands to the heavens and submitted yourself to justice by the Almighty. It helps to know the word of God to guide your decisions, because what happens in the natural also applies in the spiritual. Ignorance is not grounds for innocence. A critical aspect of that oath you took is to uphold the Constitutions of Hawaii and the United States of America. The protection of religious freedom is critical to those guiding documents. In testimony before the Senate the Attorney General gave assurances of the "iron clad" strength of this bill. Yet during questioning we witnessed confusion and lack of preparation. Is this reassurance? Will you have honored your oath of office if a wave of lawsuits are brought against churches? We have a very powerful and uniquely guiding principle that makes Hawaii beautiful. Doing what is pono. Honor the intent of the people expressed in 1998. If you truly believe society has changed, allow the people to vote on defining marriage. I oppose SB1.

## **Committee on Judiciary and Finance**

**Bill and title:** SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2013

**Time:** 10:30 A.M.

**Place:** Auditorium State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**Hawaii Pastors Roundtable Position:** Opposed to SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees,

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to testify in regards to SB1. As chairman of the Hawai'i Pastors Roundtable, I represent over 200 congregations and in excess of 175,000 members statewide including Sr. Pastors, Lead Priests and Denominational Leaders across Hawaii.

"With aloha for all the people of Hawaii, we, the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable, are fully committed to God's plan found in Genesis 1:27-28 and elsewhere in the Bible that marriage is a lifelong commitment between one woman and one man.

We also declare that The Bible is God's Word and that is the highest law which helped frame The Treaties of Two Government by John Locke, our national birth certificate called the Declaration of Independence and our First Amendment Rights guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States of America.

We are faced with one of the most divisive issues of our time with Same Sex Marriage. Although our hearts are broken by the strife and conflict caused by this controversial debate, we are also compelled by our love to perpetuate God's original design, marriage between one woman and one man, which best promotes healthy families and a stable society.

**Therefore, we humbly request that you vote NO against SB1 more importantly, vote NO to being the only legislative body in the entire world that will destroy centuries of Hawaii's traditions, cultures and values in a matter of days.**

We affirm that people with same-sex attraction are a part of our community and they deserve dignity and respect. As this very important discussion continues at the Legislature, in the public square, and in homes all across our State, let us remember to treat each other with kindness and compassion."

Mahalo!

Allen Cardines, Jr.

Chairman

Hawaii Pastors Roundtable

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Deseret Nau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: 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. Deseret Nau Mililani, Hi. 96789



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Deborah C. Yacas	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha, I wish to testify against this special session. I do not understand why such a sensitive topic needs to be decided on so quickly. A matter so important to the lives of many Hawaii citizens' especially for many religious believers, should never be made in just a week, not even in a month. I have been learning and hearing so much spectacle on how some voters want this and that, but I don't think, most of what is going on has been thoroughly examined - well not with their hearts anyway... I am a mother of 2 children - a son and a daughter and I am an aunt of many nieces and nephews, and my concern for all of their future, including their safety and personal feelings are just as great as my concerns of how this will affect my Christian families, including our Churches. I just don't see how this equality subject is sharing in the differences of our future generations. Aren't we as parents, teachers, leaders and mentors supposed to guide and protect our children and instill in them not only traditions, but morals as well?... I am absolutely not comfortable with a confused child sharing a restroom with my son or daughter... What about their lives? Do they not matter? Have we clearly thought of how this will impact and transform our future generations? What about unisex restrooms, will they be available in our children's schools? If not, will there be any alternatives? Can WE the State of Hawaii afford them? How can we as parents be assured of our child's safety? By planting these kinds of seeds will only sprout weeds and thorns, and allowing them to grow, will be thick and keep in mind that in harvest there may be plenty... I will always be a believer of God, He is my redeemer and he loves me so much that he gave me Jesus whom died for my sins, in which when I repent he is forgiving... but it disturbs me to know that Hope will be gone from those who partake in this Law. Finally, I'd like to thank you for your time and leave you with one final thought; Just as we are to suffer the consequences of mankind laws, so must we suffer the consequences of Gods laws, for it is written in the BIBLE, in the book of Revelations Chapter 22, Verse 13 "I am the Alpha and Omega, The Beginning and The End, The First and The Last". This scripture tells me, that He will prevail and whatever choices we make in our end - His will be the last, therefore leaving our fate to rest in our decisions, why must you be the ones to decide! Are you able to justify your actions to the Almighty God, should this Bill pass? There is so much more to think about, God alone is enough, but including the children - is much more! Mahalo & God Bless! Ps. should I not be able to attend in person, I wish to have this entered electronically. Thank you again.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Deseret Nau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: 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. Simeon Nau Mililani, Hi. 96789

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Deseret Nau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Deseret Nau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
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Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and distinguished members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Robert Okimura, and I opposed SB1.

What deeply concerns me is not only the possibility of same sex marriage in and of itself, but also the societal ramifications that go with it. I implore you to research the effect that same sex marriage has had on public education curriculum in places like the state of Massachusetts and Ontario, Canada.

I also implore you to seek the wishes of voters in your district. For such a monumental law that would deviate from hundreds of years of human tradition across cultures, my hope is that you are doing your best to find out what your constituents want you to do on their behalf. Although many may not have taken the initiative to contact you about this bill, it does not mean they do not have a clear position on this issue.

I respectfully ask you to refrain from voting on this bill and do the research necessary to make an informed decision that truly represents the people of Hawaii.

Robert Okimura  
3354 East Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Deseret Nau	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Clarice	Individual	Oppose	Yes

10/28/13

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Leilani A. Johnson

Address: 91-2006 Kaioli St #5002  
Ewa Beach HI 96706

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Phone: 292-3600

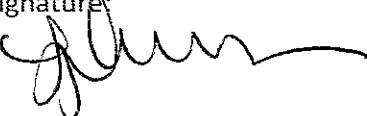
Subject: Testimony to oppose SB1

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SB 1, Relating To  
Equality**

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. The fact that there can be no amendments to the bill essentially negates any concerns raised in testimony or by you, the Legislature.

I oppose this bill because the alleged religious protection clauses provide no protection for individuals to exercise their First Amendment rights of speech and religion. 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.

Signature: 



10/29/13

To: House Judiciary and Finance Committees  
From: Jonathan M. Domingo  
Address: Pearl City, HI 96782

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Subject: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO  
SPECIAL SESSION AND SB 1,  
RELATING TO EQUALITY**

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.

Today, I am not here representing any organization. I'm here representing me and my family. I oppose this bill because 1) it goes against my belief when it comes to the definition of marriage. The dictionary defines marriage as the formal union of a man and a woman, 2) it does not protect my family, my business and my church and 3) I believe that with an issue as controversial as this, that all of you should not be the ones to decide BUT we the people, citizens of the United State of America, the state of Hawaii and our communities should be the decision makers. So, LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.