

BEFORE SSM — Influencer of Education

GLSEN Supporters

Partial List - America's most deep-pocketed corporations and lobby groups:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • National Education Association (NEA) | • Google |
| • Wells Fargo & Co. | • Target |
| • JP Morgan Chase | • Mattel |
| • HBO | • IBM |
| • AT&T | • Disney-ABC Television Group |
| • Merck, pharmaceutical | • Goldman Sachs |
| • Citi | |

Supporters of GLSEN have deep pockets, this is why they have been able to be so influential.

Conclusion

Legislators who care about their citizens and desire a fair system must work to create balance on this issue.

It is only fair that all stakeholders have input into the education of their children.

Ontario families are feeling the effects of 'Reverse Discrimination', which is allowed under EQUITY programs.

The greatest concern is that sexual orientation repeatedly trumps our other constitutional rights.

Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and freedoms lists the following as fundamental freedoms:

2. freedom of conscience and religion;
3. freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
4. freedom of peaceful assembly; and
5. freedom of association.

However, since same sex marriage each of these freedoms has been severely limited in school:

Freedom of Conscience and religion – teachers and students must participate in, and be offended by programs that are not consistent with their conscience and religion.

Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression – some jurisdictions are telling students and staff are told even diplomatic communication of opinion, belief, and thought, even when backed with evidence is not allowed.

Freedom of peaceful assembly and association – students are not allowed to have faith clubs, or meet at the flag pole to pray. Citizens who are part of a faith group are discouraged from renting school facilities.

To avoid such losses of freedom, the people are asking elected representatives to slow this process down, and let's do a study of the long term effects (positive and negative) of same sex marriage, and legislatively ensure protections for all citizens.

Respectfully submitted

Phil Lees

PO Box 306

Binbrook, On

L0R 1P0

Appendix

1) Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism

- Teacher resource referenced by Ministry of Ed, and used in inclusive education instruction around the province of Ontario delivered by teacher unions, Ministry of Ed, LGBT Community groups delivering inclusive instruction to teachers

2) GLSEN Jump Start Manual

SB 1 Equal Rights

Oct. 31, 2013 10:00Am

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

My Name is Pastor Virginia Domligan
The Prayer Center of the Pacific

Today I made time to come out from the trenches to testify to your committee with all humility of heart your decision in every bill that you sign that passed the Committee's and how it effects society as a whole and individually. I will address the issue at hand SB 1 relating to Equal Rights.

Allow me this brief moment to share the effects of the laws that passed through that touches lives in every part of society here in our beloved State of Hawaii. In 1970 a bill was passed for abortion with no restriction no parental notification. 52 Million abortions have been reported in America. Legislators see the statistics we touch the lives I am in the trenches here is a first hand experience A 15 year girl old comes in just had an abortion the day before her boy friend paid the bill no parental notification she lays in the clinic as the doctor proceed to sucked out the fetus and left the pieces it in a tray for her eyes to see. 15 years old devastated crying without any comfort this is only one of the many we find in the trenches of this life because of laws that have been passed.

Addressing the issue at hand a young man lay's in the hospital bed ashamed suffering, dieing of full blown aids his life style choice of having anal sex with another man. Yes, his partner was at his bed side what pain and sorrow their family suffered their hearts was so heavy because of the choices that was made. Who paid the hospital bill he was unable to work for a long while this was self afflicted. **It's not about equal rights it's about a life style choice that is not natural that will affect the fabric of our society.** Socially, Economically & Spiritually. There has been no such practice since the beginning of society it has always been a man and a women in wedlock. Like everything else did your committee do an impact study checking on the statistics from Massachusetts and Canada the results of same sex marriage. Why are we pushing fast and furious disregarding the voice of the people especially those on the others Islands. Please, there have been thousands upon thousands signatures on petitions submitted against SB 1 Let the people of Hawaii decide put it on the ballot.

Vote NO to SB 1 Equal Rights.



October 29, 2013

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 humbly implore and ask that you allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature has actively resisted 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 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 utterly destroy thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Please let the people vote on this and vote no on SB1.

I humbly urge to as a dispenser of the truth to make the right decision based on the structural integrity of your position and in the name of democracy. My prayers will be with you to make the right decision.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

In His Service,

Charlotte Yamamoto
Camp Agape Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 1:25 PM

To: House Special Session

Cc: henry.lifeoftheland@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Henry Curtis	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Representatives Life of the Land strongly supports this SB1 Mahalo Henry Curtis

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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Kat Brady
katbrady@hotmail.com



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

Thursday, October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol Auditorium

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB1 – MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Har, Nishimoto and Johanson and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo nui for hearing this important measure. I am Kat Brady, a heterosexual woman, Vice President of Citizens for Equal Rights and a strong advocate for justice in Hawai'i and the world.

In his 1967 speech, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*, Martin Luther King Jr. said,

*“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice.
Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.”*

This is your opportunity today. You have the chance to be power at its best. You have the chance to be on the right side of history.

Many decades ago, some legislators, who may have been in the very seat you now occupy, voted for bills on which they may not have personally agreed and yet were able to put their personal feelings aside to work for the greater good. That is an example of power at its best.

We all celebrate and honor families. Strong families build safe neighborhoods and safe neighborhoods become vibrant communities. With the family at the center, it is not appropriate for anyone, except for the individuals involved, to decide who that family is.

This is the time to go back to the future. Protect and defend the Constitution that you swore to uphold and allow people to be who they are with justice, liberty and equal rights for all. The human heart was built for love.

Please pass SB 1 to improve the quality of justice in Hawai'i. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII CHRISTIAN COALITION AND OUR SUPPORTERS, I OPPOSE SBI. FIRST I BELIEVE BY THE GOVERNOR CALLING THIS SPECIAL SESSION WITHOUT SENATE AND HOUSE LEADERSHIP AGREEMENT, THIS IS POLITICS AT IT'S WORSE AND HIGHLY TAINTS THE INTEGRITY OF THIS HEARING.

SECOND, THE PEOPLE GAVE THE POWER TO THE LEGISLATORS TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO RESERVE MARRIAGE TO OPPOSITE SEX COUPLES ONLY IN 1998, NOT REDEFINE MARRIAGE IN 2013

THIRD, BY LEGISLATORS ACTUALLY ALLOWING THIS FLAWED SESSION TO PROCEED, ARE YOU TELLING THE PEOPLE, YOU WILL VOTE FOR THIS BILL AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

FOURTH, I IMPLOR YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL, BECAUSE OF THE FLAWED PROCESS ~~OF THE BILL~~ AND BECAUSE YOU WOULD BE SILENCING THE VOICES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR REGISTERED VOTERS WHO COULD NOT BE HERE TONIGHT. PLEASE, LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!



October 31, 2013

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Finance

From: Jeanne Ohta, Amy Monk, Co-Chairs
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus

Re: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
(10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 31, 2013, Auditorium)

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing us to present testimony today, in strong support of SB 1 which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Caucus strongly supports this measure which extends the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

Establishing marriage equality is a big step to ending the disparity between the rights of opposite-sex married couples and those of same-sex couples. It is a step toward the goal of treating people equally under the law, as required by our Constitution.

Although Hawai'i enacted a civil unions measure, same-sex families still do not receive the federal benefits that opposite-sex families do. In order for same-sex families in Hawai'i to file federal income taxes, Hawai'i must enact a same-sex marriage law. Enacting this measure will help end this unequal treatment by government agencies and employers.

We urge the committees to pass SB 1 with the narrowest of religious exemptions; and further urge the committee to not weaken our public accommodations law. We should not let selected members of the clergy dictate to the government the legal definition of marriage and this measure should not be used to weaken protections against discrimination under our public accommodations law.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. Please vote to pass SB1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:15 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: belinda_jacobs@hotmail.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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Belinda L. Jacobs	ChristianCounselingofAmerica.org	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable JDL Chairman, and the Committee on JDL,, Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights Has been scheduled for public hearing on 10-31-13, Thursday 10:00AM in the Capitol Auditorium. I am Belinda Jacobs, Founder and Director of The Christian Counseling and Research Centers of America. I am testifying on SB1 Relating to Equal Rights without Equal, but DETRIMENTAL RESULTS ... I OPPOSE SB1 on the Grounds of Solid Research which clearly defines the detriment, and truly UNEQUAL consequences of non-traditional marriage configurations. Hawaii DOES NOT NEED TO PARTICIPATE in this Social Psychological Experiment, never before seen in the History of Man ! Some of the many reasons for my opposition to SB1 are presented below. Please heed the warnings presented. Sincerely, and with aloha. Belinda Jacobs
Christian Counseling and Research Centers of America Store Front: 1188 Bishop Street, Ste. # 203 Honolulu, Hi 96813 Mailing: P.O. Box 160963 Honolulu, Hi 96816 Intake Line: 808-754-1874 Dear Honorable Hawaii State Legislature Committee, Attached, please find part of Our, The Christian Counseling and Research Centers of America, presentation for this "Marriage" bill which violates God's, Hawaii State Constitution, Hawaii Civil Union's Law definitions for Marriage. Such grievous violations, and disrespect for Our Countries and State Constitutions, could invoke suit targeted at your personal purses and assets. Subject: Taxpayer Reimbursement Demand for Special Session: What Makes Gays & Lesbians So Special that They Get a Special Session ? - Our Booklet, attached, is a Compilation of Sound Research That Does Not Support Same-Sex "Marriage" & Civil Unions Because, "The Truth Remains", and unbiased numbers resulting from true scientific research Point to the Truth. Dear Honorable Governor Abercrombie, and Hawaii State Legislators, Re: Taxpayer Reimbursement Demand for Special Session Aloha, What makes gay and lesbian couples so special to warrant a Special Legislative session ? (All people are important to Us, of course, as we are a Faith-based Organization, and believe everybody is God's creation ...) And, at what cost to Taxpayers ? With the Legislative Regular Session commencing in just about nine (9) weeks, what justification do you have to divert Taxpayer monies away from the many Hawaii non-profits that lost or suffered a reduction in funding at the start of Governor Abercrombie term of office, due to the downturn in the economy. And what misplaced priorities, a Better Use of Funds : I.

Hawaii's crystal meth statistics ARE ALARMING, with costs to the State that are just as alarming, as Hawaii Ranks #1 AND #2 in National rankings for meth, as follows: [** Our Organization provided these numbers to Hawaii State's Department of Health Access to Recovering (ATR) Program, in 2010, contributing toward the success of the State being awarded the 11.4 million dollar ATR Federal Grant.] Hawaii Meth Project <http://hawaii.methproject.org/Results/index.php> The RAND Corporation's Drug Policy Research Center estimates that the total annual cost of Meth abuse in 2005 to the U.S. is approximately \$23.4 billion.¹ Hawaii ranks #2 in the nation for the percentage of drug-related treatment admissions that are Meth-related.² Estimated cost of Meth abuse in Hawaii is \$500 million annually for incarceration, foster care, healthcare, lost employee productivity, and treatment.³ 90% of federally sentenced drug cases in Hawaii involve Meth.⁴ Meth poses the greatest drug threat to the Hawaii due to its association with violent crimes, theft and wide spread availability.⁵ Workers in Hawaii are 4 times more likely to test positive for Meth than the national average in workplace drug testing, making Hawaii #1 in the US.⁶ 9% of Hawaii teens and 18% of young adults report having close friends who use Meth, 7% of teens and 20% of young adults say he or she has friends who have been in treatment for using meth, and 14% of teens and 15% of young adults have family members who have been in treatment for Meth.⁷ 19% of teens and 37% of young adults say Meth would be somewhat or very easy to acquire, and 9% of teens and 25% of young adults report they have been offered the drug.⁸

1 RAND, The Economic Cost of Methamphetamine Use In the United States, 2005. Published in February 2009. 2 SAMSHA, Treatment Episode Data Set 2008. Released in 2010. 3 Estimate based on RAND, The Economic cost of Methamphetamine Use in the United States, 2005. Published in February 2009. 4 United States Sentencing Commission, Statistical Information Packet, Fiscal Year 2009, District of Hawaii. 2009. 5 U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center, Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area: Drug Market Analysis, 2012. 6 Quest Diagnostics Drug Testing Index, 2010. 7 Hawaii Meth Use & Attitudes Survey, June 2011. 8 Ibid. What is contributing to these Alarming Meth statistics ? Lack of education on meth ? --i.e. Drug / meth training in public school health classes ? Lack of research on meth use introduced within marijuana / pakalolo ?, which could be projects tied to the University of Hawaii's Research and student programs for public health and medicine, and the like ...

II. As an advocate for the Homeless, we would like to see an expand, as a "Safety Net", temporary housing designated for families with children. Homelessness is tragically traumatizing and dangerous for children, and a shameful state of affairs to ignore. During the 2011 Civil Unions challenge to Hawaii's Constitutional Amendment, by popular vote in 1998, and provided below, as we are preparing to Demand the State Constitution be upheld over bills proposed by the Governor, Legislator, or anyone else ..., Governor Abercrombie hosted parties at the Governor's Mansion for gay and lesbians, and Civil Unions sympathizers, and walking through the corridors of the State Capitol, it appeared that approximately one-third (1/3) of the Aids to the Legislative Body were either gay men, or those proponents to gay and lesbian issues ... Again, why the bias ? We understand that this is an emotional issue, and we all want to be "Politically Correct", and the good guy who wouldn't want to oppress anyone, however, as an organization dedicated to publishing and presenting information on Social Issues based upon solid Researched Facts from and verifiable

sources, we have to stand up for the Populous, and restrict such action(s), and over reactions to the gay and lesbian community, at the expense, and ignoring (or possible utter ignorance ?) of the issues plaguing this State ! Sound research does NOT support Same-Sex "Marriage" and Civil Unions. Factually, this Social Psychological Experiment has measurable derogatory impacts on Our Nation, State, and Canada. Attached, please find Our Booklet which is a compilation of such Research, (which has gone unchallenged over the past two years of its publication and distribution ...) STATE CONSTITUTION THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII ARTICLE 1 BILL OF RIGHTS MARRIAGE (hawaii.gov/lrb/con/conart1.html) Section 23. The Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples. [Add HB 117 (1997) and election Nov 3, 1998] With Warm Aloha. Very Truly Yours and Respectfully, Belinda Jacobs and The Christian Counseling and Research Centers of America

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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-----Original Message-----

From: Jacob Chung Jr. [<mailto:jyochung@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:08 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Oppose Same-Sex Marriage

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

Aloha, my name is Jacob Chung. I'm native Hawaiian and I oppose same-sex marriage.

I find it troubling that the voices of the people of Hawaii are not being heard, instead outsiders from the mainland are greatly influencing our governing officials.

This is not about our local families or people of our state who choose this lifestyle. This is about an outside organization that is literally bullying it's way into our islands through the influencing of our government, forcing us to accept same-sex marriage as normal. And because of this law, schools will be teaching that this is a normal lifestyle going against everything I believe, and causing so much confusion.

In 1998 the people voted yes to traditional marriage. The way it was worded gave us only two options: either we were for SSM, or if we were against it we would allow the legislature to redefine it at a later date. Since it was written on the ballot this way, the people decided on the lesser of two evils.

All of you were elected by the people to be our voice. Something of this magnitude shouldn't be decided by 52 people. Put it to a vote and let the people decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jacob Chung
98-1453 F Kaahumanu Street
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701

Renee D. Godoy
507 Ilima Lane
Hilo, HI
96720

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:

Aloha and thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. I am a registered voter and the senior pastor of a church of approximately 200 on the Big Island and represent their views on this serious issue of same sex marriage.

I have some very serious concerns about the governor's intent to call a special session to vote on the legalizing of same sex marriage. I strongly oppose leaving the decision making for legislation that will effect our entire state in serious ways for decades to come in the hands of a few legislators. I would like to believe that you, our legislators, are heeding the voices of the voters and not giving in to a small but vocal minority of our community.

I am not against gays, bisexuals or transgenders. All members of our community deserve the full protection of our laws as citizens. I am strongly against redefining marriage and uprooting centuries of tradition that has served us well for all that time. You can call a bird a fish if you want to but it will not change the reality that it is distinct and unique from a fish in so many ways – that is why it has a different name.

A marriage is between a man and a woman. Civil unions have already been awarded to same-sex couples in our state to afford them government benefits. Protections can be added to that law to address the concerns about federal benefits without

introducing a new law that would redefine marriage.

My concern is that:

- Legalizing same sex marriage will open the door for all children to be taught in our educational institutions things that are not compatible with our beliefs as Christians or others who do not embrace same-sex relationships for their children.
- Legalizing same sex marriage will open the door for business owners that find same sex marriage offensive to them for religious reasons to be compelled to offer services to same-sex couples under the threat of lawsuits or job termination.
- Legalizing same sex marriage will force religious charitable organizations that facilitate child placement to be forced to stop providing those services because they object to placing children in same-sex homes for religious reasons.
- Legalizing same sex marriage will expose our churches to further lawsuits and infringe upon OUR First Amendment rights to speak out against same-sex relationships as part of our religious beliefs.
- Legalizing same sex marriage will cause problems for our churches in the usage of our facilities under the public use laws.
- Legalizing same sex marriage will open the door for other variations of marriage such as polygamy and bisexual unions involving more than two partners.

I do not believe that sufficient protections can be added to this legislation to adequately protect our religious freedoms if same sex marriage becomes law. I am not in favor of protections added to this legislation. I am in favor of killing this bill that is not in the best interests of our community.

I urge you to recognize by the intensity and passion of the outcry against this legislation to stop, give serious thought to our concerns, rethink any support you may have previously had to support this legislation, and recognize that there are many serious consequences to be considered before rushing headlong

into legislation that is not supported by the majority of voters in your districts who have elected you to respect and represent their views.

If you do truly believe that this legislation represents the majority of voters' opinions and beliefs on this serious issue then I encourage you to put it to a vote in a Constitutional Amendment and LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.

Again, thank you, for taking the time to hear my concerns.

From: Patrick Rorie [prorieandmnt@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 1:08 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Testimony for SB 1

Committee: Committee on Judiciary
Measure Number: SB 1
Date and Time of Hearing: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Testifying in person
Patrick Rorie
prorieandmnt@gmail.com

Subject: Strong opposition to SB 1; Vote "No" to the Marriage Equality Bill; put this issue on the ballot; let the people decide on marriage!

Dear Chair Rhoades and other Judiciary and Labor Committee members:
As a long time O'ahu resident and voter in the State of Hawaii, I ask you for wisdom and courage to vote "No" to the Marriage Equality Bill.

The issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. Let the people decide on marriage!

Let's look at the facts...

1. THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (DOMA) DID NOT OVERTURN DOMA IN ITS ENTIRETY. This myth is being used extensively in the media to persuade the public into thinking that Hawaii must now act on our marriage laws. In fact, the US Supreme Court struck down only ONE SECTION of DOMA (section 3) so that same sex couples that are legally married in one state are allowed all the FEDERAL BENEFITS of other married couples in that state . Here is a summary to consider:

- Declaring section 3 of DOMA unconstitutional means that the federal government cannot deny legally married same-sex couples the federal benefits that are given to married heterosexual couples.
- The Court did not address the issue of whether the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to enter into a same-sex marriage or mandates that individual states must legalize same-sex marriage. Furthermore, the Court did not address the validity of section 2 of DOMA, which allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed under the laws of other states; therefore, this part of DOMA still stands. Hawaii and other states that currently do not recognize same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions have the right to continue not to.

There is no other State in the union that is RUSHING into special session to pass an SSM law. Hawaii is being targeted by the LGBT.

2. THERE IS NOT A MAJORITY IN HAWAII OR ACROSS AMERICA THAT ARE NOW IN FAVOR OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

Another myth being offered by the media. The fact is there are 13 states that allow SSM at this time. By contrast, there are 29 States that have defined marriage as between a man and a woman by constitutional amendment AND another 6 States that have defined marriage as between a man and a woman through state statute. And 2 other states that legalized civil unions in the past and are now revoking that law in favor of traditional marriage.

3. VIOLATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative affect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. And the language as it is written in the current bill is not strong enough to protect our 1st amendment rights.

Under Civil Unions, Kawaiaha'o Church has been sued 3 times. There will certainly be more lawsuits if the Marriage Equality Bill becomes law. In States where Same Sex Marriage is legal, small businesses have been sued for taking a stand for their religious beliefs. The same will happen here in Hawaii.

4. CURRICULUM CHANGES IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In California, State legislature approves bill signed by governor mandating pro-homosexual teaching in schools, with no parent 'opt-out'. The bill also prohibits any school material or instruction that reflects adversely on homosexuality, bisexuality or transgenderism, while prohibiting parents from removing children from classes over offensive material.

In Washington State, homosexuality is being taught to high school students and homosexual sexual behavior and relationships are being normalized through 'health' classes in high school;

businesses are forced to support homosexual 'weddings' and being sued by government when refusing; and judges are being forced to officiate same-sex marriages. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhguovmV5BM>

If the Marriage Equality Bill becomes law, the same thing will happen here in Hawaii. Please protect our first amendment rights by voting "No" to this bill.

5. Civil Unions (another title for Same Sex Marriage) is already law in Hawaii.

6. A University of Hawaii study concluded that more money will come into the State if Same Sex Marriage becomes law. This is simply untrue. Another study shows that gays and lesbians will travel to Hawaii regardless of the purpose, whether to get married or for a visit.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono, The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness. Same sex marriage is not pono!

Do not give in to pressure from Governor Abercrombie or from the Democratic Party. Do what is right and vote "No" to the Marriage Equality bill and put this issue on the ballot for the people to decide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

God bless you!

Patrick Rorie (Hawaii resident for over 25 years, residing in Aiea, HI)

Faredah Ward
875 Puuomao Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 28, 2013

To: Carl Rhodes, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I am opposed to this bill. This Same Sex Marriage Bill has been hastily written for such an important, wide ranging effect to our society. The people of Hawaii should be able to have a say and be able to vote for or against this bill. Living in a democratic society, every citizen should be allowed and given the opportunity to vote on a very important issue that will shift the way society thinks and it's attitude toward the institution of marriage.

Also, by giving a right to one group this bill takes the right of our freedom of religion away from another group. The legislature should uphold the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, not blatantly disregard it and by doing so create a great divide among us.

Let us bring this issue during the regular legislative session where debate and thorough analysis can be made. It is crucial that voters be allowed to have their say. We are a democracy so let's show by our actions that we are a free people who can vote their belief and conscience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Faredah Ward

Raymond S. Rodrigues III
46 Wawai Loop
Hilo, Hi. 96720

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:

Thank you for hearing our concerns today.

I am a Christian and I am an Assistant Pastor at Glad Tiding's
Church in Hilo. Our church consists of approximately 200
members.

I am here today because I see the tragic erosion of the God given
foundation of marriage at our doorstep here in Hawaii.

First of all, it is my understanding that the people did vote in
1998 to keep marriage between a man and a woman. However,
because of its ambiguous language, the legislature was given the
power to decide. What the people of Hawaii thought was a simple
yes or no vote, in actuality returned the decision of Same Sex
Marriage to the Legislature.

Secondly, this bill will not protect church facilities and other
private businesses. If a church offers a public service for a fee.
By the definition written in the bill, the church or other business
becomes a "public accommodation".

The church would be legally obligated to sanction the wedding ceremony. The church or business would have to provide its services to that requesting same sex couple.

In closing, our Country was birthed out of the principles of being free to worship our Creator without being oppressed by its Government. That is why our founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution in that manner. It was to protect our liberties. One of those is the freedom of religion. In their wisdom, the Government was created to uphold just laws while the church was to stand side by side to uphold the moral fabric of our society.

With this issue before us, our society is on a slippery slope of decay. As our moral fabric unravels there would be no stopping a polyamory or a bestiality marriage.

Marriage should be reserved between a man and a woman committed to a monogamous relationship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Raymond S. Rodrigues III

*I would like to testify in person

From: Rachel Orange [<mailto:rachelpualani@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 3:09 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session; FINTestimony

Subject: Support for Marriage Equality - SB1

Committees on Judiciary & Finance

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Hearing Time: 10am

Hearing Place: Capitol Auditorium

Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue.

I am writing to express my full and unequivocal support for marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well.

This is a basic civil rights issue. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer. Please vote in favor of SB 1. It is simply the right thing to do.

Mahalo for your time.

Rachel S. Orange, Palolo

From: Curt Kanahale [<mailto:ckanahale@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 3:26 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY - NO TO REDEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

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

Let me first applaud the Senate committee in the filed version of SB 1; it has been revised to give more protection to religious representatives and facilities in marriages performed by them. Nevertheless, I am writing to voice my opposition to SB 1 because it redefines marriage in the State of Hawai'i.

Black's Law Dictionary defines marriage as "the civil status of one man and one woman united in law for life." This is the definition of marriage that has been upheld for many centuries. It is based on this definition that legal and constitutional rights, benefits, and responsibilities have been designed prior to this century.

Through SB 1, the State Legislature now proposes to change the definition of this time-honored union of man and woman, upon which families - the fundamental core of civilization – are founded.

I, and many, many other voters of this State are vigorously opposed to any redefinition of marriage.

The State has already granted benefits and responsibilities to same-sex couples through civil unions. A redefinition of marriage is unnecessary and wrong. Contrary to the verbiage of SB 1, *United States v. Windsor* did not state that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act "unlawfully discriminated" against same-sex couples. The Supreme Court Opinion was that the federal law should not impose a definition of marriage as between a man and a woman while a State may define it more broadly to include same-sex couples.

The majority of voters in the State of Hawai'i do not want a broader definition of marriage than what has lasted for centuries; that definition is: a union between a man and a woman.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Curtis Kanahale
Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797

From: Rachel Sprague [<mailto:rachel.s.sprague@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 3:40 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session; FINTestimony

Subject: Testimony on SB1

Aloha, I would like to register my unequivocal support for the state of Hawaii recognizing marriage between ALL loving couples - same sex or opposite.

Marriage, as recognized by the STATE of Hawaii, should be protected by the separation of church and state. Those who oppose same-sex marriage on the basis of religion do not represent me or MY beliefs. Why should either of us be allowed push our religious beliefs on other people? It is wrong to let people who will not be affected by this to determine the rights of a minority.

Please allow marriage of same sex couples in Hawaii. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you,
Dr. Rachel S. Sprague
Honolulu, HI

October 28, 2013

To: Karl Rhoads, Chair, House Judiciary Committee and Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Finance Committee

From: Clint Chinen

Re: In **Strong OPPOSITION to SB1**, relating to "Equal Rights"

Hearing Day & Date: Thursday, Oct. 31st

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

As a voting citizen of the United States of America and the State of Hawaii, I am in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB1, relating to Equal Rights.

I believe it is our right as voting citizens to allow this issue to be voted on BY THE PEOPLE and not in a special session that circumvents the Democratic process.

Please do our government and people justice and LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

Thank you,

Clint Chinen

OPPOSE SBI

DAVID L MEYER SELF JUDICIARY
SBI OPPOSE / 10/31/2013 10:00AM.

IN 2011 I VOTED FOR 'CIVIL UNION' AND WAS OPPOSED
TO GAY MARRIAGE. SINCE THEN I HAVE DIED 5 TIMES AND
EACH TIME SOME SPIRIT WOKEME UP. THE LAST TIME
AS I WAS SLEEPING AND SOMETHING WOKEME UP. THE
SPIRIT WAS FADING AWAY SO I WAS GETTING UP TO
FOLLOW HER, BUT SHE HELD UP HER HAND TO STOP
ME FROM FOLLOWING. I HAVE WONDERED WHY I WAS
KEPT ALIVE AND WHEN THIS SESSION WAS ANNOUNCED
I KNEW WHY I STILL ALIVE.. YES I DO BELIEVE I WILL
NOW DIE SHORTLY AS MY REASON FOR LIVING IS COMPLETED



**Testimony to the Joint House Committee on Judiciary and Finance
State Capitol, Auditorium
Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

RE: OPPOSING SENATE BILL NO. 1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and Members of the Joint Committee:

My name is Susan Okamura, and I am a citizen of House District 37 (Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele), and I am testifying in OPPOSITION to Senate Bill No. 1.

If this bill is enacted into law, it will provide any extremist the statutory tools to destroy any religious organization that does not conform to the dictates of lawmakers. This bill will allow a government agency, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, to determine whether religious practices and beliefs deny an individual's equal protection under the law. Upon such a determination, the religious organization could be subject to civil fine, penalty, and suit.

This will create a chilling effect on peoples' ability to exercise their First Amendment right to freely exercise their religious beliefs. To a certain extent, this has already happened as certain faith groups have stated their support for the bill despite the obvious restrictions and liabilities it will impose on them.

If equal protection was the only reason for this bill, why wasn't it drafted solely to prohibit the Department of Health to deny a marriage LICENSE on the basis of GENDER? Instead, by applying changes to the Marriage Law and Marriage CONTRACTS, this bill creates potential conflicts with First Amendment rights, especially as these contracts apply to couples and religious organizations.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to file this bill, and address this issue during the 2014 Regular Session, where ALL of these concerns, including the conflicts with the First Amendment, can be thoroughly reviewed, debated, and deliberated upon.

**Testimony to the Joint House Committee on Judiciary and Finance
State Capitol, Auditorium
Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.**

RE: OPPOSING SENATE BILL NO. 1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and Members of the Joint Committee:

My name is Eryle Okamura, and I am a citizen of House District 37 (Mililani, Waipio Gentry, Waikele), and I am testifying in OPPOSITION to Senate Bill No. 1.

This bill harms our basic First Amendment rights. This bill is an example of how government is telling people how they can worship and what we can believe. If you believe that same-sex marriage is a sin in accordance with religious principles going back hundreds of years, you cannot express these views to prohibit a same-sex couple from marrying. And if you deny a same-sex couple the ability to marry, you can be subject to fine, penalty, and civil suit.

All it takes is for one extreme couple to request a marriage ceremony by a Catholic or Evangelical organization. When their request is denied, they will immediately go to the Civil Rights Commission claiming discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual identity, and sexual orientation. If this bill is enacted, the Civil Rights Commission would have no alternative but to allow the suit to proceed and to admonish the religious organization for denying "services" to the couple.

This bill, as presently written, provides no protection whatsoever to religious organizations. In fact, it does the opposite by treating religious organization like any business under the public accommodations law.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to file this bill, and address this issue during the 2014 Regular Session, where ALL of these concerns, including the conflicts with the First Amendment, can be thoroughly reviewed, debated, and deliberated upon.

From: Frances Nojiri [<mailto:fpnojiri@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:25 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

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

First of all, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to voice my opposition to SB1 relating to equality.

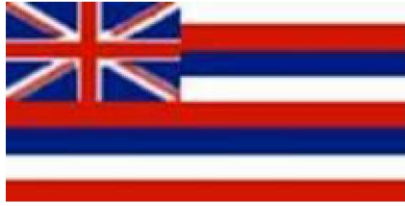
Reasons for my opposition:

1. It violates what I believe that God's law is the highest law in the land and it clearly states that marriage is between a man and a woman.
2. Although we don't have children, I am concern of the welfare and moral values of children of this generation and of the generations to come. Passing of this bill would cause instability and deterioration of families due to mixed-liberal teachings taught and instilled in young minds not knowing any better which would cause confusion and chaos in families and trigger an automatic negative effect in Hawaii.
3. This bill does not protect small business owners rights/freedom of choice due to conscious sake to be able to refuse to provide same-sex marriage services without the fear of losing their businesses.
4. This bill does not protect State/Government workers rights/freedom of choice due to conscious sake to be able to refuse to provide same-sex marriage services without the fear of losing their jobs.
5. This bill does not protect teachers rights/freedom of choice due to conscious sake to refuse to teach students related topics of same-sex marriage without the fear of losing their jobs.

Since this is a highly sensitive and controversial bill, I plead with you: **LET THE VOTERS/PEOPLE of HAWAII VOTE ON IT, NOT THE LEGISLATORS.** Our unified goal should be what would be best for the people of Hawaii, and not copycat or to be like other states. So please sow what would be best for the people so that our today and tomorrows will be a harvest of 'PONO'. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Nojiri
Registered Voter/Concerned Citizen



Hawaii

Hawaii State Motto

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

Translation: The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness

-----Original Message-----

From: Stacy Christian [<mailto:stace002@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:22 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Same Sex Marriage

To whom it may concern:

I'll keep this short and sweet. I'm a pretty conservative person. I actually do think that gays/lesbians should have a CHOICE of who they marry. Who am I to tell them what they believe or who they love? Now, my concern comes when this new law has the potential to force churches/religions to perform these marriages. Shouldn't they have a choice as well? There should be a separation here. It should not be up to the government to tell churches/religions what they have to do. That should be their choice. I believe people should choose. So please, consider this when passing this new law.

Sincerely,
Stacy Christian

-----Original Message-----

From: Jay Freitas [<mailto:jaygretch@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:15 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB relating to equality

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhodes and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees,

As a Christian minister to write "same sex marriage" seems like a oxymoron. God instituted marriage between a man and a woman. I believe that nature itself testifies against this perversion. How can a man and a man or a woman and a woman procreate a family? They must be assisted by adoption or outside means to acquire others children.

Those people in authority in political positions have a grave responsibility to protect and preserve basic moral tenet. This issue was brought to the people of Hawaii in 1998 and seventy percent of the people voted to preserve the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman.

DO NOT side with this radical departure from what is normal and essential to a healthy society. You have as a representative of those who elected you a moral responsibility to uphold what is the best long term for all those who you represent.

Remember that this position that you hold was entrusted to you by God for the good of the people. Some day you will stand before Him and give an account on how you performed this responsibility.

Pastor Jay Freitas

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Jay Freitas [<mailto:jaygretch@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:39 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB relating to equality

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees,

I am writing this email because of my deep conviction regarding your upcoming session starting today and continuing this week.

I am born and raised on Maui and come from generations of families who have worked hard to see their children, grand children and great grand children have better lives. Never in my lifetime and theirs would we believe that I would be living in a time were I would need to define what "marriage" is or what "marriage" should stand for.

Marriage is NOT a right, but a choice between one man and one woman. Marriage was created by God to "be fruitful and multiply" the earth. Two men or two women cannot multiply.

In November 2003 the state of Massachusetts passed a similiar bill, the very next month "same sex partners" were in high school talking to children about this "normal lifestyle" even handing out tracks to these students. Within several years this agenda was taken to elementary schools to children who were in kindergarten. (see www.MassResistance)

If you pass this bill, this is what YOU will be allowing in the future to the children of this beautiful state.

Someday all of us will stand before God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth and we will have to give an account for everything we have done and what we have stood for.

Your vote will impact every single person in Hawaii - vote wisely and vote NO to " same sex marriage."

Sent from my iPad

From: Chris Kegans [mailto:ckegans@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:12 AM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Attention:

Karl Rhoads, Chair	Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Judiciary Committee	House Finance Committee
October 29, 2013	7:09 am

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees: I would like to provide public testimony in person. We really need to assess how this will affect our overall society and the rights of others that will be impeded if this bill comes to pass. I have a major concern for my two daughters that we have raised with traditional family values. This vote in democratic process needs to be given to the people. If this is decided in any other way it would go against the foundation that our great country was built on. We need to learn from the mistakes that our fellow states have made in making this decision in haste. This needs to have proper due diligence done to study the effects this will have on our society. By giving this vote to the people it will restore hope that has been lost by the current legislative process. I ask in earnest that all members search their hearts before making this vote. Thank you for your time today.

I stand in opposition to SB 1,
Chris Kegans
3138 Waialae Ave
Kaimaki HNL 96816

Chris Kegans
3138 Waialae Ave
Honolulu HI 96816
808-225-5174

Attention:

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

October 29, 2013

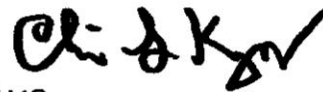
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I would like to provide public testimony in person. We really need to assess how this will affect our overall society and the rights of others that will be impeded if this bill comes to pass. I have a major concern for my two daughters that we have raised with traditional family values. This vote in democratic process needs to be given to the people. If this is decided in any other way it would go against the foundation that our great country was built on. We need to learn from the mistakes that our fellow states have made in making this decision in haste. This needs to have proper due diligence done to study the effects this will have on our society. By giving this vote to the people it will restore hope that has been lost by the current legislative process. I ask in earnest that all members search their hearts before making this vote. Thank you for your time today.

I stand in opposition to SB 1,

Chris Kegans



3138 Waiialae Ave

Kaimuki HI 96816

808-225-5174

From: Laretta Dubin [<mailto:larettaaloha@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:15 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: PLEASE Don't Redefine Marriage !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Let us, the PEOPLE of Hawaii, decide to vote on this issue. This will affect us and many generations coming after us. I am completely against changing what God has put together. His word clearly states, "What God has brought together, let NO MAN put asunder". There will be serious consequences for everyone. This is a slippery slope that will have dire effects on ALL of us. Laretta Dubin

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY-HEARING 10/31/13 10:00am

REP. KARL RHOADS-CHAIR, HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

REP. SLYVIA LUKE-CHAIR, HOUSE FIANNCE COMMITTEE

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

Aloha, My name is Eldean Kukahiko. **I AM IN OPPOSITION OF SB1, AND HERE ARE MY REASONS:**

1. TOO SHORT OF A VETTING PROCESS-NOT PONO!

- **THERE IS SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN FROM OTHER STATES-GOOD AND BAD**
- **PEOPLE NEED TO BE MORE INFORMED AND MORE INVOLVED WITH THE PROCESS-IN MY DISTRICT, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC FORUM HELD BY REP. WOOLEY OR SEN. HEE**
- **TO THEIR YOUR DEFENSE-YOU HAVE NOT HAD THE TIME TO HOLD ANYTHING!**
- **BUT WHAT ABOUT INFORMATIONAL MAIL-OUTS? GET YOUR CONSTITUTES VOICE**
- **I BELIEVE “DEMOCRACY NOT OPEN TO THE PEOPLE AND NOT TRANSPARENT T-IS DEMOCRACY DENIED”**

2. LGBT VALUES VS. TRADITIONAL VALUES TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS

- **I WAS TAUGHT TRADITIONAL VALUES THROUGH THE BIBLE AND MY HAWAIIAN HERITAGE BY MY FULL BLOODED HAWAIIAN ADOPTED PARENTS FROM WHEN I WAS A BABY**
- **YET MY TRADITIONAL VALUES ARE NOT TAUGHT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS –MY RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THE LGBT VALUES WILL BE GRAPHICALLY TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS AT EVERY LEVEL-FORCIBLY ...WILL TRADITIONAL VALUES NOW BE TAUGHT IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALSO? ..WILL THERE BE EQUAL TIME ? OR WILL THERE BE AT LEAST AN OPT OUT OPTION TO BOTH?**

3. WHAT PEOPLE ON THE STREET ARE INDICATING;

- **I ORGANIZED A SIGN WAVING CAMPAIGN IN MY DISTRICT-SIMPLY AND PEACFULLY SAYING TO “LET THE PEOPLE VOTE”- FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS**
- **I CAN SAY 95% horns blowing-thumbs up-5% thumbs down-middle finger up**
- **By just a few, We have been aggressively confronted, harassed, photographed-called names, they stole our sign in broad daylight with a confrontation that followed that caused minor injuries to 3 people(1 pregnant)...police involved**
- **WE ARE NOT THE AGRESSORS-WE WANT THE PEOPLE TO HAVE A RIGHT AND CHANCE TO VOTE-WE SHOULD ALL BE STANDING TOGETHER-HOMOSEXUAL AND STRAIGHT IN UNITY AND CALL FOR “LET US-THE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES VOTE” ...NO MORE CONFRONTATION, NO MORE HURTING-LET THE VOICE OF ALL THE PEOPLE BE HEARD AT THE BALLOT BOX –THAT IS WHY IT IS THERE! I BELIEVE THE HEART OF THE OVERTURNING OF DOMA IS SAYING THIS TOO! STATE BY STATE-LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!**

From: Susan Serrao [<mailto:sserrao1@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 6:52 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB 1

To: House Judiciary and Finance Committees

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY -
LET THE PEOPLE VOTE

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

On the issue of same-sex marriage, I feel like our people here in Hawaii are being railroaded to accept mainland values though I don't believe the majority of mainlanders are in support of same-sex marriage either. I don't feel same-sex marriage reflects the culture or beliefs we have about ohana for the majority of our people. It's sad because we get these outside influences dictating our future and and they're going to come and go or come and stay without regard to consequences their values have on us. Let us decide our destiny and future for our kids. Let our people vote on this issue. If the results come out in favor of same-sex marriage, I can live with that knowing we had a say. Somebody, anybody,... Defend Hawaii and our values on marriage being between a man and a woman. Mahalo, Jay Serrao, Mililani, Hawaii 96789

-----Original Message-----

From: pukamail@yahoo.com [<mailto:pukamail@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 9:41 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Ssm

Aloha.

Firstly, Thank you for all the hard work and dedication to all of the people of Hawaii. I would like to discuss the same sex bill and how it uniquely effects our State.

Is the motivating factor behind this bill to receive federal dollars? This certainly is not for equality for all, but benefiting the minority and disadvantaging the majority. I can't understand how politicians seem to deceive the public for personal gain or power.

Think about this, are not bills passed by majority vote? Is not the president and all public positions elected by a majority vote. Why, because they are to represent the public democracy. I think the government has redefined democracy to whatever is mainstream at the time. The majority of taxpayers in Hawaii have voted against this bill, but politics seem to ignore this fact. The guise of this particular bill indicates equality for all. Lets review some fact:

1. Majority of voters in Hawaii overwhelmingly disagree that this bill is the best interest for the state. 70% said no to your bill.
2. Those majority of persons voting no are not necessarily Christian, thus no religious affiliation. It is possible that the voters want a society for their children that they grew up in. Most people want marriage to stand as woman and man.
3. Homosexual population are less than 10%, nationwide. The percent of the population who are looking for these equal rights are even less.
4. This bill will effect the remaining percent, 90%+?
5. This bill will unequally benefit a very small portion of the population.
6. Homosexuals can already be married through a civil union ceremony, I am not clear the purpose of this bill is for equality or a soapbox to persecute any person who opposes them.
7. All of the children in public schools will be forced homosexual objectives, even against parents wishes. Homosexual books, no more celebrations of Mothers or Fathers days in elementary or middle schools because it oppresses homosexual rights under the new law.
8. What about the man who wanted to marry his goat (this is a true story, unfortunately). Would we pass a equality bill to include marriages between animals and people? What I am saying is how far is this going to go?
9. Freedom of religion and religious persecution is a part of our constitution and bill of rights. Passing this law will persecute all religions who oppose that lifestyle. Religious people are not oppressing homosexuals personally, but oppose to being forced to participate in their lifestyle. We should be protected in America to exercise our given rights, no new laws should supersede that basic right. It's law is being placed as to oppress all religions and have a platform to legally harm all who oppose them. May I remind you that this percent is probably less than 5% of the population. 5% can oppress 95%. Does this seem fair? Not to me.

10. The separation of church and state goes both ways. Keep your state out of my church.

11. Those who may agree with this bill might not be thinking about the future effects. This is not just a religious rejection of this bill. This bill sets up a plethora of future petty lawsuits from homosexuals who didn't get their photo in newspapers or equal rights to Christmas specials and radio and tv time, etc. anyways, there will be a huge opening of frivolous "they hurt my feelings" "I didn't get my fair share" complaining. This bill so guaranteeing all homosexuals the right to sue anyone if they perceive disagreement with them, they will use this bill to purposely oppress all people, sort of a "payback for all those folks who hurt their feelings their whole life". I'm sorry, they are a bunch of babies always crying about their rights. If your gay, then be gay. This is less than 10% of our society complaining and all of you are entertaining this? how about a bigger portion of this society who really need help is disabled children and theres no special secession for them? no, you all don't seem to care about what is right, but this is about politics. this is Hawaii, not the mainland. Homosexuals just want to use a law to oppress non-homosexuals. How has homosexuals convince you politicians that they just want equality? I know its not about equality. It is about them forcing their lifestyle into the forefront of society, even if they are a small part of society. Why do you have to pass this particular law for them to be equal? If its about insurance or money, then pass a bill to allow partners to receive retirement benefits and other benefits. I don't like the future in Hawaii as a gay state.

12. Marriage does not necessarily guarantee homosexuals that life will work out perfectly, they will be just as susceptible to divorce than all other couples. Studies prove that divorce in homosexual couples equal hetero divorces.

13. What about my free speech rights? Now will I be prohibited from saying I don't agree with the gay lifestyle? Why isn't it my right to disagree, and I quietly disagree only to myself. I don't agree with people marrying animals either. Will I be fined or go to jail if I say so? What if I write a letter to the editor in the newspaper saying the same, will I be arrested? This bill is removing my basic rights as a American. Too oppressive society and overly governed. This small percent of society is controlling the majority, this is not about equality. It's about controlling hetero and anti homosexual behavior. It's about favoring less than 5% of the population over the rest, it's not right. I agree that no one should oppress homosexuals, but I disagree with legislation to give a format to control every personal right that has been in effect in this country since inception for all people. Homosexuals can say anything to us, but if they are slightly offended, they will sue. This law is wrong. I love my homosexual family members, but I still disagree with homosexual marriage. I should be allowed to think so in this country. I don't want two men making out in front of my daughter at a public place. I don't want that society for my children.

14. Homosexuals are covered by the civil rights laws anyways, why do they need more legislation? This is so odd that our country is favoring such a small community. I have never seen any homosexual oppressed. They work where they want to, they go to any restaurant they want, any place, any where? why is this necessary for them to be happy? All prior laws have been passed by the majority, allow the voting record stands, Hawaii voted no to this bill. You should be better representatives and listen to what your community wants. Why not just add addendum to Another civil union bill? Homosexuals are not oppressed as a whole, as African Americans were pre civil rights days. Homosexuals have all the rights as anyone does. There is no real evidence that this extreme of a law must be put into effect. Tax law, inheritance laws, benefits laws, etc can be changed then making a overlying law into effect that essentially oppresses the masses who are not homosexual. This is wrong.

15. I reject any legislation that prohibits me from practicing my religion, freedom of speech, freedom of choice. I should be able to defend my position without being forced by law and threat of lawsuits. I already have to include homosexuals at work, in the community, and every part of American life, why now do I have to include homosexual advantage into my personal life and religion by force. Everything has been working fine in society up to now, this law is too vague and too overly general and it oppresses more people than it is intending to serve. The civil rights of homosexuals should be protected. But when

you tell me I cannot object to how I live my life is too personal, if a owner of a private establishment does not want to serve homosexuals due to their religious beliefs, should be allowed to do so. I do not oppress homosexuals, but they are trying to oppress me. They use the Christians as a whipping post, but all major religions object to homosexual marriage. Homosexuals were around during biblical times, look at Sodom and Gomorrah and how young boys were forced into sexual slavery and raped because it was a belief that it was their civil right in their society. Where does the morals stand in society? Where is it going in our State? I do not oppress homosexuals because it is within my religion not to hate the sinner, but tell the truth in love. This whole bill is wrong, it oppresses the majority, it oppresses my right to religion.

16. I do not think this law is to everyone's benefit. A new more inclusive law that allows rights already guaranteed by law that this new law cannot supersede.

17. It is not true that heterosexuals are separating "homosexual families". Family should be ohana, be who you are. Hawaii has traditionally accepted all kinds of families. It is unfair to throw that accusation. There is family where each person feels there is family. I feel like my friends are family, but I'm not asking for some special law to be passed for that.

Keep the vote of the majority of this states rights valid. We don't want it in our schools, in our hospitals, in our churches. Stop this favoring one group over the other for greedy benefit of federal dollars.

Keep your state out of my religion.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ehrgott

Taxpayer

Citizen

Opposer of this particular bill

Voter who is not afraid to vote for someone else next round

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: Susan Serrao [<mailto:sserrao1@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 7:52 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB#1

To: House Judiciary and Finance Committees

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

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

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE

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

I believe marriage should be between a man and a woman. I have lived in Hawaii all my life and feel that WE the people here in Hawaii should have a Voice in what we want our state. We are an Ohana state which is very different from the mainland.

Let's not make a decision on what others want that don't even live in Hawaii. Let's do what the people of Hawaii want...

Give us an opportunity to vote on the issue and if it goes yes I can live with it. Let's all work together for the better of the People of

Hawaii. Remember you represent ALL the People in Hawaii and we Trust you will make the right decisions.

Sincerely, Susan Serrao-Mililani

From: David [<mailto:kawika09@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 8:17 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Testimony regarding SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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:

It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent.

Same sex "marriage" should not be passed in a special session because:

- a. Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles. We the People voted in this issue in 1998. The current polls show that Hawaii favors same sex "marriage". So why not let We the People vote (again)?
- b. Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision on same sex "marriage". If the need was truly dire then why haven't the 34 other states that do not permit same sex "marriage" done so?
- c. Marriage is an institution and NOT a civil right and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.
- d. A (five day) special session is not enough time to discuss this, the most controversial issue of our time.

In closing I would like to you know that I greatly appreciate your representation of all the voters of the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo and Aloha,

David

From: Patricia Chung [<mailto:pattikm@hawaii.rr.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 9:28 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testifying against SB1

Patricia Chung
98-1453 F Kaahumanu Street
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701
10/28/13

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

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

My name is Patricia Chung. I was born and raised in Hawaii and have been a public school teacher in this state for 23 years. I have taught kindergarten for 14 of those years.

I am testifying today to say I oppose same-sex marriage and I oppose the Special Session.

A lot of people think, "Oh, everyone should have rights," and then they just support same-sex marriage. But this bill, that the governor hopes to pass, is so much beyond that.

Although I do not support same-sex marriage, I understand that homosexuals would like to have the same rights as heterosexuals. I'm not out to bash homosexuals. I have many friends and family members who are homosexual. The part that I find very difficult to accept is that this bill, that Governor Abercrombie is bringing up in the Special Session, can take away MY rights and freedom.

There are examples within and outside of the United States, where same-sex marriage has been legalized, and has taken away the rights of the average citizen. Canada and Massachusetts are a couple of examples.

If this bill passes, I, as a teacher, could lose my job if I do not teach that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. And it doesn't matter if you are in a private school, or if you home school - you will be held under this law. It will affect our children and grandchildren.

In Canada, homosexuality is taught as acceptable in kindergarten with books like Daddy's Wedding (with two men getting married) and King and King. In 2nd and 3rd grade children would role-play and have two children of the same sex "get married" from an adult in clerical attire. And in 6th and 7th grade, students are taught about masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, and more. Vulgar posters have been posted in high schools - one with the F-word blatantly displayed as a verb; one with two men (in position) on how to give good oral sex! I know this is horrific to hear, but it has actually happened! It makes me sick to my stomach that children are exposed to such trash in the names of "equality" and "education".

We hope and pray that it doesn't come to this in Hawaii.

I share this because we need to be informed!! People are making decisions based on very inaccurate, naive information. Again, this is not to bash homosexuals. I believe most homosexuals would just like to have the same rights as heterosexuals - I bet if they knew this could happen in our schools and communities, they would not want to see it happen either.

This is why I am am testifying. Huge entities from outside of Hawaii, with horrific agendas and vast amounts of money, are trying to control and change our islands to support their viewpoint. I cannot just sit and let this type of agenda slip into our beautiful Hawaii - all because our people are so loving and accepting. I hate to see our people deceived. I/we need to fight for our rights and the rights of the generations to come.

If this bill passes, I ask that there be an amendment for teachers who do not support same-sex marriage to "opt-out" of being forced to teach it, and that doing so would not be labeled a "hate crime".

Thank you for hearing me out.
Aloha,
Patricia Chung

From: Brian & Cheryle O [<mailto:makanui@mac.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 8:53 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees,

1. I am opposed because this bill, combined with the previously passed accommodations law, compels conscientious objectors to ACCOMMODATE lascivious behaviors
 - a. Forced accommodation is wrong, it violates the 1st amendment
 - b. Language of bill is insufficient to protect religious liberty
 - c. No protections at all for individuals, small businesses, & religious schools
2. Rights to freedom of conscience and religion are denied
 - a. This bill will lead to litigation
 - b. Do not leave it for the courts to settle; do it right the first time
3. The people of Hawai'i already decided this in 1998
 - a. This special session is political stunt by the Hawaii Democratic party which should reimburse the state of Hawaii for this unnecessary expense
 - b. Same-sex marriage has waited for millennia; it can wait a few more months to get it right
4. Slippery slope: is every behavior now a right? Are these next:
 - a. "Entertainment equality" for gamblers
 - b. "Driving equality" for drunks
 - c. "Expression equality" for graffiti vandals
 - d. "Buzz equality" for meth heads
 - e. "Printing equality" for counterfeiters
 - f. "Age equality" for pedophiles

5. Homosexual behavior is not a right, it is wrong! Religion has nothing to do with it
 - a. Same-sex *orientation* is neutral
 - b. Homosexual *behavior* is harmful to individuals and communities
 - i. High risk, irresponsible; their sexual activity is unspeakably perverse
 - ii. Gay males have hundreds of “partners” in a lifetime
 - iii. Coercive, exploitive, deceptive, violent, pernicious: it has always been so
6. Deceptive rhetoric
 - a. “Marriage equality” for unequal, counterfeit relationships
 - b. “Rights”: sodomy is not a civil right. No rights should be granted to special groups for special behaviors.
 - c. “Homophobe” is used to attack anyone who dares to disagree
 - d. Gays are portrayed as “victims” but they behave rudely, vandalize, physically intimidate their opponents with threats of violence
 - e. “Unfair”; It also unfair to discriminate against drunk drivers, but it is necessary to check misbehavior
 - f. “Separation of church and state” is trotted out anytime there is a mention of religion; meanwhile, gays commit hate-crimes against churches
 - g. Tolerance: Gays demand it yet will not tolerate any who disagree with them (ask Mike Gabbard what happened to him for opposing same sex marriage)
7. Mixed message: the state mandates safety (seat belts laws, prohibiting texting while driving, etc) but now endorses harmful “gay” behavior
8. This is not about religion: 1000s of years of human experience teach us that homosexual behavior is wrong
 - a. Change to public opinion in last 20yrs is based upon distortions (see 6 above)
 - b. Now days, anything goes; are there no limits to behavior or decency?
 - c. Our kupuna were wiser; listen to them: Say no to homosexual behavior

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono

Mahalo, Brian O'Brien, Kailua, HI

House JUD/FIN Committees
Public Hearing, 10/31/13, 10:00 am
SB1: Support
In-Person Testimony: Alan R. Spector, Kaneohe

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.

Alan R. Spector, continued, page 2 of 2

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.

**From: Michael J. Ward, Ordained Minister & Lead Elder, New Hope
Leeward Church and Faculty Administrator &
Professor, New Hope Christian College - Hawaii
94-1023 Pouhana Way
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
(808) 343-2280**

**Committee & Hearing: Committees on Judiciary & Finance Hearing
on October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (JUD-
FIN 10-31-13)**

Measure number: SB1

Intend to testify in person.

**Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1, The Hawaii
Marriage Equality Act of 2013**

Aloha, Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am Mike Ward, a resident of Royal Kunia in Waipahu and a proud member of Rep. Ty Cullen's district. I want to offer him and Rep. Sharon Har my special thanks and future political support for their strong and unflagging support on this issue and many other issues of our Leeward community. As a very concerned senior citizen of this great state, I am submitting this testimony against SB1, which would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

In 1998 I voted for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. We, the majority of registered Hawaiian voters felt then, and we still feel now, that for thousands of years the institution of marriage has been between one man and one woman and should stay so. Any attempt to redefine marriage as an institution MUST be taken to the people, as a whole, where we can exercise our democratic rights. Please let the people you and your committee members represent decide by a constitutional amendment. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what

the voters in Hawaii have already decided, and we are not happy!

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—a sacred right that I proudly served in the United States Air Force for 30 years to defend, and one I have seen dismantled in state after state that has brought in same-sex marriage!

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

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael J. Ward

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SENATE BILL 1

Thursday October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna and I am a Registered voter of House District 47. I am testifying against Senate Bill 1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of Hawaii.

As written, SB-1 does not provide adequate religious protections. SB-1 should explicitly state that no religious organization, person, or business shall be required to provide or perform services for same sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires. SB-1 leaves churches and people of faith in the wedding-services industry vulnerable and at risk.

Many churches will be charged with discrimination if they refuse to allow same sex weddings to be solemnized on their properties. The exemptions included in SB-1 are only for the solemnization of the marriage. The exemptions do not cover same sex wedding receptions, celebrations, and anniversary parties.

On Page 2 of S.B. No. 1 line 11 it states that this bill protects religious freedom and liberty, but then it continues on line 17 with a condition. Clarifying that unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration. This means that any church which allows weddings for a profit will then be forced against their religious beliefs to perform same sex weddings. That is blatantly taking away our religious rights and freedoms. The laws were made to protect our rights and freedoms. You cannot create a new law that will take away our existing rights and freedoms. The First Amendment protects from government interference. The government has absolutely no business ordering the church to conform to the state's desire in order to qualify for the protections.

In order to qualify for the exemptions, a church must only allow members to get married on its properties. Any church that allows non-members to be married in its buildings will not be able to claim this exemption. Discrimination charges will be filed against such a church if it refuses to host same sex weddings.

In order to qualify for the protections, the church must regularly use the portions of the property for religious purposes. If a couple asks to be married at the church and they want to use the bathrooms, parking lot, grassy lawn, kitchen, and hall, the Civil Rights Commission will inquire whether the parking lot, bathroom, and lawn are regularly used for religious purposes. If the answer is that any one of those areas is not used regularly for religious purposes, the church will not qualify for the protections.

If the legislature really wanted to exempt churches, it would simply say, “Churches are exempt”. The conditions attached to this bill leaves many churches vulnerable and in danger of facing discrimination complaints if they decline to host same-sex weddings.

Under Hawaii law, every photographer, baker, florist, and entertainer that serves weddings will also have to serve same sex weddings, even if the owner has a genuine religious belief that same sex marriage is wrong for him or her to support. It is not only clergy and churches that have First Amendment rights; everyday citizens do too. When the government forces someone to act in a way that goes against his or her sincerely held religious beliefs this violates the First Amendment.

The federal appeals court ruled in June 2013 that businesses do in fact religious liberty rights that protect the business from compulsion to violate the sincerely held religious beliefs of the owners. See the 10th Circuit Court of appeals opinion in the Hobby Lobby case.

SB-1 should explicitly state that no religious organization, person, or business shall be required to provide or perform services for same sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires.

Mahalo,

Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna

(808) 489-2270

Honorable Representatives,

I am a registered voter and I'm urging you to oppose the special session bill to legalize same-sex marriage.

The tactics by this government to keep the bill out of regular session, restrict amendments, and to limit public testimony is evidence that the government is not interested in the will of the people. This Special session amounts to a state imposed redefinition of marriage that lacks a clear substantive state interest. The debate has been myopic, focusing solely on the issue of benefits without any reasonable discussion related to the social science impact of such a decision.

This dangerous bill amounts to an imposed a "new morality" on the people of Hawaii, threatening the First Amendment rights of tens of thousands, and trampling on the democratic process of this Aloha state.

Whatever your personal beliefs are on this matter, I urge you to allow the people to decide this issue.

Respectfully,

Michael B. McGuire

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kristine Brown

Honolulu, HI 96825

To: Members of the Legislature and the general public
From: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Re: Special Session SB1, Marriage Equality
Date: October 24, 2013

Aloha kakou,

If you recognize my name, it's probably because of my activism in opposition to race-based political sovereignty for ethnic Hawaiians -- I oppose the Akaka bill, and the Kau Inoa, Kana'iolowalu racial registries which the Legislature has endorsed.

But on this occasion I'm writing to support the concept of marriage equality. My position on both of these issues derives from my fundamental commitment to equality.

I believe we are all equal in the eyes of God, and we should all be treated equally under the law by our government -- regardless of race, and regardless of gender or sexual preference.

I also believe in the separation of church and state. So regarding Hawaiian sovereignty, I believe it's unconstitutional and immoral for our government to establish the ancient Hawaiian religion as having a privileged position in government decision-making regarding "sacred land" or "sacred taro" or what to do when bones are discovered during construction projects.

In the same way, I believe we should separate the religious aspect of marriage from the civil aspect. A church should see only the religious aspect of marriage, as a sacred ceremony uniting souls in the eyes of God. Government should see only the civil aspect of marriage as a contractual partnership, enforced by government, whereby the partners acquire legal rights and responsibilities related to property, financial support, taxation, child custody, etc.

A religious institution should have the right to solemnize a marriage, or refuse to solemnize a marriage, solely in accord with its theology or prejudices, untrammelled by any government laws or regulations. Indeed, if a Muslim imam chooses to marry a man to 4 wives, that should be a matter entirely between the man, the 4 women, the imam, and God; with no interference from the government.

However, a marriage performed by a priest, minister, rabbi, or imam should have no legal consequences, and should never be authorized beforehand by the government nor certified afterward by the government. The famous final words spoken by priests in a marriage ceremony should never be spoken anymore: "Now by the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii I hereby pronounce you ...". No priest should have any authority vested in him by the government, and whatever a priest does regarding marriage should have no consequences for the government. It violates the separation of church and state when the state grants a particular religion or reverend the right to function as an agent of the government to sign a government certificate of marriage conferring government benefits such as tax exemptions or rights to financial support.

People wishing to create a contractual relationship with rights and responsibilities enforced by government must get a license issued by the government. The government should create a booklet comparable to the "Rules of the Road", written under authorization of the Attorney General, specifying what are the rights and responsibilities; and prospective partners should be required to pass a test to demonstrate their knowledge of those rights and responsibilities before they can get a license from the government.

When doctors, dentists, lawyers or business executives decide to form a partnership, the government does not inquire into their genders or whether they are having sexual relations or what kind of sexual relations they engage in. The same should be true regarding governmental certification of marriage as a civil partnership.

"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which is God's." Let neither church nor government interfere with the kuleana of the other. Let a church allow or prohibit same-gender marriage according to its own theology and prejudices, regardless of governmental laws; but marriages performed by churches should not be recognized or certified by government and should have no legal consequences. Let government certify marriages having legal consequences in the same way it certifies business partnerships, regardless of the genders or sexual practices of the partners. If a church operates its facilities as a business, performing marriages for fee-paying non-members, then the church should be subject to the same regulations regarding non-discrimination in public accommodations as any other business, and should be required to pay taxes on its business income and its real property.

People wanting to get married should be able to choose either a sacramental marriage in a church, or a civil marriage licensed by the government; or they may choose to have both. Most people will probably want both. But they cannot get both through the same ceremony or at the same time or place.

Thank you for your attention to my thoughts.

October 29, 2013

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

House's Committee on Judiciary

House's Committee on Finance

Hawaii State Capitol

Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights

WRITTEN TESTIMONY (and I will be testifying verbally)

Aloha Chairperson Rhoads and Luke, Vice Chairs Har, Nishimoto and Johanson and fellow committee members,

Equality, Equality, Equality. Please let the strengthening of our relationship and our ohana, come legally before the State and the church of my choosing by passing SB1. There would be no greater honor in our lifetime.

Please exercise your authority without fear, please.

We'll get married, continue to live a quite life in Manoa and continue to be successful, viable contributions to society, our city and state. That is a promise.

Sincerely,

Carmela Tafoya

2320 Sonoma St.

Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

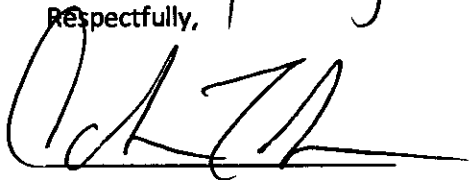
Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time, for reading this with an open heart.

I am 54 years old. I live every moment of my life just as you do, and have since I was 17 years old. Every moment just as you do, with aloha, mobility and pride as a very viable, remarkable contribution to society, my community, my state, my church, my and my partners family you name it. I especially contribute to the causes that impact children and the elderly. I have a great passion for making a profound difference to humanity in my life time. The only thing I can't do is marry, please vote yes!

Respectfully,

 Please

Name (print): Carmela Tafuya

Street: 2320 Sonoma St.

City: Honolulu, HI 96822

Email address: aloha@rocketmail.com

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.

Diane Ho

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Delsa Moe	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To members of the House of Representatives, I oppose SB1 and ask that you side with the majority of the people of Hawaii and vote "NO" on this bill. In 1998, the people of this state VOTED to define marriage as being between a man and a woman and yet our governor thinks he is above the will of the people and initiated an unnecessary special session of the legislature to rush this controversial bill through. Why? As we have seen thus far this week, this has created a firestorm in our state as the often silent majority has risen up to defend their position on the sacred institution of marriage. Shame on Gov Abercrombie for not trusting the judgement of the people who voted him in to office, the same people who should be voting on an issue as important as this one. The Senate Judiciary Committee ignored the fact that 60% of the testimonies presented on Monday were against SB1 and passed it anyway. The thousands of people who turned up for Monday night's rally against SB1 can't be ignored, as well as the thousands of submitted emails and signatures on petitions against SB1. The senators obviously have ignored the will of their constituents and moved on their personal agendas and I ask that as our Representatives, you will truly represent us and vote NO on SB1. Mahalo for your time.

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

I am strongly in favor of SB 1.

I have to admit that in 1998, I didn't realize that some of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and transgender) community really wanted to get married, to receive the benefits of their social security and taxes, or even become a family. I thought, as a group, they were self sufficient and able to hire lawyers to settle any legal questions that may arise. What was the big deal? I voted against equality for all.

Our son came out to us a few years later, and I began to learn what it means to be gay. In fact, I was surprised at how many gay people I already knew...doctors, lawyers, military personnel, city and state employees, teachers, and religious... the list goes on and on. Quite understandably, most of these people kept this part of their lives a secret. It brought tears to my eyes when young people and even people close to my age would describe being rejected by their own families after they shared their "secret".

I wish I could take back the vote I cast in 1998. Unfortunately, I have to live with that; but at least I can support efforts today to achieve marriage equality. Please pass SB 1 so that we can take this important step toward a world in which everyone can live together with love, honesty, and understanding. Mahalo.

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: Susan Roth
678 Kalanipuu St.
Honolulu, HI 96816
hi2mom@aol.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 strongly in favor of SB 1. I have to admit that in 1998, I didn't realize that some of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and transgender) community really wanted to get married, to receive the benefits of their social security and taxes, or even become a family. I thought, as a group, they were self sufficient and able to hire lawyers to settle any legal questions that may arise. What was the big deal? I voted against equality for all. Our son came out to us a few years later, and I began to learn what it means to be gay. In fact, I was surprised at how many gay people I already knew...doctors, lawyers, military personnel, city and state employees, teachers, and religious... the list goes on and on. Quite understandably, most of these people kept this part of their lives a secret. It brought tears to my eyes when young people and even people close to my age would describe being rejected by their own families after they shared their "secret". I wish I could take back the vote I cast in 1998. Unfortunately, I have to live with that; but at least I can support efforts today to achieve marriage equality. Please pass SB 1 so that we can take this important step toward a world in which everyone can live together with love, honesty, and understanding. Mahalo.

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

My name is Owen Tanoue, and I am testifying in opposition to both Measure SB-1 relating to Equal Rights and the push for its passage during this week's special session.

As a kama'aina born and raised in Kalihi, as a proud son of a 442nd veteran, as a happily married husband and father of six, and as a concerned citizen of our wonderful state, I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided in virtually one week's time. This urgency has been artificially manufactured as evidenced by the fact that none of the other 35 states facing the same pressures to legalize same-sex marriage has hastily convened a similar special session. They recognize, as should we, that this complex issue must address a myriad of competing liberties affecting all people. The fact that our governor chose to call for this special session unilaterally without first collaborating with our House and Senate leadership is cause for concern that the spirit and principles of democracy are being suppressed. Though he has the power to make this call, the call he made was not pono and definitely not for all the people.

I hope on the other hand that you will make the right call. This special session not only necessarily limits the extent to which my voice and the voice of all my fellow islanders can be heard, but it unnecessarily takes away the opportunity for you as a body to thoughtfully and thoroughly discuss the content and ramifications of a bill with such far-reaching consequences for this unique melting pot of people and cultures we call home. I respectfully remind you of your pledge as our trusted public servants to protect the basic liberties of all of us Americans including the freedom of speech, the freedom of beliefs, the freedom of thought, and the freedom of conscience, and to protect our democratic process which should welcome and never seek to shun or marginalize opposing voices.

Regardless of whether you find yourself leaning in favor of or in opposition to the intent of this bill, I believe the right call right now for all the people of Hawaii is to vote AGAINST the passage of this bill during this special session. Let's take the proper time and use the proper setting to honor and hear the hearts on all sides of this controversy, and to thoughtfully and carefully deliberate the impact of such a measure on our society at large.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to share with you my conviction and concerns.

ALOHA ke AKUA ia `oe!

*Owen Tanoue
Honolulu, HI 96819*

[Testimony on SB1 for the House Judiciary & Finance Committees joint hearing scheduled for 10am on 10/31/13.]

Members of the House,

I took time off Monday to sit in on what I had thought would be a chance to witness the democratic process in motion, instead, what my children and I witnessed was a flagrant and abusive use of authority given by the people of this great state to a judiciary committee who only objective was to quiet the voices of the thousands who stood in opposition of this bill while catering to its proponents. There were literally tens of thousands of people across our state on all Islands who stood in opposition to the bill being presented before you.

The idea of legalizing Same Sex Marriage is far too complicated of an issue to decide on in just 5 days, and at a minimum should be placed on the calendar for discussion during the full convening of both House and Senate in January. Ultimately, it should be voted on by the People of this State and not the select few who have chosen to manipulate our constitutional rights to justify their own agenda

If we went through the process of allowing the people to vote and it was passed I could accept it as the will of ALL the people, But for 76 individuals to speak on behalf of 1.5million and particularly my children is robbing them of their right to due process, and is as unconstitutional as it gets.

Members of the House, Our Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. We the People are the voice of this great state and the ones who have given you the right to act on our behalf. It is your duty to represent ALL OF US!

Please, Please act responsibly and do what you know is right. Do not allow this blatant attack on our freedoms to continue, and let the collective voices of ALL our people be heard

Lee M. Yarbrough

Attorney At Law & Certified Public Accountant

LMY

Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:00am

House Committees on Judiciary and Finance
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill 1 - Relating to Equal Rights – Testimony in Strong Support

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sharon E. Har
Members of the Judiciary Committee

Chairman Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto
Vice Chair Aaron Ling Johanson
Members of the Finance Committee

My name is Lee M. Yarbrough. I am an attorney and CPA practicing primarily in the areas of Estate Planning and Taxes. I have been an active participant in the process leading up to the passage of Act 1 Relating to Civil Unions in 2011, and have offered frequent testimony and advice on bills affecting Reciprocal Beneficiaries and Civil Unions over many years, up to and including the 2012 General Session. I am very active in the legal and accounting professional communities in Hawaii, and have been on many advisory panels to discuss the implementation of the 2011 Civil Unions law and the Civil Unions follow up/clarification bill passed in 2012. In the last two years I have also provided assistance and advice to legislative committees, executive branch agencies, and the Attorney General's office, as well as to community groups and marriage equality advocates, regarding the Civil Unions legislation passed in 2011 and 2012. Most recently I have also provided assistance and advice addressing proposed marriage equality legislation, both in the 2013 General Session and this present Special Session.

As general background information, I reviewed and analyzed both the 8/28/13 and 9/9/13 draft bills addressing Marriage Equality, as proposed by the Abercrombie Administration. I have also made a review and analysis of SB1, which is presently before this committee.

I strongly support the passage of SB1 in its present form. The changes made to the Governor's proposed 9/9/13 bill draft in this SB1 should completely address the religious exemption concerns raised by members of the religious community, the community at large, and many legislators. It does this by:

- a. Adding in language to the purpose section to state explicitly that it is the intent of the legislature to protect religious freedom;
- b. Amending the language in proposed Section 572-E, relating to the refusal to solemnize, to include rabbis, clergy, etc., to make it more inclusive;
- c. Amending the language in the refusal to solemnize provisions to make it clear that the right to refuse belongs to the individual, whether or not they have facilities; and, most importantly, by
- d. Deleting the 3 prong test proposed in the 8/28 and 9/9 bill drafts and replacing it with a clear law which provides that only religious organizations that (1) allow the general public to use its facilities for weddings; and (2) make a profit on those weddings, need to comply with the Public Accommodations Law, i.e., host same-sex weddings. All others will be exempt.

In my opinion, the protections in the current draft of SB 1 are completely adequate to protect the balance between the religious freedoms granted under the First Amendment, without undermining the intent of the Public

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Accommodations laws which prohibit outright discrimination based on any presently protected attribute, including sexual orientation. While SB1 may not address the concerns of those opposed to equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians under any circumstances, including those individuals who want to be able to discriminate in the public accommodations arena based on their individual beliefs, it does protect clergy and religious organizations completely.

It is often said that nothing in life is certain, "except Death and Taxes". As a CPA and Estate planning attorney, these issues (Death and Taxes) are the primary focus of my private law practice. As a result, I get many inquiries regarding the rights and benefits afforded under our present Civil Unions law, and I am constantly asked about the Federal rights to be afforded if SB1 is enacted and Marriage Equality becomes a reality in Hawaii. Let me reiterate that equal rights are the primary focus of those in the LGBT community who have sought equality in the past in the form of Civil Unions, and who seek marriage equality now. As a result of the June 2013 US Supreme Court decision invalidating Section Three of the Defense of Marriage Act, Hawaii's Civil Unions are defective, in that they are, by legal definition, not a marriage. Thus, Hawaii's LGBT citizens in Civil Unions do not now, and cannot and will not in the future, receive any of the same Federal rights and benefits (numbering 1200+, and including Income, Gift, and Estate Taxes, Spousal Social Security Survivor and Death Benefits, Spousal Medicare benefits, Emergency Family Leave benefits, to name just a few) that LGBT citizens of the 14 other states and the District of Columbia (who now have Marriage Equality) presently enjoy. Even citizens of Hawaii who can travel to another state to solemnize a same sex marriage in a permitting jurisdiction will find, upon returning to Hawaii, that only 3 of the 1200+ Federal rights and benefits granted to married spouses (Taxation, Immigration, and Military Spousal benefits) will be afforded them, so long as Hawaii law does not permit same sex marriage.

Only with the passage of SB1 will all married spouses in Hawaii have true equality, with all Federal and State rights and benefits afforded to them. Hawaii's LGBT citizens should not be denied equal rights one day longer, and present public opinion in Hawaii now supports the simple concept of granting LGBT citizens equal marriage rights.

Passage of SB1 in this Special Session will also eliminate many bureaucratic and administrative problems for both governmental agencies and private businesses. The present problems that result from having to sort out the myriad of Federal and State rights and benefits, their tax attributes, and their applicability to and appropriateness for Civil Unions partners in Hawaii, versus the routine and equal applicability for any marital rights, for any married couple in Hawaii (whether same sex or opposite sex) once this legislation is passed, will mostly be a thing of the past.

Passage of SB1 will also presumably render moot any currently pending cases in the US Federal Courts (and most likely future cases), if those cases are based on a denial of equal rights and protections to Hawaii's LGBT citizens under the present Civil Unions law -- without Marriage Equality.

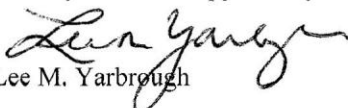
As you well know, the Hawaii constitutional amendment in 1998 reserved the power to adopt the definition of marriage to you, our elected legislators. That power was NOT reserved to the general public by ballot initiative or referendum. In my opinion, no minority groups' rights should ever be voted on by a majority. Our US Constitution, the US Bill of Rights, and the Hawaii Constitution are crafted to protect individual liberties, and in particular, to protect minority rights against the tyranny of a majority.

I urge you to exercise your constitutional power, as our elected representatives, to uphold equal rights for all -- by voting to pass SB1. Public sentiment has changed much since 1998 and the time is now for Marriage Equality and Equal Rights for all in Hawaii. This SB 1 balances the rights of a minority, Hawaii's LGBT citizens, with the religious rights of all Hawaii's population (and not just certain religions), and all-the-while insures that the nondiscrimination provisions of the Public Accommodations laws of Hawaii, which applies to all churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals equally, are upheld.

Please recognize that SB1 has been carefully crafted with much time, thought, and public input, and SB1 does protect Religious Freedom for all, including the non-religious, those religious groups that affirm and support same sex marriage, and those religious groups that reject both homosexuality and same sex marriage outright.

The sooner that this law passes, the sooner that Hawaii's LGBT Citizens will be granted equal marital rights, benefits and protection under both Federal and Hawaii laws! Justice delayed is justice denied.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1.


Lee M. Yarbrough

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Melanie Vakalalabure Pearl City, Hawaii, 96782

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ron Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear House Judiciary/Finance Committee, My name is Ron Yoshida and I am a registered voter in Hawai'i and live at 47-262C Hui Iwa Street, Kaneohe, HI. 96744 Although I stand in OPPOSITION to this bill, more importantly I stand in opposition to this PROCESS of trying to pass this bill in a rushed 5 DAY SPECIAL SESSION. I am humbly asking all of you as the Committee to please vote "No" on this bill, NOT BECAUSE you don't support Same Sex Marriage, but because this very important and controversial issue SHOULD NOT BE RUSHED through in a Special 5 day Session, but should be discussed in a regular session - which is only 3 months away. Historically, Special Sessions have been used for emergency situations only (i.e. Super Ferry, 911, Special Budget Items, etc). This Same Sex Marriage Issue is far from an Emergency situation. I believe this special session maneuver DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF RESPECT as well as an ABUSE of our Democratic process. Hawai'i has discussed in length the Civil Unions issue in the past, but we have yet to fully discuss the issue of Same Sex Marriage. The last time we talked about this was in 1998. I believe that everyone is entitled to their opinion and we all have the right to express it based on our First Amendment right of Freedom of Speech. This rushed 5 day session, will not give adequate time for everyone to express their views. It will not give you as our elected officials adequate time to properly debate the merits of this bill. I believe that to rush this bill through in a surprise move by the Governor is somewhat insulting to the people of Hawaii. In fact, EVEN IF I WAS A SUPPORTER OF Same Sex Marriage, I would not like to have it legalized in this rushed special session fashion. It just wouldn't feel right; it wouldn't be "Pono." Therefore, I believe legislators can still stand firm and support Same Sex Marriage while voting against the bill in this Special Session BECAUSE A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself. The regular session is just a few months away. Let's wait. If I may repeat this: FOR LEGISLATORS THAT SUPPORT SAME SEX MARRIAGE, A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself. In Hawai'i, the phrase "Talk Story" is an important part of our everyday lives. We need more time to "Talk Story" about this very important issue that will affect all of Hawai'i for years to come. I appreciate having this opportunity to write to you. I welcome a call from you to discuss this more. My cell number is 265-5566. Thank you again. And thank you again for serving me, my family, and our beloved Hawai'i. Mahalo, Ron Yoshida

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Atama Vakalalabure Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Lice Tale Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

From: randftadda@aol.com [<mailto:randftadda@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:50 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Oppose SB1

Aloha is the spirit of Hawaii and it is being distorted to include making a mockery of marriage. If this current legislature believes that it can take advantage of the natural goodness and good nature of voters and passes this bill, they will surely find themselves out of work at the coming election.

The analogy made by Abe Lincoln many years ago is still true. If we decide to call the tail of a dog a leg, how many legs will the dog have??? Four. Just because something is mislabeled, doesn't make it true. We cannot label a feeling of illicit lust between two people of the same sex and call it marital love and so give it the name of marriage. Whatever adults feel, it is not going to be fruitful and produce children. It will confuse the children of such couples and lead to entering our school system to further confound our society. All other creatures created by God almighty instinctively know that same sex coupling does not, can not, and never will be good for this world. Why is our erstwhile governor taking it upon himself to state that while God created Man in His own image, male and female, He created them on the sixth day of creation, he, the governor will create them equal--male plus male and female plus female in matrimony? Such arrogance is blasphemous and hubris.

Do not follow such distorted 'leadership'.

Let the people decide AGAIN. Do not forget the voting in 1998. This disgruntled splinter group say they want civil rights but in truth, they will go much further than just changing the definition of marriage, they will change (mar and destroy) our society.

Do not vote in favor of this bill. For shame.

Rosalie Tadda (Mrs. for 65 years)

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Lilian Vakalalabure Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Nathaniel Won Pearl City, Hawaii, 96782

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Zachery Won Pearl City, Hawaii, 96782

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Kelemedi Silikiwai Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Melanie Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Rosi Mateinaniu Kaneohe Hawaii, 96744

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 today to voice my opposition of Bill SB1 for three reasons. Equality of marriage for same-sex citizens who have sexual preferences other than traditional male/female marriages, is justifying aberrations of sexuality of all sorts.

Legalizing same-sex marriage would grant same-sex couples full adoptions right and parental rights in many scenarios. I am a Family Resources major from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Parenting curriculum strongly suggest the great value of both a father AND mother in the lives of children as necessary for the development of a healthy child.

Lastly, there is no conscience clause within the bill that protects Hawaii's citizens from disagreeing with the views of their pro same-sex employers. For example, if a person in the Hawaii State Department of Health does not agree with same-sex marriages, he/she should be granted protection, under the law, to step away from the licensing process without injury to her career advancement.

If equal treatment is the goal of this committee, I strongly propose a conscience clause be added to protect the conscience of citizens within the workplace regardless of whether the workplace is in the public or private sector.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ofner

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Atama Vakalalabure	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Heidi Won Pearl City Hawaii, 96782

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Shaun Kawakami

City, State: Mililani, Hawaii

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL, SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS**

Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:

I am in firm opposition of SB1. My name is Shaun Kawakami, born and raised in Aiea and now live in Mililani with my beautiful wife, Izumi, and our two daughters. I went to Waimalu Elementary, graduated from Punahou School and UH Manoa.

I am 28 years old and I want you to know that I am from the younger generation, the Millennials, and I do care about this issue and I strongly disagree with redefining marriage. I am not a homophobe or a hater. I am a young person, I am a husband, I am a father, and I value and love all people without discrimination. I am all for people being treated equally.

If this legislation is truly about equality of federal rights and benefits for same-sex couples, then let's address it at the proper level of government, with the U.S. Congress. Pass legislation that gives same-sex couples in civil-unions all the rights and benefits that heterosexual married couples have at the federal level, not by redefining the institution of marriage at the state level. By doing so, you will avoid bringing about more divisiveness and unrest in our great State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Shaun Kawakami

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Siew Peng Chow	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: In 1998 the people of Hawaii had already voted for traditional marriage between one man and one woman. It is unconstitutional and a miscarriage of the fundamental principles of democracy to call for Special Session and let elected legislators to nullify the people's referendum of 1998 and define marriage for the people of Hawaii. State legislators in number is less than 1 percent of the total population of the people of Hawaii. How can this small minority decide for the people of Hawaii the definition of marriage. PLEASE VOTE NO AND RESPECT THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII WHO HAS PUT YOU IN OFFICE THROUGH A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF BALLOT. Vote No to SB1

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Dona Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Dona Yoshida

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cal Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Cal Chinen

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joy Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Joy Chinen

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Daniel Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Daniel Chinen

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Erin Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Erin Chinen

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sandy Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Glenn Shimabukuro

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kathy Kurata	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Kathy Kurata

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Norman Ray Simpson Jr	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: Chair Karl Roads, Committee on Judiciary and Labor From: Norman R. Simpson Jr 92-804 Ahikoe Street Kapolei, Hawaii 96707 (808) 352-3799 Subject: In-Person Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and Senate Bill 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 at 10:00 am on Thursday 31 October 2013. Aloha Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, As a very concerned citizen of this great state, I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii. For thousands of years the institution of marriage has been between one man and one woman. Any attempt to redefine marriage as an institution MUST be taken to the people, as a whole, where we can exercise our democratic rights. Please let the people you and your committee members represent decide by a constitutional amendment. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided, and we are not happy! 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—a sacred right that I proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for over 20 years to defend, and one I have seen dismantled in state after state that has brought in same-sex marriage! 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 the voters, defined it in 1998 B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and let the will of the people vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. Mahalo Nui Loa, Norman R. Simpson JR

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Randall Kurata	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Randall Kurata

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Gerri Otaguro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Gerri Otaguro

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Darryl Yim	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Darryl Yim

My Name is Robin Nagasako. I am a voter in Waianae, Hawaii. I am Opposed to SB 1

For a couple of reasons:

1) Since no amendments can be made, public testimony and legislative concerns cannot be accommodated and democracy is denied.

2) In 1998, we, the people, believed that the constitutional amendment defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

--Marriage is not a civil right as defined by any court, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

--Therefore, the only right, democratic thing to do is to let the people decide.

3) Lastly and most importantly, I am a mother and a grandmother. I want my grandchildren to grow up with the values of our founding fathers. This country was founded on the values of traditional marriage. To redefine marriage to adjust to the changing culture is to redefine our religious freedom and values that this country was founded upon.

Please reconsider this bill and remember the many that have shed their blood based on the values and principles of our founding fathers.

To the Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Stephen Mun and I am opposed to legalizing Same Sex Marriage in our state.

As legislators you have all taken an oath uphold the democratic process. This bill is being fast tracked in this special session without a true opportunity for amendments to be made. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can be properly discussed, deliberated, and examined as all other bills.

I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. Please let the people, whom you represent, make the final decision. Thank you.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Gabe El Swaify	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Representative Rhoads and Honorable Chair Representative Luke and Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Please allow this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Mahalo, Gabe El Swaify

From: Dianne Nowak [<mailto:alohadianne@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 11:01 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Cc: Bob Nowak

Subject: Please Consider

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Most of our peers in the camp of "opposition" to SB1 are not opposed to Civil Unions with the requisite rights and privileges. We recognize that there will always be same sex partners who should indeed have financial and medical rights with each other. They are in a committed *partnership* -- but not a marriage by the very definition of the word marriage.

Aside from redefining marriage in an erroneous manner, we are concerned about the slippery slope of subsequent educational agendas that are likely to pervade our schools -just as happened in Massachusetts. Please don't demoralize those of us who uphold Christian values and the sanctity of marriage by passing SB1. We are not so naive as to think that this bill will be brought before the people for a vote. Clearly, the Senate super majority won't allow for that. Rather, we are asking for you to look deeply into your conscience and make the hard decision to stop the erosion of the Christian principles that founded this nation - and this great state of Hawaii. Please leave the civil unions of same sex partners in it's current form but defend the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. PLEASE vote no on SB1.

Sincerely,
Bob and Dianne Nowak
Ewa Beach

To the honorable members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

My name is Antonia Agbannawag. I am offering **SUPPORT** for **SB1**, Relating to Equal Rights, from a student perspective. Marriage equality is one of the important issues that my generation must face. The subject deserves to be addressed by lawmakers, as it impacts our personal freedoms and our futures, as many of my peers in this community would identify themselves as LGBTQ.

What's more is that our generation generally embraces our LGBTQ peers as equals and *assumes* we will all have the same opportunities as youth working toward our futures. But we would be wrong to just assume because in Hawai'i, this is not yet the case.

From the student perspective, we are preparing ourselves to make outstanding contributions to our communities. Here at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in particular, we have outstanding and diverse students that are looking ahead to start their careers, but many are looking back across the Pacific, and end up leaving this place.

We cultivate and empower great minds and talents, but we are suffering from a "brain drain" – we watch our best and brightest leave the island for better and more opportunities.

Without equality for all, we continue to push people away. But, by **SB1** in **SUPPORT** of marriage equality, we can make the Aloha State a truly welcoming place for all. For each and every student, a fair place to learn and express freely, and afterward, a wonderful place to *stay*, work, play, live and love without bias or restriction, and furthermore, an open and safe place to raise a family, in whatever form that may be.

Mahalo for your time and careful consideration in **SUPPORTING SB1**.

Antonia Agbannawag

aagbanna@hawaii.edu
(520) 975-5240

From: sonarman.77@gmail.com [<mailto:sonarman.77@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Patrick Finneran

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 11:42 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 1

Karl Rhoads, Chair

House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair

House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

My name is Patrick S. Finneran, I am 24 years old, and I live at 98-1002 Kaonohi Street in Aiea (House District 31). I wanted to let you know that I strongly support the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I strongly support every individual's right to make whatever choices they want to in pursuit of their own happiness to the extent that it does not infringe upon the rights of others. I feel the clauses in SB 1 adequately protect religious persons and institutions from any infringement upon their rights to freedom of religion as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the US Constitution and Section 4 of Article 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution. Under this law, no person is being forced to do anything which is not a function of their occupation, and no one is excepted from being able to pursue their own satisfaction to the greatest extent possible. This is a progressive law, and I'm excited to see Hawaii finally having a conclusion to this long process.

Sincerely,

Patrick S. Finneran

Testimony Special Legislative hearing, same sex marriage. HB 1 and or SB 1.

Opposition, October 27th, 2013

From Tula and Cam Cavasso, Retired State Representative.

Dear Committee Chairmen and members,

We address our opposition to and ask you to vote against this bill for two key reasons.

Number one this bill attacks the freedom of faith, the freedom of religion, a fundamental right so important to our nations value system that it was specifically covered in our Bill of Rights by the very First Amendment to our US Constitution before ratification. "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, neither shall it deny the free exercise thereof". This bill has the effectual result of denying the free exercise of faith or religion by individuals, organizations, businesses, schools, churches, synagogues, or places of worship.

Number two, this bill as written has the secondary effect of reverse discrimination against those who by faith and religious written doctrine believe in specific sexual moral values and behavior respecting their families, parenting, relationships, home building, education, and daily practices in every aspect of life. This bill effectively grants or places into law a preferred "Civil Rights" status based on a moral or chosen behavior lifestyle to the exclusion of other moral lifestyles beliefs and values, far beyond the immutable characteristics of regular civil rights protections such as for race, gender or national origin which are based not on action or morality, but on birth.

Proponents of this bill claim the religious exclusion or exemptions will protect people of faith and religious values, practices and churches. This claim of protection is untrue.

The so called religious protection clauses neither effectively protects religious free speech and lifestyle nor does it protect their freedom of assembly in religious social settings or churches.

This bill as proposed will effectively serve to quell free speech and assembly based on the moral values relating to sexuality, marriage, family and every other aspect of our Hawaii community. The chairman of the Hawaii Civil Rights commission has already publicly expressed sentiments making it clear that if this bill is passed into law that he will use it drag into court by lawsuit, individuals, business people and leaders of assemblies, pitting them against the financial and intimidating power of the State. In other words it is apparent that this bill, if passed, will be used to quell free religious speech.

The subject, wording and ramifications of this bill need much greater study both of impact and long term ramifications including its unintended consequence in all aspects of our community.

We have addressed only two of many reasons to recommit this bill for reconsideration in the Regular Session beginning in January for the much more detailed study of the current and future consequences it deserves. Please do not rush this highly emotional and complicated subject to half considered action.

We respectfully ask you to you hold this bill.

H. THOMAS KAY, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

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

My name is Tom Kay. I am a kama‘aina attorney. I strongly oppose enacting S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in this Second Special Session of the Hawaii State Legislature.

Such action will be unconstitutional under Article 1 §23 of the Hawaii Constitution. §23 provides as follows:

“The legislature shall have power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples.”

§23 was enacted by the legislature in 1997 as an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution and ratified by 69.2 percent of the voters in 1998. The sole purpose of this constitutional amendment was to reverse the Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the Baehr v. Lewin case in which the court had held that same-sex marriages in Hawaii were constitutional. Following the passage of §23 the Hawaii Supreme Court held, in an unreported decision, that the §23 constitutional marriage amendment validated HRS §572-1 which states that marriage can only be between one man and one woman.

To the 285,671 Hawaii voters out of 412,820 who cast votes in 1998, this meant that by reading constitutional amendment §23 along with the language of HRS §572-1 there could be no legal marriages of same-sex couples in Hawaii.

It also means to the voters today including those of the 285,671 voters still living in Hawaii that any consideration of legalizing marriage of same-sex couples must require an amendment to §23 of the Hawaii Constitution by a vote of the people of Hawaii.

If the Hawaii Legislature in this special session passes the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act two inevitable events will occur:

1. Litigation in both federal and state courts will continue for many years to determine whether the Marriage Act is constitutional before it is ever implemented.
2. There will be an extremely large group of angry Hawaii voters whose right to vote on this major issue was abrogated by current legislators.

The obvious solution to this dilemma is to let the Hawaii voters decide on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry under Hawaii law.

From: Jeremy Honold [<mailto:jhonold13@my.whitworth.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:44 AM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Ms. 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 thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB-1 at the Join House Hearing scheduled on October 31, 2013. Thank you for respecting my rights as a US citizen and registered voter in the State of Hawaii. Below is an outline of what I will be testifying to:

1. The Same-sex marriage should not be addressed in a special session for the following reasons:
 - a. A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issues of our time. For such a controversial issue, time and patience should be used to explore every nook and cranny, seen and unseen.
 - b. No amendments to the bill are permitted which circumvents the democratic process.
 - c. Does a "yes" vote to SB-1 reflect the heart of the people of Hawaii? Or does it reflect a small minority who have made their voices heard?
 - d. The proposed religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations.
 - e. The proposed religious exemption does nothing to protect individual business owners, teachers or other citizens right to practice their religious freedom (a violation of the first amendment.
 - f. In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted on this issue and a 70% majority specified that Marriage was defined as a union between a man and a woman.

2. Legislators are elected to respect the fundamental Democratic principles provided for in the State of Hawaii and the United States constitutions.
 - a. In 1998 the people voted against the same-sex marriage issue. If the people of Hawaii has had a change of heart in the past 15 years, let them prove it by giving them an opportunity to vote on the issue again.
 - b. Marriage is not a civil right and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.
 - c. The democratic process is founded on the concept of letting the people voice their opinion by means of voting. The special session bypasses the people's voice, thereby disrespecting the Democratic principle that we as Americans stand on.

I believe that the current bill trying to pass by special session called by the Governor ignores my rights as a citizen, ignores my right to religious freedom, and goes against the will of the people.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Honold
91-1022-C Keokolo St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Daniese Gentzler [<mailto:dgentzler91@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:03 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

Aloha, my name is Daniese Gentzler, I am 22 years old residing in Maili. First of all, mahalo for the opportunity to express my opinion. In regards to SB 1 I am in strong opposition and ask that you do not pass the bill because I am young and I know this will impact my future, and as the future of this beautiful state I would like to teach my future generations to come what is right. Traditional marriage with one man and one woman is right in the eyes of God. Not only will it change the education of our younger generations, but also it will take away the religious rights of most churches because they do not fall under 572-G. If the bill is approved, they are mandated by law to perform same-sex marriages. It forces them to go against their beliefs and traditional values.

Mahalo Again,
Daniese Gentzler

Honorable Sirs/Ma'ams;

29 OCT 2013

My name is Kimon Nicolaides III. I am 62 years of age and for the past 2 years I served as the Command Chaplain for the 9th Mission Support Command headquartered in Ft Shafter and am now the Command Chaplain for the 18th Medical Command. Prior to that I served as the Chaplain Forward for the US Forces in Iraq and have been a chaplain in the USAR for over 20 years. I hold six (6) earned academic degrees including 2 doctorates. My decorations include a combat action badge and a Purple Heart Medal.

I wish to express my very strong opposition to the legislation that is attempting to tamper with the sacred and holy institution of marriage. I believe the only reason such legislation could ever gain a hearing in our society stems from its condition of extreme moral decay and its present status of vacuum in leadership. It also completely fails to consider and appreciate the foundation of values and beliefs, upon which our nation has rested since its inception. It has been our adherence to those values that had once made our nation great, and it has been the loss of those values that has resulted in the very precipitous decline and diminishment of who we are as a people and of the respect accorded to us in the eyes of the world, and rightfully so. There was once a time when we were the standard bearers of our generation, a lighthouse on a hill. To think that we may once have had the right to make that claim makes what we are doing today all the more despicable. It is a mockery of justice.

I cannot say I am entirely surprised, but I am truly shocked and saddened that our nation has come to this. I beg you to reconsider what you are doing.

I remain sincerely yours

Kimon Nicolaides III
6770 Hawaii Kai Dr. APT 707
Honolulu, HI 96825

COMMITTEE ON SENATE JUDICIARY AND LABOR
SB 1 - Relating to Equality
10:30 AM, Monday, October 28, 2013

TESTIMONY BY JANICE PECHAUER
Past President, Save Traditional Marriage '98

Sadly, the issue of same-sex marriage has been misrepresented to the public as one of "equality." However, the decision by the United States Supreme Court on DOMA, the Defense of Marriage Act, affirmed the right of the states to define marriage. Consequently, 37 states continue to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

The Hawaii State Supreme Court stated in *Baehr v. Lewin (later Miike)*: "We do not believe that a right to same-sex marriage is so rooted in the traditions and collective conscience of our people that failure to recognize it would violate the fundamental principles of liberty and justice... Accordingly, we **hold that homosexual couples do not have a fundamental constitutional right to homosexual marriage.**" (Emphasis added.)

Furthermore, in 1999, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that Hawaii's equal protection clause *no longer applies to Hawaii's marriage law* (HRS § 572-1) because of the 1998 marriage amendment to the constitution.

Legislators should be aware of the impact homosexual "marriage" would have upon how Christians raise their children, because they will lose control over what is taught their children **ultimately infringing upon the rights of parents to educate their children regarding human sexuality.** As happened when Massachusetts adopted same-sex marriage, passage of SB 1 will lead to further radicalization of the sex-education curricula in Hawaii's public schools, in essence, force-feeding children with information that parents consider immoral, dishonest and extremely harmful.

Passage of SB 1 would cause irreparable harm to our children. The effect of the current sex-education programs in Hawaii's schools promote early sexual activity and experimentation in our children, putting them at great risk of contracting deadly sexually transmitted diseases, committing sexual crimes, and being branded for life as sex offenders. These are the "harmful side-effects" of adopting programs that are contrary to the core moral standards of society.

In 1998 the people of Hawaii strongly expressed their views that marriage is an institution to be protected. The right of the people to govern themselves must be honored. **Please allow the people to decide on marriage in Hawaii.**

From: George Nagato [<mailto:geonagato@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:28 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB1

My name is George Nagato and I am a resident voter living in Pearl City and serving as pastor of Paradise Chapel in Waianae since 1980. I strongly encourage the House of Representatives to vote against the SB1 Bill as it is not that urgent to make a decision this week.

There are 35 other states that have not acted upon this issue in urgency and I strongly urge you to not make too quick a decision before dotting the "i"s and dotting the "t"s. My major concern is that the public accommodations bill trumps over any religious freedom should this issue come up concerning churches, the solemnizing of marriages and the use of facilities. This issue needs to be addressed and clearly protect "churches" and the clergy.

The other reason I am requesting voting against SB1 is that we are setting a precedent in government imposing their moral consciences upon all and we are headed towards a future that our people will be controlled by the government without the freedom and liberty to live out their moral consciences according to the Constitution. This includes not only churches but affects businesses and schools.

Thank you for your time to hear my concerns.

George Nagato

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Cheryl Toyofuku

City, State: Pearl City, Hawaii

Subject:

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL,
SB1 Relating to Equal Rights**

Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I oppose the special session because it rushes the democratic process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input in the legislative process.

i oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on 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: Cheryl Toyofuku

Please consider initiating a survey in your representative districts to receive input on this critical issue from your constituents. Please also consider impact and consequence studies of this legislative bill on families, education, health, business, etc. Please do a thorough analysis before making a decision and research how legalizing same sex marriage in other states & countries have negatively impacted them. Thank you.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Strider Didymus	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Greetings House Committee Members, My name is "Strider Didymus" and I stand firm here yet again as a lifelong taxpaying resident of this State and NOT as some recent mainland transplant or other outsider agitator. I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB1 As you are fully aware, in 1998, a Constitutional Amendment was voted upon by the people to give you the authority to legally define "marriage as being between one man and one woman," but you blatantly reneged upon implementing such and the Senate did likewise yesterday after overwhelming testimony against such and inconsistencies rendered by the AG's office. For some of you here, your minds may have been made up and this entire process is some unnecessary formality, therefore, consider the repercussions of such from a completely different perspective in what you shall here today in other testimony in opposition as well. Some of you thought that time would dissolve the legal facts and we would become more "tolerant," this all the while as you continued to believe the lies of the perverted homosexual agenda from hell. This includes the Governor, our Senators and Congress members (sorry Mike), the liberal Judges, the President and the apostate churches. According to the Holy Bible, homosexuality is an "abomination" of God (Leviticus 20:13) and these people are "children of the devil" (1 John 3:10) for supporting or practicing such self-chosen perversion in order to "pollute their own bodies" (Jude 6), "with a continue lust for more" (Ephesians 4:19). Make no mistake about it, these deviants will not stop until they further indoctrinate the innocent children of their sin and diseases, and SHALL "demand" polygamous legislation next, and you KNOW it. Indeed, "The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Jesus said, "Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire" (John 8:43). "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders..." (1 Corinthians 6:9). "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these things but also approve of those who practice such" (Romans 1:32). "But the cowardly, the unbelievers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). The Sovereign Lord declared, "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their wicked ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die..." (Ezekiel 33:11). These are his words, not mine. And Jesus said, "This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:49-50), where "their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:48) and they will be in "agony" (Luke 16:19-31) for eternity. He also said, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of the light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Please

come into the light and vote "NO" on this extremely wicked measure that has absolutely nothing to do with "equal rights;" but everything to do with the degradation of family, morality and society. Just remember that your choices in life SHALL determine your eternal destiny. When you are snot nosed and pleading for mercy on the floor before the throne of God Almighty on Judgment Day, you cannot give any excuses that you did not know better. Then he will tell you, "I never knew you. Away from me you evil doers!" (Matthew 7:23), "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth'" (Matthew 22:13). In final, Jesus further said, "...be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28), "But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (Luke 13:3). In the name and love of Jesus, you have been forewarned; for without truth there is no true love. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matthew 4:17) "Strider Didymus"

Sara Ortiz

10 ILIAHI STREET HONOLULU, HI 96817-3218
TEL 808 7794831

sara.s.ortiz@gmail.com

October 14, 2013

Re : Testimony in Support of Marriage Equality

Esteemed Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am respectfully submitting this letter in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. Despite the divisiveness we have seen up until now, the issue of marriage equality transcends politics and religion. Marriage equality is an issue of human rights at their most fundamental level. As human beings, we should have the right to the most basic necessities: food, clean drinking water, basic shelter, adequate medical care, at the very least, primary education, and as citizens of this great country, basic freedoms that were granted by our forefathers in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Love as a primal human emotion should be governed then by the tenets of these fundamental human rights. As human beings, it follows that we have the right to love whom we choose and to sanctify this love through the sacred act and institution of marriage.

On January 13, 2010, I graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in International Studies from Hawai'i Pacific University and was honored to be selected as Valedictory Speaker of my graduating class. My mentor, then Chair of the Department of International Studies, Dr. Carlos Juárez, proudly introduced me as HPU's first valedictory speaker of Mexican heritage. As looked upon my audience of classmates with my professors and administrators behind me, I spoke of what it meant to be a student at my alma mater and what it meant to be a global citizen of Hawai'i, here in this "beautiful gathering place." I shared insights on life and implored my fellow students to create the better world our leaders have dreamed of. Finally, I acknowledged those in my life who had profoundly shaped the woman I've become, namely, "my life, my love, Edwin, who has stood by my through life's deepest valleys and highest summits, without whom I would not be standing here before you today." One month later, Edwin and I were married. In retrospect, I

can't even begin to imagine having been denied the right to marry this person whom I love so deeply. Yet still, so many are.

While Hawai'i Pacific University brought me here back in 2003, what has kept me here as a proud citizen of Hawai'i ten years later is our celebration of diversity and the sacredness of family, of 'ohana, that is unique to our culture. Here, we nurture an extended definition of family that is inclusive of relationships that extend beyond blood kinship to hanai spiritual kinship. I have come to learn is that the concept of family is so sacred here in Hawai'i, that opponents of marriage equality will fight to preserve archaic ideas of what a nuclear family *should* be instead of what it truly *is*, an evolving structure. Opponents of marriage equality may argue that sanctioning marriage for two people of the same sex is wrong, a moral outrage and might lead to the very destruction of family as we know it. These claims are based on hatred and fear, and stand in flagrant contradiction of Hawai'i's foundations of tolerance and acceptance of those different from ourselves that have drawn so many "outsiders" to our shores throughout history. As the crossroads of East and West, Hawai'i finds itself in a timely position to join states leading the movement toward marriage equality. As legislators, you stand at the edge of history. As a concerned citizen and advocate for social justice, I challenge you to take a step forward and have the courage to make your decision for marriage equality based on reason and in the spirit of justice and human rights for all families of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Sara Ortiz

10 Iliahi Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I feel that it is a grievous oversight to assume that each of your votes represent the Majority of the people of Hawaii concerning the legalization of Same Sex Marriage.

I think the best way to determine the majority is a vote on the issue.

I also request that Budget Chair Kim provide insight as to whether the taxpayers of Hawaii can afford the legislation at hand.

First reason: Your votes WILL NOT REPRESENT a true majority of the constituents in your community AND THE STATE!

In 2012 US Census reported the following:

- That there were 1,392,313 Hawaii residents.
- 303,524 (or 21.8%) were under 18 years of age. This means that 1,088,789 people were eligible to vote.

I compared the data from the US Census report and to the Hawaii Elections report.

- In 2012 only 290,695 people turned out to vote.
- That = 26% of our population.

Chair Hee in the 2012 election, you won with 4,252 votes in your district. However, your district according to the US Census had 27,400 eligible voters. Which means that your win represents only 16% of the voice of your community.

In the 2010 election, Governor Abercrombie won with 142,304 votes.

- According to the US census at the time was 1,063,755 people were eligible to vote.
- His win, therefore only represents 14% of the voice of our great state of Hawaii.

It is interesting to me that ALL people must pay taxes! It is illegal not to do so. However, when it comes to voting it is not illegal not to vote. It should be when the elected officials do represent so very little of the overall population. Why doesn't the Govt care whether or not people vote. They should, because Government represents ALL OF ITS PEOPLE.

I do ask that based on the US Census and Elections office reports (which I am attaching for your review), you recognize that your vote WILL NOT BE a true representation of what the MAJORITY of the public desires for their State.

Second reason: Voting provides safety for people on both sides of the view and is the best solution to prevent tyranny or retribution for either one's beliefs.

My father came to Hawaii a Filipino immigrant to work on the plantation. When I was very young, my father would take me with him to the voting polls. He would take a bath, get dressed and go vote. He'd seem anxious until it was all over. I remember asking him as he was walking out of the polls "daddy who did you vote for?" He would "shsh" me and I would get the hint. It was and is always so quiet at the polls. When we got in the car, I asked him again "daddy who did you vote for?" He replied "don't ask that! Its private!" When I got older he explained that in the PI voting was not protected like it was here. Here he felt safe to vote and free from the prejudice of others.

Making this issue public places tyranny in the hands of radicals who have in the past and present abused "freedom of speech" and molested their opposition with cruel and unfair "protest" to gain their ends.

I urge you not to allow our State to be the canvas to such heinously uncivil systems.

THE VOTE provides protection for the people and their freedom to think and feel as they choose. I concur with Abraham Lincoln who said it well in his Gettysburg Address “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Third reason: Are you able to provide taxpayers with the cost of this legislation? How will the passing of this bill affect our costs on social issues? Will it increase or decrease the costs of education, domestic violence, healthcare, legal aid, public safety? If so, how much and how do you propose we add it to our budget?

Do you remember the Superferry? A wonderful form of transportation I thought. But, it was shut down because it failed to provide an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS. What about rail? Remember the Vans which took pictures of speeders unbeknownst to them? ALL OF THESE WERE IMPLEMENTED BY GOVERNMENT AND WASTED MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS.

Every piece of legislation that is passed costs taxpayers money. Have you looked well into the financial responsibility the state will undertake with the passage of this bill? Have you considered the cost?

Recently our elected officials in Washington shut down the government because of budget concerns. Let us learn from their mistake. Do your due diligence on this matter by reviewing the costs incurred by other states who have passed such legislation. ***Protect taxpayer’s dollars and research as to the viability and or costs of such legislation passing using concrete examples from other states.***

As our elected officials, I urge you to consider the data provided by the US Census and the Hawaii Elections Office. By this, it is cannot be unclear that your votes WILL NOT represent the Majority of Hawaii people. Therefore I feel the only way to resolve the issue at hand is to allow the public to vote. Further, Taxpayers deserve to know how much this legislation will cost them. I ask that you provide these costs to us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose M.Y. Wood
87-242 Holopono St.
Waianae, HI 96792

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB 1.

I am asking that you would let the people of Hawaii decide on this issue of marriage. I believe that this special session does not give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to let their voice be heard on this issue.

I am a young adult and am writing this because I am concerned about my future keiki and what they will be learning in their public school curriculum if this same sex marriage bill is passed. I am getting married in December and am looking forward to having children and raising them the way I believe is correct. However, if this bill is passed, the public school system will enforce curriculum that I do not agree with.

There are documented incidences where parents are harassed because they have a difficult time with the curriculum that their children are being subjected to. Hawaii's public school system will change, Governor Abercrombie has assured us of this.

My fiancé is a teacher and I am a case manager. We will not have the financial freedoms to pay for a private school education for our future children so that they can be exempt from the promotion of homosexual relationships. I also will not have the ability to home school my children, as I need to provide financially as well.

As you can see, this is an extremely important issue that will have dramatic effects. More time is needed for further discussion of this bill. The determination of this bill is being rushed into a one-week decision, while the institution of traditional marriage has been around for thousands of years. Please give us, the people of Hawaii, the chance and time to have a say in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Emily Maeda
(Honolulu, HI 96822)

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY!

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

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

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

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

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

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



From: Tess K [<mailto:tkeliikoa@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:01 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: My Testimony

Aloha,

My name is Marites Keliikoa, a citizen , **a registered voter** and I'm married to Hawaiian. I am here speaking from the heart. First, I thank all of you Legislators for putting your time to service the people. I bless you all and may God's presence be with you and that you will feel HIS love in your life and household. I am sending this email to express that I **OPPOSE** the same sex marriage. If you pass this law what could happen in our community? You are just thinking the benefits of few but how about the multitude voters who's plea is to keep the island a safe haven... If you pass this law it will radically altered our island lifestyle, morality and values. Open your heart and I truly hope you are seeing shocking experiences from other states who passed the same sex marriage. Please, please hear our VOICES. We voted for you Legislators to protect everyone's rights and not only for special few.

Let the People **DECIDE**, it is **not for you to decide**...it's the people. **Again, let the people decide.**

--

Marites S.Keliikoa

808-478-5562

Honolulu, HI 96814

Registered VOTER

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

As a citizen of Hawaii for about forty-two years I have looked forward to the day when lesbian and gay people could "tie the knot," and be not only understood, but be fully qualified by law to receive all the benefits of married love.

I am currently a member of the Gay Mens Chorus of Honolulu. One of our members, Ed, age 23, is in the US Army and was stationed with his male partner, John, there. Tragically his dearest was killed by an IED. His commander sent him home to mourn.

He and John met when they were fourteen. Together they prospered and in the last decade had a son via surrogate mother. Then placing the child with Ed's mother they both joined the Army and was stationed together in Afghanistan.

— OVER —

Respectfully,

Timothy D. Earhart

Name (print): Timothy D. Earhart

Street: 2041 Puowai Drive

City: Honolulu

Email address:

godlygayehawaii@tel.net

In mid September Ed was again sent to Afghanistan, He e-mailed members of SMC H with this thought: "For those I love and care about, I will sacrifice." Well, in late September he did sacrifice when he was shot in the chest. He was medicated to Germany where his mom, dad and young son were flown to be with him before being operated on.

The good news is that he pulled through. The bad news is that his dear partner is not with him any longer. They had wanted to be joined by marriage and was waiting for Hawaii to provide this benefit.

I respectfully hope that you vote yes for this bill. The above example of Ed and John should never be repeated again.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rebecca Prasad	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 this delicate issue of marriage. As the wife of a military member who is often deployed fighting for our nations freedoms we have experienced life without a daddy present. I have two young boys who need their father. There are things in life that a father imparts to boys that is vital in their growth and development into healthy masculine men. According to Dr. Tracey Hansen a psychologist focused on marriage/parenting and male and female differences states, "Men and women bring diversity to parenting; each makes unique contributions to rearing children that can't be replicated by the other. Mothers and fathers simply are not interchangeable. Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father." Two men could make good fathers but neither can take the place of a mother. Please protect our children and those in foster care give them the chance at a healthy life. Marriage was created for one man and one women. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Rebecca Prasad

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 this delicate issue of marriage.