

Miriam Alau

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

*I will be testifying.*

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 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.

Miriam Alau

Name

98-207 Aniani Pl #1

Address

Waipahu, HI 96791

NAME : Elizabeth C. Tisdell

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth C. Tisdell

Name

94-979 Kau'olu Place

Address

Waipahu, HI

96797

Mane SSO Jr.

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Mane SSO Jr.

City, State: Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Subject:

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less than a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: 

Date: 10/29/13

## Testimony

### TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

### MEMBERS

1. I am saying NO to SSM.
2. Let the people decide.

Marriage is defined as a union between a man and a woman. It is only a man and a woman who can procreate just like our creator. Marriage is not the creature of any state. Rather it was established by God in paradise for our first parents, Adam & Eve.

The specific primary purpose of marriage is the perpetuation of the human race and the raising of children. Marriage is not just any relationship between human beings. It is the relationship rooted in human nature and therefore governed by natural law.

Promoters of same sex marriage propose something entirely different. You are proposing a union between 2 men or 2 women, which two entirely different things cannot be considered the same thing. This is the most important reason, whenever one violates the natural moral order established by God, one sins offends God.



We the constituents, have elected and entrusted each one of you into office in making the upright and moral decisions for the good of the people and society that will not only affect us, but, future generations to come. Listen to the people, hear the people, the majority of the constituents are against SSM. This is neither a civil rights issue nor a discriminatory issue. It is a moral issue.

Blessed is the nation who's GOD is the LORD! The principles to set up the government came from God. It is Godly principles that set the tone for a Blessed nation.

Our "Queen Liliuokalani's" Statement to our State and its people: UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO- The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

I come with a solution for this bill! YES- LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE! Thank you.

### **Written Testimony Submitted By:**

**Winona C. Lee**

**3041 Puhala Rise**

**Honolulu, HI 96822**

**Date: October 30, 2013**

Name: Jevin Pharis

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

*I will be testifying*  
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jevin Pharis

Name

2104 Hoohei St

Pearl City, HI 96782

Address

## OPPOSE SB1 (same sex marriage)

### 2 Points

1. Not an equality issue: "Sexual preference" is NOT in the same category as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and disability.
  
2. Disrupting Aloha Spirit: State of Hawaii is unique because we accept and embrace as the NORM mutual respect of cultural traditions and diversity. It's living the Aloha Spirit.
  - a. Some of the reasons are "Islands away from mainland, instinctively we increase our tolerance to accept diversity in order to live pono.
  - b. I accept my gay family members " neighbors; we break bread together, fellowship, drive in traffic, celebrate holidays, birthdays, and work together.
  - c. I may not embrace their lifestyle choices; but I respect their choices just as they respect mine. That's what living the Aloha Spirit is.

But the pilikia (danger) will come...

Once you create LAWS that mandate and force an acceptance of a lifestyle of one by another, you destroy the ability for people to live out graciously the Aloha Spirit as we know it.

This will unintentionally draw the LINE in the SAND and what you intended as fair for the people will destroy the Aloha in the people.

This will affect the how the world will see Hawaii " no Aloha Spirit, just another place to sightsee, but more expensive.

Submitted by: S.Kawasaki (10-30-13)

To: Karl Rhoads, Chair – House Judiciary Committee  
Sylvia Luke, Chair – House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1, Special Session

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

My name is Owen Matsunaga. I am currently serving as a stake president for the Mililani Hawaii Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which has approximately 3200 members. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Senate Bill SB1. I know that most, if not all, of the members of my stake feel similarly.

I was born and raised here, being a graduate of Farrington High School. Since I graduated high school many years ago, a lot of things in Hawaii have changed: some for the better, some for worse. SB1 represents a change that will be bad for Hawaii, its culture, its traditions, and especially its *ohana*. With an issue that will change the very fabric of our community, why are the governor and many of our legislators in such a rush to change what the people had clearly expressed their will on in 1998?

The legalization of same-sex marriage is contrary to my religious beliefs and those of many other voters in Hawaii. I also believe it will undermine the vital traditional marriage norm that is so essential to the welfare of our children and the health of our family-centered culture.

SB 1 would not only redefine marriage and family, but would also eviscerate the religious freedoms that have been an integral part of our nation and state. The inadequacy of religious freedom protections in SB 1 is highlighted in the letter sent to all of the legislators under the letterhead of Edward Gaffney, Jr., of the Valparaiso University School of Law, but which also included other leading legal scholars on both sides of the same-sex marriage debate. The conclusion by such scholars is that Hawaii's bill, which is similar to SB 1, "provides considerably less protection than most every other jurisdiction where the legislature has considered the issue." The safeguards deemed essential by such scholars include not only protections for religious organizations and related entities, but also protections for individuals and small businesses. Moreover, even if limited to religious organizations, proper protections should not be narrowly limited to the context of "solemnization" but must include related "celebrations" and events. By ignoring the advice of such legal experts and pushing forward with SB 1 without robust safeguards for religious liberty, the legislators are warned that it will lead to "socially divisive and entirely unnecessary conflicts." That is simply not the way things are done in Hawaii.

I strongly urge you to reconsider and vote against SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
OWEN H. MATSUNAGA  
95-501 KUANONI WAY  
MILILANI, HI 96789

TED WALKER

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*Ted F. Walker*

Name

*[Signature]*

*91-1144 Kaice St Ewa Beach*

Address

Name Christine Draper

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Christine Draper  
Name

2116 Bonham St  
P.O. H 96782  
Address

I oppose same sex marriage based on the fact that it infringes on my religious freedom. I do not want my child forced to learn about homosexuality and gay marriage in his public school. I do not want my pastor to be forced to perform gay marriages at my church. I do not want my photographer friends to be forced to take pictures at gay weddings. Marriage is an institution that was created by God and defined to be between a man and a woman. Any other definition breaks down the family unit as God intended it and causes great harm to the family and to society. Please vote no on this bill.



Name Kuulei DATA

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kuulei Data

Name

94-166 Waipahu St.

Waipahu HI 96797

Address

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:07 AM

**To:** House Special Session

**Cc:** nakia.naeole@gmail.com

**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Nakia Nae'ole	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha my name is Nakia Nae'ole, and I oppose the following bill, as well as this session used to bring this bill to the floor, and the tactics used to get this absurd piece of legislation passed. Although my fellow traditional marriage supporters have their very well structured approach and defense against what same sex marriage could mean and do to the institution and original definition of marriage--the legal(and spiritual) union of (1) man and (1) woman; I come with a similar but different approach all in the same. My defense rests on my observation of being a native Hawaiian who has been and whose culture and family has been held as a minority whose INDIGENOUS rights have been wrongfully denied since 1898. With that observation, I am entirely convinced that the same sex marriage legislation needs to wait its turn and recognize that the indigenous rights of Hawaiians have not been recognized nor have not been made right yet and should release their argument until such justice is enacted. Also the fact that same sex marriage does not reflect the true values of the indigenous values of true Hawaiian culture. Hawaiians were a war faring people, so I plan to continue to take this piece of outrageous legislation as an act of war against what I, my family, and my culture stands for! Me Ka Ha'aha'a (respectfully), Nakia Nae'ole

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Name Olana Margaret Ai

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:

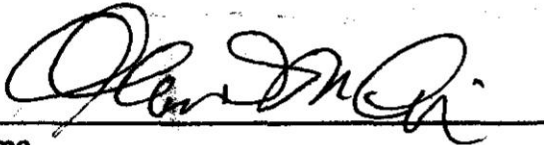
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Name

28-614 Aloalii St.

Area Hawaii 96701

Address

Aloha Representatives,

My name is Felicia Castro. I just want to start by saying thank you for your time and duties in serving in our State.

Representatives I humbly ask you to please vote No on this bill. I truly believe in the life of the land is perpetrated in righteousness. But sadly without opposing to this bill will bring death upon this land because of unrighteousness. I strongly believe marriage is between one woman and one man the way God our creator designed it to be. Why redefine marriage when the civil union bill can be amended for same sex. No discrimination upon same sex relations. I am just preserving and standing for what God has ordained. I will stand boldly with faith for God as His truth bearer. Please I urge you to vote No. Thank you again and God Bless you Representatives.

Sincerely,

Felicia Castro

Dear Officer of the Legislature::

Herein is vital knowledge, my request, and my testimony/ document, final update:

Mahalo and Shaloha (Shalom and Aloha),

Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam

n Saturday, October 19, 2013 1:37 PM, Charles kj Amsterdam <[shaloha1@yahoo.com](mailto:shaloha1@yahoo.com)> wrote:

## Same-Sex Marriage's Impact On All Of Hawaii's People

[shaloha1@yahoo.com](mailto:shaloha1@yahoo.com)

Like most people, my background influences my perspective. Being a Hawaiian Jew, I address the same-sex marriage issue.

First, as part of my Hawaiian heritage's motto, Ua Mau Ka Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono, The life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness, emphasizes that behavior be based on righteous, moral, ethical behavior, values, and principles. Such a sense of righteousness goes beyond the right of Hawaiian self-governance within the motto's historical context and is more inclusive as exemplified in the value of Aloha. Such moral behavior provides that the land and life of the people living on the land will be protected and preserved. Such benefits also are divine and come from G-d. On the other hand, disregarding or dismissing the motto emphasizing moral action or living will result in the withdrawal or elimination of divine protection and preservation of the land and life of people in Hawaii through prevailing danger and destruction. Such danger includes occurrences such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, terrorism, militarism, economic hardship, volcanic eruptions, natural disasters, pestilence, etc. In explaining such dangers, I do so with "Aloha" toward all our human ohana and without malice just as I would simply explain the dangerous impact of someone sticking their hand into flowing lava. Therefore, avoiding such danger and enjoying protection and preservation of the land and life of Hawaii's people simply require righteous, moral, and ethical behavior and living of the people of Hawaii.

Secondly, while my Hawaiian heritage emphasizes righteous, moral, and ethical values, behavior, and living, my Jew(ish) heritage clarifies what is and is not morality and righteousness as provided by such sources as prophets, scriptures, inspired sacred writings, reasoning, and revelations from G-d. Such clarification is included by Christians and numerous other entities. Non-righteous behavior included certain relations such as same-sex or gender sexual relations, which is associated with same-sex marriage. While other non-righteous behavior includes

dishonesty, corruption, domestic violence, murder, prostitution, physical and mental abuse, etc., same-sex marriage is central and is like the straw that breaks the camel's back. Furthermore, in this situation other supporting factors include that the current Act is unfair and undermines Democracy and the People of Hawaii's choice of preserving the tradition of marriage of a union of one man and one woman as seen in Chapter 572 Marriage, section S572C-2, which the current Act deletes and forces such Hawaii voters to be subjected to same-sex marriage dangers, that the Constitution's protection of religious freedom and the exercise of moral and ethical values predominates over the requirement of equal protection under the Law due to the behavior of same-sex marriage being of a non-moral or non-righteous standard of conduct, and that exemptions for clergy from performing same-sex marriages insufficiently and without impact omits congregants and church values. It's like exempting particular clergy from performing same-sex marriages on the Titanic and dismissing the dangerous Titanic situation, which is analagous to the destructive same-sex marriage situation in Hawaii.

Thirdly, inasmuch as being identified as non-righteous, same-sex marriage violates the moral values expressed in Hawaii's motto and imposes devastating danger on the Land and Life of Hawaii's People. It is an unavoidable righteous, moral value issue, which, as such, if dismissed, will reap Catastrophe and, if honored, will "Perpetuate the Life of the Land".

Shaloha (Shalom and Aloha),  
Kauai Jochanan Amsterdam  
Leader  
Kanaka Maoli Jew

Name: Evans, Desiree

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

*I will be testifying.*

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Desiree Evans  
Name

880 Hoomalu St.  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
Address



Committee On Judiciary and Finance

SB 1

October 31, 2013

10:00am

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Rep Sylvia Luke and members of both the house committees on Judiciary and Finance. My name is Doralynn Baldwin. Let the record show that I strongly and adamantly OPPOSE SB 1. I have been a registered voter for more than thirty seven years now. I have always believed in the democratic process, however the manner in which this bill is being voted on in this special session is anything but democratic! Why is it being rushed through? The current language in the draft bill does not grant adequate protections against lawsuits and other litigation for religious entities and their followers in regard to the usage of their facilities. In order for churches to protect themselves from being forced to do something against their beliefs they would have to meet three requirements.

1-Regularly use their facilities for religious purposes. (Many churches use their facilities for other purposes such as renting to organizations like AAA meetings, Boy Scouts, birthday, anniversaries parties etc.

2-Limit their marriages to only members. (Many religious organizations allows non members to participate in the marriage ceremonies. Example: a member of a congregation marries a person that is not a member of the same congregation.

3-Not operate as a for profit business. (Religious organizations that rent out their facilities will not be protected)

Other concerns of people of Faith in regards to this bill is how it will effect people who own a business. Who, because of their religious beliefs can be sued or prosecuted for discrimination if they refuse to give service to the homosexual community. (Example: Professional photographer, who denies taking pictures for a wedding of a lesbian or gay couple etc.)

My most important concern is for my grandchildren and future grandchildren and all the keiki of Hawaii. I am speaking now, not only for myself but for the voices of those who cannot speak for themselves. For my grandbaby Zion Saifoloi who is only two years old and my granddaughter who will be born in January and for all the keiki of Hawaii. In places where Same Sex Marriage has been legalized such as Massachusetts and Ontario. Once same sex marriage became legal, parents lost their parental rights to be notified on very sensitive subject matters in regards to homosexuality. Curriculum in the schools were forced to depict gay relationships as normal. As a Christian who's beliefs is contrary to this type of indoctrination, I want people of faith to be protected from discrimination if they choose to opt their children out of this type of teaching. This bill will not protect parents rights to do so! Again for the record I strongly and adamantly OPPOSE SB 1.



Name: Arleen S. AhNee

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Arleen S. AhNee (Sue)  
Name

857 Hoomala St.  
Pearl City, Hi  
Address 96782

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

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

Please oppose Senate Bill 1 at this time.

U.S. Service-members, many who are our children, not only from Hawaii but from across our nation, bear the brunt of the effects of political decisions and their timing regardless of the deadly missions they face daily. They have a difficult job fighting the wars our nation sends them to. Please do not add to their burden to be successful in that mission and to return home safely. For over twelve years our military personnel have served in war zones fighting Islamic extremism. They have done this while the enemy projected labels of 'Invader, Imperialist, and Infidel' upon them. When the decision was made in 2010 to allow homosexuals to openly serve in our Armed Forces, Islamic extremists added another label to U.S. uniforms which our servicemembers had not planned for. At the time of that U.S. policy shift, 2010 brought the highest casualty rates of U.S. Military, U.S. Contractors, and Coalition Forces in history of the Afghan conflict. Afghanistan is a country where homosexuality exists but under Islamic law that behavior is widely condemned and severely punished. That Islamic condemnation and penalty would very likely be adamantly applied to non-Muslim foreigners now seen as projecting Western homosexual encroachment on Islamic soil. 2011-2013 has continued with high casualty rates and a dramatic increase in inside threat attacks on the U.S. military by Afghan security forces. Though there are many operational factors which result in war casualties, the United States Government was fully aware how Islamic countries would embrace such a U.S. policy change. There was outcry from Islamic leaders across the Middle East, and our Government and media were publically silent on the increased risk this policy could bring on our servicemembers standing in harm's way.

If the idea of same-sex marriage holds its own merit, certainly we can ask those that support such change to show patience. Please wait to address this issue until a later session of Congress next year when our loved ones serving in uniform, many from Hawaii, have finished U.S. 'combat' operations in the Middle East. The President has indicated a 2014 Afghanistan withdrawal. We currently still have around 55,000 service-members in country.

Every life saved is important, let no losses be to political expediency. We can wait on this.


Thank you,

Herman Welch  
Retired US Army  
Mililani, HI

# THE NATION STANDING ON 'NO VALUES'




**OBAMA :** My stance is still evolving ...  
I think some sex couples should be able to  
get married .



LESS THAN A QUARTER OF U.S.  
CATHOLICS ATTEND MASS EVERY  
WEEK . . . MAJORITY SUPPORT  
SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS.

THE U.S. BISHOPS



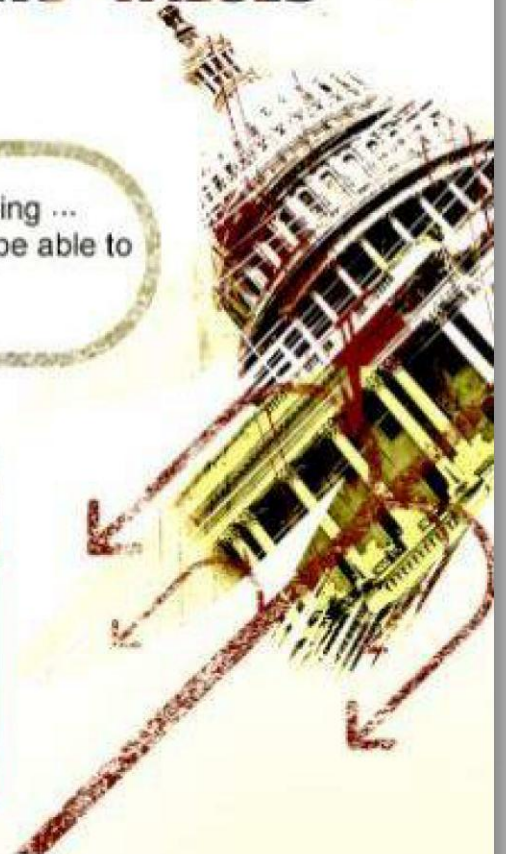
**GALLUP**

HALF OF AMERICAN ADULTS  
ARE NOW IN FAVOR OF  
GAY MARRIAGE

THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION'S  
SURVEY



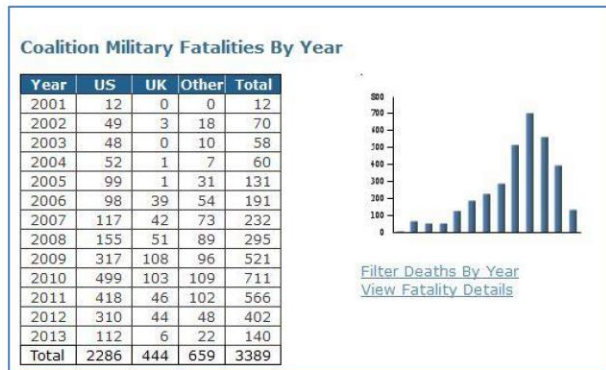
**BARNEY FRANKS. GAY CONGRESSMAN. SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN DREAM**



**JUST MARRIED**

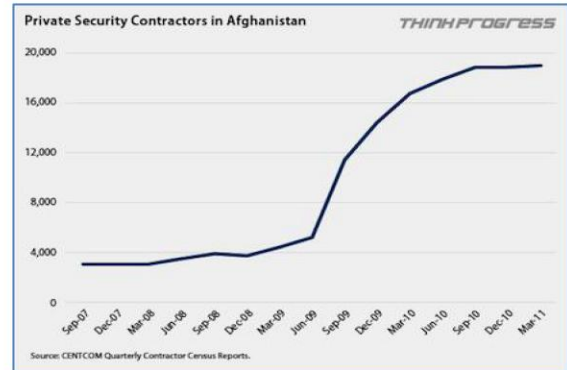


## Operation Enduring Freedom Fatalities



### US and Coalition Fatalities

<http://icasualties.org/oef>



### U.S. Contractor Fatalities

Central Command Quarterly Contractor Report

### DoD Casualty Report

<http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>

### International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Afghanistan Troop Numbers (14 Oct 2013)

[http://www.isaf.nato.int/images/stories/File/20131014\\_131001-ISAF-Placemat.pdf](http://www.isaf.nato.int/images/stories/File/20131014_131001-ISAF-Placemat.pdf)

### Congressional Research Service

**Afghanistan: Post-Taliban Governance, Security, and U.S. Policy, October 23, 2013**

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30588.pdf>

### War in Afghanistan: Campaign Progress, Political Strategy, and Issues for Congress, August 29, 2013

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R43196.pdf>

### Al Qaeda Slams Obama's 'Evolution' On Same Sex Marriage

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/01/al-qaeda-gay-marriage-obama>

### African Religious Leaders Reject Obama's Call to Decriminalize Homosexuality

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/religious-leaders-reject-obamas-call-to-decriminalize-homosexuality>

With Hawaii and Illinois poised to pass same-sex marriage bills, these states are directly linked to President Obama's persona. Has it crossed anyone's mind that very intelligent leaders in al Qaeda and the Taliban will use passage of same-sex marriage in these states to enflame greater outrage across the Muslim world and project this U.S. social shift onto Americans in their countries, particularly our Armed Forces?

How many military lives are 'acceptable loss' to state and national leaders in order to work through an unnecessary legislative window Governor Abercrombie created? One? The timing of this bill affects Hawaii's families on many issues beyond just Marriage Equality.

Protecting those in our military from unnecessary additional danger is the first—and right—thing to do.

Name: Laurie Thorita

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

*I will be testifying.*  
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 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.

Laurie Thorita

Name

P.O. Box 301  
PC HI 96788

Address



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:

My name is Steve Morgan. My religious beliefs are in keeping with the practice of Orthodox Judaism and my position is in opposition to the proposed marriage equality bill.

I believe that the challenge in coming up against “marriage equality” is found in how the word “equality” resonates with large numbers of people here in Hawaii, thus many equate opposition to same-sex marriage as hateful, backwards and the moral equivalent of racism.

If we are truly honest however with the term “equality” the truth is that equality is not the only value that we take into consideration when making a determination. The 8 year old child is prohibited from voting or drinking, a blind person can not be an airline pilot and a man may not go inside a woman’s bathroom- the list goes on. Clearly discrimination and even separation is a part of our culture. The question to be asked is whether or not the discriminatory act benefits or harms society. In regard to either promotion or adversity to Same-Sex marriage the issue itself is that of a behavioral model, which in turn impacts the surrounding society. In contrast, in regard to racial equality, the pigment of one’s skin color has absolutely no impact on our society.

For most of us, including myself, we would just assume “live and let live” and would just assume that gays be allowed to marry who they want. The problem however is that this is not where it ends. The passage of same sex marriage will impact all sectors of our society.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, Governor Abercrombie made the statement that both marriage equity and the preservation of religious rights can co-exist. The Governor went on to state that there have been no lawsuits or legal actions filed in Hawaii in regard to conflict between these intentions. This is not the truth however.

This was evident in regard the judgment against Mrs. Phylis Young in April 2013 who as the owner of Aloha Bed and Breakfast was sued by two lesbian women after she denied renting the couple a room. Mrs. Young stated that she was not comfortable with renting a room to same sex couples or unmarried couples and that doing so would violate her religious beliefs. The ruling against Mrs. Young was not only a violation of Mrs. Young's freedom of speech and religion under the First Amendment, but because the business is within her own family home, it was also demanded upon her to accept practices contrary to her religious beliefs within her own home. The choice given to Mrs. Young was clear, either she must compromise her religious beliefs or she must shut down her business.

It is not just the private business sector that is being affected. On a nationwide scale we are also seeing our public schools impacted, this is especially evident in states where same sex marriage has become law. Using California as an example, the school curriculum which was signed into law by the state's Governor mandates that pro homosexual teaching be mandatory with no parent "opt out". This is fine for those who are supporters but what happened to the philosophy of "live and let live"? Now for those opposed to gay marriage their children are a forced captive audience.

Throughout the predominant history of western civilization and the history of our own nation the definition of marriage has centered around a simple formula, that of one man and one woman coming together with the potential outcome of procreation. It is apparent that in light of the proposed change of this definition that there is no legal recourse to discriminate against other nontraditional forms marriage including, incestuous marriage, bisexual marriage and polygamy. In fact polygamy holds greater historical standing and unlike homosexuality, which the American Psychiatric Society has determined as a form of identity and not of genetic origin, in contrast the tendency of males to be polygamous is genetic. It is only because of our moral outlook that we discriminate against those choosing a polygamous model of marriage.

While homosexuality has always existed, at no time in the history of the world has homosexual marriage been endorsed or the union of homosexuals been considered comparable to the uniting of a man and woman, neither by any religion nor by any culture. We are at the forefront of the greatest social experiment ever conducted in the history of man.

In support of gay marriage, what is mistakenly being promoted as a movement of compassion is in truth representative of the narcissistic belief of this generation that we are somehow wiser, more compassionate and possess more insight than any previous generation

In light of the aforementioned I am opposed to this bill, however if this legislature is determined to see the passage of this bill please consider amendments that would:

(1) Protect religious individuals within the private business sector by protecting their religious rights. This would include the right to refrain from any business transaction that would promote homosexual behavior. Under this category would be businesses that are involved in wedding services including photographers, florists, bakers etc. as well as temporary accommodation services. Not included in this amendment would be normal goods and services or long term rentals. This would involve both amending this bill as well as simultaneously revising section 489.

(2) Allow parents and children to opt out of any school curriculum that involves promotion of homosexual lifestyle as well as providing alternative sources of curriculum for those choosing to opt out.

Mahalo,  
Steve Morgan



Dear members of the State House of Representatives,

I am opposition to SB1. I am part Hawaiian and I was raised in Hawaii. I have also obtained a specialized Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and currently work as a Behavioral Therapist. Most importantly I am a husband and child of God. I write to you because I can no longer sit in silence as I witness our democratic freedom's being stripped away from us and witness first hand the disintegration of the family unit.

Back in 1998, we the people, voted that marriage would be between a man and woman. Now we are here today discussing a bill that could approve of the marriage between gay couples and lesbian couples. I ask: How valid and important is our vote if the Senate and House pass SB 1 and redefine the definition of marriage that was already defined by the people in 1998? On October 28, 1980, the testimonies shared in opposition to SB 1 far out numbered the testimonies supporting SB 1. Despite this fact, the Senate still decided to vote and pass the bill through to the House of Representatives. We voted for our Senators and Representatives because we believed they would represent us. I now ask: How valid are our votes if we are not represented?

As a professional who counsels families and adolescents I have witnessed the effects of broken homes and the disintegration of the family unit ... adolescents who were raised with one mother, adolescents who were raised by one father, adolescents who were raised by their grandparents, and adolescents who were raised by foster parents. All of these adolescents miss important factors to their healthy growth and development ... the presence of a mother and a father. This has happened because we as a nation condoned this type of family environment. By voting in support of SB 1 you are continuing to condone a family environment absent of both a father and a mother and the continuation of the disintegration of the proper family unit. You have the power to stop SB 1, you have the power to help restore the family unit, and you have the power to restore our democratic freedoms. Mahalo for you time.

Ikaika Belding

Brandon Nixon

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

Brandon Nixon

Name

91-1150 Waipani

Ewa Beach HI

Address

June Mosiah Navarro

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Mosiah Navarro

City, State: Waipahu Hawaii

Subject:

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less then a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Mosiah Navarro

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Saxon Sawai

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

I will be testifying  
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 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.

Saxon Sawai 

Name

94-1012 Waiolina St.  
Waiipahu HI 96797

Address



Elwin P. Ahu  
House District 27  
Senate District 13

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am  
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns over S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Your committees should be commended, especially for the manner in which you have amended your rules to permit any concerned citizen to submit testimony, thereby providing a perception of openness and fairness to the process.

We stand at the cusp of a potential historic moment in Hawaii, however, and greater opportunity should be given to allow a fuller and more comprehensive discussion about the issues that will affect not just marriage and the benefits for a few, but the ramifications of its effects upon our island's educational curriculum and children, its health and social welfare systems, the judicial system, and the threat to religious freedom, not just for religious institutions, but the free exercise thereof of every citizen who holds deep religious convictions that oppose same gender marriages.

I am opposed, therefore, to S.B. 1, first as a matter of procedure. It is common knowledge that Hawaii's population has drifted into a state of apathy when it comes to the political and legislative process of this State. Low voter registration and voter turnout are but symptoms of a deeper underlying distrust of the public governmental process. To subject such a divisive issue as this through an abbreviated legislative process only widens the rift that has separated the people from its own government. We live in a unique island state and its culture is unlike any other state of the Union. The decision of this legislature will forever change the landscape of Hawaii's culture, values and traditions that has taken centuries to shape. The question, therefore, is: "Why the rush?" Why not defer further consideration of this bill until the regular legislative session that commences on January

15, 2014, *just 76 days* from today? Notwithstanding Governor Abercrombie's motive to call this special session, i.e., to allow same-sex couples married in 2013 tax year to be able to take advantage of certain federal benefits (all State benefits are already available to them through the State's Civil Unions law), *such benefits are already available* to any couple legally married in any other state that has solemnized their marriage in that state. So why the rush for Hawaii to pass this law now? Why not allow the process to include the regular legislative session when all issues can be properly vetted and restore public confidence in its public servants?

Secondly, although there are many other reasons why I stand opposed to S.B. 1, I wish to highlight just one more. My objection concerns the protections, or lack thereof, of a person's individual religious freedom. The exemption language of S.B. 1 makes a fatal assumption: that the Right to Religious Freedom, guaranteed under both the Federal and State Constitutions, is limited in its extent to just clergy, religious organizations and facilities. But such constitutionally crafted freedom carves out protections that reach far beyond the institution's weekend meeting rooms and serves to protect and guard the individual citizen who holds strong convictions of their religious beliefs. A person's religious belief is the foundation that supports their life's values and extends beyond the walls of their church facility. It becomes their lifestyle and is manifested in their workplace and business. Any exemption that fails to address an individual's right to be free from governmental interference with their freedom to exercise their religious conscience is flawed and should not be considered as the law of the land.

There is already precedent for such "religious conscience" protections in other jurisdictions that has passed same-sex marriage laws (Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington). Similarly, such categorical exemptions for religious organizations in certain circumstances already exist in Hawaii's laws relating to employment and housing (HRS 378-3 (1998), and Federal exemptions provide protection for religious and conscientious objectors in many other contexts (32 CFR sec. 1630.11, relating to conscientious objectors to military service; 42 USC sec. 300a-7, relating to health care professionals conscientious objection to participating in medical procedures such as abortion or sterilization). In other words, protecting an individual's religious conscience is the very thread that holds together the fabric of our freedoms guaranteed under both Federal and Hawaii Constitutions. Without providing adequate protections for religious liberty will only lead to socially divisive and unnecessary legal conflicts between the exercise of rights under the same-gender marriage law and religious liberty, thereby creating an unfortunate loss on both sides.

S.B. 1 fails to address the issues stated above. I therefore respectfully urge you to vote NO on this bill.

Very truly yours,

Elwin P. Ahu

Website: [www.ylmhawaii.com](http://www.ylmhawaii.com)



Email: [ylmhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:ylmhawaii@gmail.com)

Phone: 808.782.3267

Zane Kihei Kaukini Lacaden

1413 Kehaulani Dr.

Kailua, HI 97734

October 29, 2013

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii Senate and House of Representatives,

My name is Zane Kihei Kaukini Lacaden and I was born and raised in Waimanalo and currently live in Kailua, Oahu. I am a 29 year's old Native Hawaiian registered voter and the Executive Director of Youth Led Multimedia – Hawaii, a production studio with the goal of educating the youth in multimedia advocacy.

I am writing to you in opposition to the Special Session for SB1. I am representing myself, some of my family members and friends from many parts of the state that do not vote because of special sessions like this one. They feel that they "...don't have a voice anyway, so why even bother to register, vote and waste a day off?"

I would like to encourage you to let the people vote on this issue, to encourage voter registration on both sides for our entire state. To have those for and against the bill to work together, yet separately, to build up and encourage those in my generations and the next to register AND vote. Every citizen of this state and country should be guaranteed that their voice matters, that their voice is counted, and that in the voting booth, their voice has as much weight as that of any person of any position in our state and in our country.

Mahalo Nui Loa for all you do in service of our aloha state,

Zane Kihei Kaukini Lacaden

Owner/Executive Director – Youth Led Multimedia – Hawaii

[ylmhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:ylmhawaii@gmail.com)

808.782.3267

Dee Dennell Bryce

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

Dee Dennell Bryce

Name

91-1034 Rainwater St

Pine Beach

Address

Name: Malaki Gafa

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Malaki Gafa

City, State: Waipahu, HI 96797

Subject: I will be testifying.

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

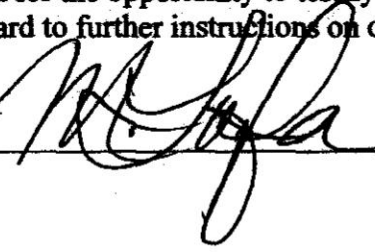
As a concerned, citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights.

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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less then a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: 

Date: 10/29/13

My name is Trenton Oshiro

I am strongly oppose to SB1

I am respectfully offended that people were turned away from the testifying. And even more offended that each person was only allowed 1 minute.

This special session is circumventing the democratic process.

If you vote Yes to this bill you are really saying that I don't want public input.

If you vote yes to this bill what you are really saying I am advocating this special session and I do not want to hold up the democratic process.

If you vote yes on this bill you are really saying that the voice of a minority is more important than the voice of the majority.

If you vote yes on this bill you are voting no to democratic process.

In a 1 minute testimony no one can accurately or adequacy, give a public input.

Can you honestly say that in a 5 day session you see and think through all the ramifications, liability, rights on both sides, religious freedoms, social impact on society, and so much more.?

This bill deserves to be carefully examine in a regular session. Anything less is not good for both the proponent of the bill and the opponents.

Trenton Oshiro

Matthew Solo

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Matthew D. Solo

City, State: ~~0~~ Ewa Beach, HI 96706

I will be testifying.  
Subject:

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Matthew Solo Date: 10/29/13



Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO  
EQUALITY

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

I'm writing to ask you to please oppose the bill that would legalize  
same sex marriage.

With respect for the gay and lesbian community, I believe opposing  
this bill would be best for all the people of Hawaii.

I believe this because the right to decide the definition of marriage  
has been taken away from the people, who voted in 1998 in good  
faith to limit it to one man, one woman.

I also believe it will have a tremendously negative impact on our  
education system, which has already proven the case in Canada  
where same sex marriage has been legal for 15 years.

Further, the full impact of passing this bill has not been thoroughly  
examined, and that is an injustice to all the people of Hawaii.

And lastly, religious rights have not been sufficiently protected.  
The life of faith is not one limited to Sunday mornings or the  
walls of a church building. It encompasses every part of life,  
including the operating of a business. While no one should be  
mistreated, neither should someone be forced to violate their  
long held and sincere religious beliefs. Businesses should not be  
forced in participate or support activities or behaviors that are in  
violation of their religious beliefs.

With great respect for you and your service to Hawaii

Steve Klein  
1332 Lekeona St.



Kailua 96734

Name:

Sha-Tei Kamau

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

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

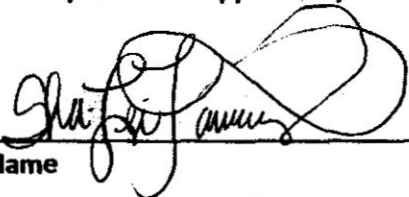
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I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

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.

  
Name

91-2055 Kaioli Ct. #3904

Ewa Beach, HI. 96706

Address

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

Comments: I oppose SB1. I feel that the voice of the people has been ignored at every turn by elected officials that now feel entitled to cast a vote instead of entrusted to represent the voice of the people. The process has been corrupted, the common voice of the people is being ignored, and somehow the backroom whispering of a few may undo generations of tradition and launch us into uncharted territory. Let the voice of the people be heard in its fullness, engage the entire state of Hawaii in the discussion. Let the discussion be heard by all, put the burden of convincing upon the voice of the people. Do not push limits on the decision making process. If we need to go to the collective wisdom of all, let this issue go to the ultimate decision tool of our democracy. Let the people decide.

Ariannah White

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Ariannah White

City, State: Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Subject: I will be testifying.

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less then a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Ariannah White

Date: 10/29/13

Aloha Chairs Luke and Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1 as passed by the Senate. The measure before you will extend rights and privileges to a group of minorities that are being persecuted by the radical right simply for being born the way they were. I am part of this minority. This bill is about love, commitment, and dignity. The radical right will make up a million lies to try and persuade you to vote against the bill, but please do not accept their lies. They will say that extending rights to gays and lesbians somehow infringes on their rights... straight couples are allowed to marry and will continue to be allowed to marry under this law... what rights are being taken away?

I believe that the bill has more than adequate protections for the religious groups in Hawaii who are not for-profit and therefore does not need amending. Please vote YES on SB1.

Mahalo,  
Van Law  
3274 Loke Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Name: Anisha Pharis

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

Anisha Pharis

Name

2104 Hoohai St

Pearl City, HI 96782

Address

“Written Testimony, 10/30/13”

I strongly oppose the passage of this bill to legalize same sex marriage. I believe it will be the beginning of an assault on our citizen’s rights and our children’s well-being.

I don’t know if any of you have met with your constituent, your supporters and had an honest, open discussion as to the potential harm the passing of this bill would mean for them and their families or did you not think them important?

Again, I state that in March of this year a task force was to convene in order to study the social, economic, and religious impact of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii. That was a prudent decision considering that the passage of this bill would impact every man, woman and child in the State of Hawaii.

The special session called by the governor to push this bill through as quickly as possible I believe was for one purpose and one purpose only. To pass it into law before the people of Hawaii could find out the truth. It is not only about SSM but the door it would open to other more nefarious things to come as in Massachusetts.

However thanks to the many conservative faith based organization the people are learning the truth.

Numerous Facts and Documentation reflect the negative impact everywhere it has been introduced as law! In work places, education K-12, colleges, right of parents being overruled, ordinary law bidding business people being targeted, even our military are now being targeted as the results.

\*\*\* see documented examples below:

The governor himself has acknowledged that if this bill was to past into law, within the next year or two, we will find ourselves facing bisexual marriage. Enlight of this Blake Oshiro wants to assure us that this will not happen in Hawaii, what guarantee does he have? One thing we do know and that is promises made today can be easily broken tomorrow.

For these reasons this bill should be stopped now ... let the people decide. We are the ones to be impacted the most, our rights and fate of our children’s safety is at risk.

→ In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of “gay marriage” in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools. An appeals judge later upheld the first judge’s ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have *no* obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!

→ In September 2004, an 8thgrade teacher in Brookline, Mass., told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.

→ Kindergartners in Lexington, Mass. were given copies of a picture book, *Who's in a Family?*, telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, just like their own parents. When David Parker – parent of a kindergartner – calmly refused to leave a school meeting unless officials agreed to notify him when discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and jailed overnight.

→ The next year, second graders at the same school were read a book, *King and King*, about two men who fall in love and marry each other, ending with a picture of them kissing. When parents Robb and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt their child out.

→ New Jersey Gov. Christie signed A3371, bars licensed therapists from helping children overcome unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior or identity. This law bans help for minors even when – as is so often the case – those same-sex attractions arise from childhood sexual abuse by the likes of a Jerry Sandusky.

This law will prohibit minors and their parents from receiving counseling they desire and will force counselors to violate ethical codes because they will not be able to help clients reach their own counseling goals. This law would further enslave children – whether abused or not – to a subjectively determined sexual identity that they reject

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have found that homosexual men are “at least three times more likely to report CSA (childhood sexual abuse)” than heterosexual men.

The true ultimate agenda of passing this bill to legalize same-sex marriage is to “dismantle marriage” as we know it.

Do you now place the desires of special interest groups over the rights of the citizens of the State of Hawaii?

Do you place the desires of adults before the needs and safety of the children?

In closing I again ask you to vote against this bill to legalize same-sex marriage or at the least “Let the people decide.”



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:

As a registered voter in the State of Hawaii I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB-1 at the upcoming Joint House Hearing scheduled for October 31, 2013. The following 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 five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issues of our time, the amount of time to debate and discuss the issue is far too limited.
  - No amendments to the bill are permitted which circumvents the democratic process.
  - A yes vote during a special session will reflect the will of the governor, the legislators and special interest groups but not necessarily the will of the people of the State of Hawaii.
  - The proposed religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations.
  - The proposed religious exemption does nothing to protect individual business owners, teachers or other citizens right to practice their religious freedom.
  - In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted on this issue and a 70% majority specified that Marriage was defined as 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.
  - The people of the State of Hawaii believe that they addressed the issue of same sex marriage in 1998. If there is concern that the will of the people has change in the past 15 years, they should be given the opportunity to vote on the issue again.
  - Marriage is not a civil right and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.

- The governor and legislators are elected to represent the people and as a result should respect the process that allows their voices and opinion the greatest opportunity to be heard.

It is my belief that the current bill and the pursuit of it's passing in a special session called by the Governor circumvents my rights as a citizen, violates my right to religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the US Constitution and jeopardizes social fabric of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Randy Kimura  
95-968 Wikao St. #H102  
Mililani, HI 96789

Oct 31, 10:00a

House Judiciary and Finance Committee

Re: Bill SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

*I will be testifying in person*

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only 1% of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon.** Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God.

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

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE "No"** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,  
*Heidi Kaimikaua Hao*  
*P O BOX 887*  
*Kaunakakai, HI*

Name - Molietetise Ma Sun

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Molietetise Ma Sun

City, State: Kailua, HI

I will be testifying.  
Subject:

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less than a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Molietetise Ma Sun Date: 10/29/13

Liana Kri

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

I will be testifying

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 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.

Liana Ray Namataw  
Name

91-1018 Kailua Sec.

RWA BEACH, HI 96706  
Address

Name

We US, Separatists

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

*I will be testifying*

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 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.

S Well

Name

94-066 Leolua S 206

Waipahu, HI

Address

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:

My name is Donna Morgan. My religious beliefs are in keeping with the practice of Orthodox Judaism and my position is in opposition to the proposed marriage equality bill.

Despite my strong opposition to redefining marriage. I am not opposed to supporting the rights and freedoms of our gay citizens. I believe that the best possible solution is to create a separate legal entity for our gay population in which gay couples unite. This would be a legal entity of their own design and of their own title or name, entirely distinct from the institution of marriage. Rather than trying to create a substitutionary model such as marriage, which allows for procreation, it could be a model uniquely designed for the gay community. And rather than impose itself upon an ancient institution that holds at its core traditional religious principles, it could be of its own design.

It would not be perfect, but it is better that opposing ideas live next door to each other than in the same home. At its core it would have the intention of "Separate but Equal". I believe that by creating an institution separate from marriage, that this would diffuse a great deal of hostility and allow for much greater peace in our land.

To be honest, most things that gays and straights do are not in conflict. Whether it be eating at a restaurant, going to the bank, movies and a myriad of normal activities, there is no conflict. But in the areas where there is conflict, by separating these institutions, I believe that there would be a much more tolerable tone. There are always extremists and angry people, but I believe that these are the minority. I believe that the general community would find the dual model acceptable.

In conclusion, I am disappointed that the DOMA judgment has forced us to rush this bill. I really believe that the idea of two distinct institutions would solve many problems. I ask you to please consider this idea and truly consider the welfare of our future.

Mahalo,

Donna Morgan





**Monday, October 28, 2013**

**Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair**

**Ms. Sylvia Luke, Chair**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**House Finance Committee**

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

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

My name is Rojo Herrera and I am a registered voter from Central Oahu. My wife and I chose to live in Hawaii because we believed there was no better place to raise our eleven children. We loved the spirit of mutual respect, community support for families and we wanted pass along to our children the religious/moral values that were given to us by our parents. For the following reasons I stand firmly against SB-1:

First, Same Sex Marriage is NOT a civil right. I lived in the Washington DC area during the Civil Rights era of the early 1960's. To include sexual preference in the same category, as a civil right is to grossly cheapen sacrifices made by the true heroes of civil rights.

Second, studies explain the pain/guilt placed on children raised in same sex environments. These studies are rigorous and comprehensive. In fact, one of my adult daughters who has lived a lesbian lifestyle for the past decade strongly agrees with the results of these studies -- "marriage" is NOT appropriate for people who live a homosexual life style.

Finally, this Special Session does not reflect the desires of the public -- we did not ask for it and it expends time/money that we do not have to waste. I respectfully request you vote NO and urge you to let the people decide!

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

ROJELIO HERRERA JR.

94-368 HAKAMOA ST.,

MILILANI, HI 96789

(808) 284-9874

Annmarie Walker

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

*I will be testifying.*

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 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.

Annmarie Walker  
Name

Annmarie Walker

41-1144 Kaice St Ewer Beach  
Address

Name Fetineiai T. Fraavae

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Fetineiai T. Fraavae

City, State: 94-334 Pupuhole St. #3 Waipahu

Subject: I will be testifying.

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less than a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Fetineiai T. Fraavae Date: 10/29/13

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

Comments: Aloha Legislators! I am a voting resident of Hawai'i & have lived here all my life I am against the same sex marriage bill (SB1). I believe it is far too huge to be voted on in a short Special Session by only a few. Pls. allow WE THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE! Mahalo for all you do, I sure appreciate what you do for our island 'ohana. Sincerely, Yolanda Yamamoto

## I AM AGAINST SAME SEX MARRIAGE

1. Children deserve a mother and a father. Why would anyone want to attack children by depriving them of the privileges and blessings of a traditional family unit? The very same unit that most of us have and enjoy. They need the balance that only a mother and father can give them. God instituted it to be that way.
2. Same sex marriage couples are seeking equal rights for themselves even if it means stripping others of their rights.
3. We have the right to freedom of religion. So why doesn't this bill fully protect our religious freedom? This bill is flawed and needs to be amended. It needs more time and attention.
4. This same sex marriage issue is causing sufferings, contentions, unhappiness, divisions, challenges, commotions, broken families and friendships, is costing us time and money. And this is only the beginning of a very destructive path. Passing this bill will have a horrible impact on Hawai'i, its families, schools, work places, churches, communities, health, morality and so much more. What other union will be sought after next? Things will get worse. Why does Hawai'i have to be like other places in the world? Why can't we just continue to be what many people call "God's Country". Hawai'i is unique and these are very spiritual lands. Remember the plaque hanging on the capitol building which reads Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Aina I Ka Pono. The life of the land is perpetuated in RIGHTEOUSNESS. This refers not only to the physical land but all living life, including us. When you're thinking of what is fair and correct please study both sides thoroughly and uphold that which will keep us out of the clutches of Satan and safely in the arms of Jesus. This is true Freedom.
5. We are all children of God and as such we have inherited many things from Him, one of which is a divine nature. A divine spirit that whispers to us deep within our hearts what is right and what is wrong. We do know the difference. So I am asking you today to do the right thing. Safeguard our families. Protect Hawai'i, our religious freedom and our voting rights. Serve your ALMIGHTY GOD.

I am against same sex marriage. Please let the people's voices be heard and allow us our right to vote on this matter.

Mahalo,

Karla Keli'ihomalu Akiona

Name: Kenji Rayes

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

Kenji Rayes  
Name

2104 Hoochai St.

Pearl City, HI 96782  
Address

Leilani Miller	Individual	Oppose	Yes
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Comments: Marriage is a religious institution and should not be redefined by the government. The government should also not be allowed to specify the circumstances when a religious institution can practice their beliefs and administer its religious organizations according to its free exercise of religion. I strongly oppose SB1.

I am strongly against SB1/HB7 and other similar legislation in support of equal marriage. A marital relationship between a man and a woman is a unique and irreplaceable relationship for the very fact that the very reason for its existence is the power to procreate, foster, rear and raise up children. This power is unlike any other and therefore not equal to any other relationship. It is an institution originally created and defined by churches and is at the foundation of a majority of religions. A marriage between a man and a woman is the very foundation and origin of society as well. What is the purpose of laws and government but to protect, strengthen, and improve society?

I am against SB1 and equal marriage legislation because it does not protect the freedoms and rights of parents to raise children in a manner that they see fit. There are no precautions, definitions, or stipulations that prevent public schools from teaching same sex marriage or obscene topics as acceptable to the young impressionable minds of our children in the name of equality and avoiding discrimination. There are no precautions, definitions, or stipulations that protect the right of a parent to protect their child from the perspectives of others. Especially at young, impressionable ages and especially at a time where children have increased easy access to questionable material that can scar and affect them psychologically for life, we need to uphold the right of a parent to teach and raise their children with values that they deem appropriate and true.

I am against equal marriage legislation because of its lack of protection for religious freedom, a freedom that this country was founded, a freedom for which my ancestors fought for, a freedom established in the very first amendment of the bill of rights which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." If my religion believes that the practice, solemnization, and celebration of homosexual relationships is wrong, my religion and I should be free to exercise that belief whether a religious organization charges a fee or not. Use of facilities and the service of solemnizing and/or celebrating a marriage costs money and if a religious organization is unable to charge a fee for this for fear of legal retribution, I believe our religious organizations, timelessly organizations of service and edification of the communities and societies that they support, will no longer have the means to operate. A religious facility or facility owned and administered by a religious organization, including schools and recreation centers, should be protected and exempt from any requirements of such legislation as they practice the values and teachings which they hold dear. For me and many others, religion does not stop at the edge of a religious organization's property. Citizens as individuals, employees, and business owners should be able to practice their religious values as free exercise as well in all facets of life.



I am strongly against this special session and see it to be a political tactic and not in line with democracy and the principles of the Hawaii government. This bill and this issue is not suited for and does not warrant a special session. Equal marriage is far too hot, fragile, and serious of an issue to be pushed through a special session so quickly. Because this is the largest, pivotal, and most important legislative concerns of this generation, I would that our government takes the time and effort to write and discuss a better bill that is in the best interests involved, a bill that addresses issues of education, parental rights, religious rights, and better defines the protections and laws therein to completely protect the parties and address the issues involved. With a majority of the testimonies concerning SB1 being against the bill, I do not believe our elected officials are doing their duty as representatives of the voices of the people.

I do not believe in infringing on the rights of others which applies to both religious individuals who do not believe in, practice, celebrate, or solemnize homosexual relationships or those who do. The government was meant to protect the rights and freedoms of its citizens, all citizens. I feel that the government is able to delve out governments to relationships as it sees fit but it should not be able to redefine a religious institution. I believe that similar benefits to those currently granted to those in traditional marriage relationships should be granted to other relationships but under a different classification of relationship. Traditional marriage and homosexual unions are very different relationships. There are both similarities and differences which warrant a similar but different treatment under the law. Do not redefine marriage, do not support the special session, and do not pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time.

Leilani Miller

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

My name is Kay Hishinuma. I am a registered voter of Hawaii from Kaneohe who is in strong opposition to SB1. I have testified before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor regarding this bill, and I write to you both to request the opportunity to testify and to state my opinions.

Same sex marriage is an issue with far reaching ramifications. On its face, it is simple. Grant people the right to marry regardless of gender. Socially and legally, it is far, far more. To legitimize this relationship will cause an avalanche of consequences that, it seems, our legislators are unwilling to weigh carefully lest it cause them to stand against something that a small, but vocal, minority demands as morally right.

It has been pointed out that a provision of the bill, as written, will adversely impact the state's judiciary. Couples from other places where gay marriage is not legitimized will be forced to return here if they decide to divorce. If children are involved, this further complicates what is often already a messy issue for the courts to clear up. Hawaii will bear the burden of the costs to provide judicial services. Hawaii's family courts are already inadequate to face the present needs. How, then, will they handle an increased need? These people would not be state residents who pay taxes to support our system; we who reside here will pay for their services.

The impact to our educational system is a grave one. I am told that this is pure conjecture – that parallels cannot be drawn from the examples of Canada and Massachusetts. However, one cannot avoid the fact that the LGBT community has been very clear that the trends going on these places are exactly their aim. In every state where homosexual marriage has been enacted or adjudicated, the legitimizing of this relationship has led to the same ramifications. Children are exposed to sensitive material at inappropriately early ages. Graphic depictions of homosexual acts are common. Parents are denied the right to know if and when sensitive material is being taught. Teachers are directly instructed not to give parents information or allow them to see what is being taught. Schools are required to have homosexual clubs, and faith based clubs are disallowed as conflicting with these gay clubs.

In Hawaii now, we have GSA clubs on campuses. Some students from one of these schools were recently asked how they felt about the GSA clubs on their campuses. Their replies? They were afraid to speak out against them, pressured to wear wristbands and other emblems of the LGBT communities, and bullied for not wanting to participate. One of the LGBT's big arguments is that this will quell the bullying. Representatives, as an educator of many years, I am here to say that the only thing that stops bullying is for all of us to teach our children to respect and love all people, regardless of their differences, and to teach our children to stand up to a bully by refusing to give them power over us to change the way we act. THAT is how we resolve bullying. All that legitimizing gay marriage does is give the bullied reason to become the bullies. It does not resolve the root cause of bullying, the failure to value *all* people.

The impact to the faith community has been dismissed, calling us bigots and intolerant. Please understand that Christians who follow the teachings of the Bible faithfully do not hate homosexuals. Read Romans 12. We are called to love no matter what, to seek to live at peace with those around us to

the very best of our abilities, to treat those who offend us with love and respect – regardless of the offense against us, and to do all as an act of service to the One who loves us just as unconditionally. Understand that loving someone does not mean that we must agree with them. We must still speak the truth – in love – even when that truth is not accepted by others. God uses strong language when He speaks of homosexuality. He tells us that its practice is against His laws – not because He seeks to limit our freedom to choose, but because homosexuality is dangerous to our well being. We do not presume to tell homosexuals that they must stop what they are doing. We simply ask that we not be forced to participate in what we believe is wrong. Teachers, business people, landlords, and many others are already under attack. This law will simply lend more legitimacy to the persecution of the church.

I have heard several legal authorities say that the protections afforded the faith community in this bill are woefully lacking. They are the weakest in the nation. If this bill is supposed to be for ALL of the people, why are the demands of a very small minority being placed over the welfare of the vast majority? Morality is not an arguable position. It is apparent that what is moral no longer has any anchor. Where there has, for centuries, been foundational truths regarding what is right and wrong, that seems no longer to be the case. Morality, then, seems to be at the behest of the majority. If this is the case, it is certainly not the LGBT's morality that should be a guiding force. I am not saying that the faith community should take precedence. I am arguing that we are equally to be protected and allowed to be who we are.

It would take too many pages to lay out every argument. I am sure others will raise the rest of them. There are many, and I am no lawyer. I am a teacher. I am a mother. I am a woman who loves the Lord and has raised my children to respect and love all people regardless of their circumstances, beliefs, race, or sexual orientation. If homosexuals want to marry, I would grieve the damage that I believe they are doing to themselves, but I would not love them less or stand in their way. You see, it is not that I wish to deny them the freedom to do as they please; it is that I and those who believe as I do need to be given equal protection to act upon my own convictions. God does not hold me accountable for the actions of others. He holds me accountable for my own actions and attitudes.

Please . . . please take a stand to allow *all* of us to live as we believe we must. Grant us the protections that we need, or allow us to decide on the ballot. You have been elected to represent us, not to make your own decisions regardless of what we think. I think the turnouts of the last few days have spoken clearly. The people of Hawaii do not want this. It is your job to do the will of the people. Please honor that oath that you took.

Sincerely,

Kay S. M. Hishinuma

Henry Kakeha

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

*I will be testifying.*

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 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.

Henry Kakeha  
Name

98-1361 Hoohua St

PC 1H 96782

Address

To the honorable legislators in the State House of Representatives:

As a registered voter and resident of the State of Hawai'i, I would like to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1, on Marriage Equality. This bill is fully flawed where it violates my First Amendment rights. It infringes upon my rights as an American citizen to force me to accept something that goes against my religious beliefs.

I also oppose this special session as five days is not enough to fully vet through each aspect of this bill. The process does not allow for amending the bill. It seems this bill is trying to be rushed through for political interests, not for the entire welfare for the people of this state.

I urge you to kill this bill as it is written.

Sincerely,  
Ivan K Nishimura  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Totoa Tautu

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

*I will be testifying*  
Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

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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.

Totoa Tautu

Name

41490 Guadalcanal Circle

Kapolei, HI 96707

Address

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

From: Barbara Gross [<mailto:mochimom@hawaii.rr.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:33 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you to share that I OPPOSE the SSM bill. As I explained to Cynthia Thielen, the ROOT of many people who choose homosexuality have been wounded in some way and have a need to find affirmation, value and love from the same sex. I had 2 friends in college who were gay and their life story confirms this. As a counselor, I find the same thing in women as well. Ellen Degeneres is a great example of someone that was wounded as she was sexually abused.

I want to make clear that I am not against the people. I am just against that way of living as it is not natural. It would be better if we spent monies to bring wholeness to their identity.

Also, the SSM agenda is just the beginning of this group's long term plan to invade our schools, homes, etc. As this will happen in the long term should the bill pass, It only further wounds those who are already hurt and opens the door for less wounded people to experiment with their sexuality when government puts a stamp of approval on it. What is disappointing is that the people voted earlier that they did NOT want SSM and yet Governor Abercrombie is pushing this bill. It puts a bad taste in my mouth that those we elect are not trustworthy.

I humbly submit this testimony and trust that my voice will be heard and honored.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gross

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

*I will be testifying*  
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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ana Ki Tautu  
Name

41495 Guadalcanal Circle  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
Address



Karl Rhoads Chair

Judiciary Committee

Subject: In Person Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

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

As a concerned citizen of the state of Hawaii, I am submitting my testimony against SB1, which would legalize same sex marriage.

I oppose this bill for so many reasons. On page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. There are too many exceptions which all of the churches I know of would fall under. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for support groups, classes and sports and fitness programs that are open to the public. My kids take martial arts at one church and we pay a fee to the club/instructor. Is this "for profit"? I attend a parental support group at another church. Many who attend are not members of that church. My kids go to a boys and girls club at yet another church. By practice churches outreach and are open to the community. This should not mean they have to compromise their fundamental beliefs and religious writings, does it? The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free or small fee to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges. Because they have Zumba classes they have to preform homosexual marriages or be liable to a lawsuit. Why not very strong and clear religious protection for these institutions?

We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to get adequate feedback from the community. The only type of meeting I heard of was in Keaau on the Big Island at a community center, but when my children and I showed up along with a full house of interested public our representative Richard Onishi who was scheduled to meet and answer questions, cancelled. Apart from this I was not aware of any opportunities for public meetings on the subject. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent. I honestly believe the surface has not even been scratched in getting the people's input. I first became aware of this issue approximately 3 weeks ago and it has taken me much time and energy to study up and get answers about it. Most people I come in contact with and bridge the subject with have either just heard about it or are very unaware of the ramifications of such a measure and they are all certainly surprised that this huge societal issue is being decided for them.

My great grandmother lived here, grandparents, parents and now my husband and I are raising the next generation here. What we have assumed for all generations is now up for debate. Being a parent, I also have great concerns about this bill's effect on education. I believe the civil union bill addresses the rights of homosexual couples. We have not even given it a chance for the ink to dry and that that bill could be expanded to cover anything that is deemed missing. What is the rush to jump into marriage? It is not necessary to try and change the framework of society to give this group of people there civil rights. Marriage is not a civil right. Marriage is a definition: The legal status, condition, or relationship that results from a contract by which one man and one woman, who have the capacity to enter into such an agreement, mutually promise to live together in the relationship of husband and wife in law for

life, or until the legal termination of the relationship. Across geographical lines, throughout history, spanning religions, and scientifically marriage is between a man and a woman. And this is not to the exclusion of any other group living, being educated, working, voting and being in society. It just simply means a marriage is by definition between a man and a woman. If this bill passes, what will education look like? Will there be a re-educating of our children? Will that have to be intensive to combat years of religious influence, culture, history, experience? Is that a good thing? With all the things our children are facing out there, is this where we want to spend our time and effort? Will that infringe on the religious freedom of the children, their families? What about the teachers? Will they be forced to "teach" something that may be directly contrary to their religious beliefs and convictions? Will curriculum be rewritten? Who will pay for all of this and at what expense, not just in dollars, but to the fabric of our society, to the loss of our right to our convictions and our religious freedoms. What about our right to raise our children according to our beliefs, values & traditions.

These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time. The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii. I request that you vote no to this bill that has so many loose ends or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people.

Sincerely,

Heather Rosario

Rebecca Kakeha

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

*I will be testifying.*

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 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.

Rebecca Bates Kakeha  
Name

98-1361 Hookah St  
PC H 96782  
Address

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.

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In addition, I fear what will happen specifically with our public school systems. If a bill like this is passed, then it will be ok for schools to teach students about this, since it would be legal. I have a daughter myself, and I don't want her to be forced into learning this lifestyle because of a bill like this, not decided in the correct manner but by a room full of representatives. Specifically I draw from the example of Massachusetts. There was no change in the beginning, but then it went from Kindergarten all the way to high school, teaching about a topic which has no business in our school systems. Forcing elementary students to role play marriage? This isn't what our ancestors had intended for the public school system.

And I'm sure a lot of you representatives, have children as well, and don't want to see this being taught to them in school. I therefore implore you to vote no to this bill, to uphold the democracy we were founded on by our ancestors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Joseph D Glade

Mililani, HI

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
austin maglinti	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha, My name is Austin Maglinti and I am 14 years old. On Monday I was able to go to the Capitol and see the hearts of the people. It is confusing to me, when we go to school and I have done this as far as I can remember, if you want to vote or asked to vote by the showing of hands. The one with the most votes win. I went home and watched the rest of the testimonies with my parents on Olelo at the very ending Chair Clayton Hee i believe is his name had gave an estimated count of the testimonies they have received It was clear that Hawaii doesn't want Same Sex Marriage so why is it that the Senate didn't listen to the Majority vote. That in my opinion is wrong and should be punished. I really feel that they should not be serving the people they dont know or want to listen to the people they claim they work for. its a sad day in Hawaii Nei. Please keep Marriage a Covenant between God and Man and Woman, like how its been from the very beginning. life is already hard as it is. don't make this worst. I prayed for God to show you all in some way or form that He is real and that there is great consequences for your actions. Please LISTEN to the People of Hawaii Nei the Majority Please

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

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

Comments: I strongly oppose SB1 and truly believe you as our elected officials need to let the people decide according to our democracy. We are all registered voters. We live in your districts. We will not forget how you, individually, vote re this very important life changing matter, that will affect each and everyone of us and our families. We Wont Forget!

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Name Faimalotaupule Fetuao

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

Faimalotaupule Fetuao

Name

94-334 Pipiwale St. Apt #4

Address

Waipahu, HI 96797

Cole Patterson

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

*I will be testifying*

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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cole Patterson

Name

*Cole P*

91-929 Puamoa St, Apt 55

Address



To: The House Judiciary and Finance Committees

Greetings. My name is Mark Morimoto. Hawaii is my home throughout my 56 years of life, as I have been born and raised here. I am saddened to see where our beloved Hawaii could be headed. This bill could have tremendous ramifications for all of us here in Hawaii, especially the keiki. What will they be taught? Who will determine the school curriculum for them? What rights will parents have? What will happen to the vast majority of people who would have a differing view of marriage? What would happen to their rights? There are so many questions. So many very important questions that could affect all of Hawaii for generations. So many questions that need to be thought through. If we look at what has happened elsewhere where same sex marriage has become legal, at the very least, we should be concerned. We should examine what has happened and if that could happen here. I think it is grossly naïve to say that those things would never happen here in Hawaii. We don't say that about other important issues. Much research was done for things that affected us all, rail as an example. I don't know personally how much was spent, but it seems that much money and more importantly, much time was spent discerning whether rail would be good for our island. I think this bill could have far reaching consequences and requires more time.

So I am opposed to this bill because it seems that it is being unnecessarily rushed through. As our legislature, we trust you to be very thoughtful in these important decisions. We trust you to do what is best for our Hawaii. We trust you to represent us all. Not just a small minority, but all of us. We voted for you as a way of saying that we trust you. Please do not betray our trust in you.

Please don't leave the people out of the democratic process that makes our nation what it is. Hear the people, allow the people in on the process and please vote "no" on SB1.

Thank you.

Name: Bly Aphonephony

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Bly Aphonephony

Cith, State: Waipahu HI

Subject:

*(I will be testifying)*  
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less then a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature:

 Date: 10/29/13

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Carol Hoomanawanui	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Karl Rhoads, Chair House Judiciary Committee Sylvia Luke, Chair House Finance Committee Joint House Judiciary/Finance Committee Hearing on SB 1 relating to equality on Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00am. RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 1 relating to equality Aloha Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees, I am opposed to SB 1. This bill will change centuries of tradition in a short period of time without allowing sufficient input from the people of Hawai'i. Sanctity of marriage should be protected between one man and one woman. In addition, this bill does not have any protections of religious freedoms for people in the marketplace such as business owners and employees to live out their faith in every aspect of life, including conducting business based on their faith and values. I am asking you to vote NO on SB 1. Mahalo nui loa. Carol Hoomanawanui

**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
Norene N Machida	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Members of the House, My name is Norene Machida and I stand firmly opposed on calling a special session and legalizing same sex marriage. In addition, I would like to recognize several gay couples, who are my dear friends, that have been together for over 20 years, who are also opposed to legalizing same sex marriage! I can only pray, they along with more same sex couples, will rise up to testify of their opposition. Not against the choice they have made of being together, but of changing what we in America have stood by and defined marriage as one man and one woman. I presume their testimonies would be highlighted and better listened too, then from someone who is speaking from a religious stand point or moral view. Somethings should never change, and this one tops the list. Change should always be for good, and for the good of most, not just some. Once you agree that this change is for good, you will become responsible for all the generations who will come under this law. This will re-identify a family unit by acknowledging parents as same gender, it will affect and radify sex education taught in schools. Has any research or studies been done on the effects of this law in states or countries that are now under this law? I would hope in the last 3 weeks before this special session convenes our representatives and senators have been traveling or studying affects good and bad. As a parent born and raised in Hawaii with 3 generations born and raised here, I am opposed to our Legislators voting on this critical decision. When the question was put on the ballot, of who should make decisions based on marriage, I ignorantly believed it was best left in the hands of our government and could not conceive an issue of this magnitude would arise that could change history in 5 days! The lesson i learned through all of this is NEVER allow any law to be decided by our elected officials. The people of Hawaii should be given the opportunity to vote because this issue has too many detrimental short and long term effects that will impact future generations. Why does it seem so easy to call a special session to pass this bill and so hard to do the same for Hawaiian people to be recognized as a separate nation? The Hawaiian people have been struggling as long, if not longer, with changing and passing laws that gives them rights? May God bless you and the people of Hawaii,

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Matthias, Solo

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Matthias, Solo

City, State: Waipahu HI

Subject:

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less then a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Matthias Solo Date: 10/29/13



Chairpersons of the Senate:  
Honorable Members of the Hawaii House:

RE: SB1 - Equal Rights

For Legislative Session Meeting on Wednesday OCT 31, 2013

This is a testimony to publicly express my opposition to SB1.

As a Mililani resident, a community leader, Pastor of Kukuilani Baptist Church, a business owner, and concerned citizen for the wonderful state of Hawaii here are my reasons for opposing this bill.

- 1) Hawaii House Representatives are elected as 'representatives' of the people of Hawaii. You are here to serve the people of Hawaii. You are not here to represent outside special interest groups. Your voice should be that of the voice of the Hawaii residents. Your constituents should be who you listen to, not anyone else. Period. You were elected by your constituents, not anyone else. In addition, America is founded on the principle of the voice of the people, and especially of that by the majority. Majority rules. At this time, on this issue, if it is not clear what the people of Hawaii believe with regard to Marriage equality, then put it **on the ballot for all the people of Hawaii to decide.**
- 2) If this bill were about equal rights, then why are the rights of children not being discussed? Where are the equal rights for children who would say, "where is my mommy **and** my daddy?" This bill would deny children their right, and force them (truly force the, they would have no choice) to not have a choice. To be clear this would deny equal rights to young people (children/teens). To have a mom and dad has been a mainstay since the beginning of human civilization. So to be honest, this bill is not about 'equal rights' it is about adult people who are choosing to live the way they want, without any consideration of children. So in essence children don't have a right to a mom and dad. How sad.

3) In case this hasn't hit home, Let me as every single House Representative:

Did you grow up with a mother and father?

Think back on your childhood - what would it have been like if you had been forced to have two moms (no dad, ever) or two dads (no mom, ever)?

How would that have changed your childhood memories and experiences?

And now you are going to take that away for potential children here in Hawaii?

Again, this bill is not about equal rights. It is about adults whose will and rights are way more important than that of a child or teenager. In this case, children and teens have no rights.

4) Hawaii is a popular and sought after family destination of peoples all over the globe. Many love Hawaii because it is so 'family oriented.' Allowing less than one percent of the population and outside interest groups to change family orientation here in Hawaii will devastate the tourism industry, and send a message to the world that we are no longer a family friendly place to visit. Outside interest groups will spend millions now promoting that Hawaii is or will become the gay vacation capital or paradise of the world.

Is that the kind of image that each of you believe that your constituents want their state to be viewed? Will this help our local economy? Will this help people who move here because of our family atmosphere? Or will they think twice about brining their family here to live and therefore spend their money and resources somewhere else?

5) We already have a civil unions bill to accommodate same - sex couples. Again, if you are uncertain about this, LET the people of Hawaii decide on the ballot. Our freedom is based upon a government that was founded 'of the people, by the people, for the people.' NOT a government of the 'few' people. **Let the Majority decide.**

6) **This bill is NOT about marriage equity. It is about the agenda of the LGBT groups that want a total acceptance on every level. Ask them! Please ask them! They will tell you that marriage equality is not enough. Ask them where they will attack next. Yes, it is an attack on traditional society. Next will be education, then business, then of course they will attack religious freedoms and Free speech head on.**

**Please let the people decide.**

**Remember you work for us, the Hawaiian people, your constituents. I am asking you to do your job to represent me and the majority of Hawaiians.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

David Ameen Jr.  
Mililani, Hawaii  
808-971-1360

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

Comments: Let the People Vote. I believe the people already voted on this issue and now the law makers are saying we don't care about what the people want we want to go against it and make our own laws. I feel like I am being bullied and you as law makers are not representing the people properly if you are going against the law we already voted on. If we vote you in to office and then the Gov. says well my friends in Washington don't like you anymore so I will call a special session to vote you out and put the person the people voted against in the general election in your office. That is not right and not letting us vote for this is not right.





## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SB1 - RELATING TO EQUALITY

**Karl Rhoads, Chair**  
**House Judiciary Committee**

and

**Sylvia Luke, Chair**  
**House Finance Committee**

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

Welina mai. My name is Kamuela Werner and I am a tax paying, law abiding, Hawaii raised, college educated, registered voter in the District of Makiki. I am in **strong support of SB1** because it provides homosexual couples, such as my partner and myself, the long delayed dignity and equity that is afforded to our heterosexual counterparts. We (homosexuals) represent a strong and perpetual presence in Hawaii's families, economy, and religious communities. Passing SB1 into law affirms and further normalizes our inherent place in society and thwarts the efforts of special interest groups from marginalizing our beliefs (the belief that two consenting adults who happen to be of the same gender can love one other and consecrate their love through marriage). Your decision to enact SB1 will not only validate homosexual relationships but also benefit the psychosocial consciousness of closeted homosexuals and homosexual youth.

Please do not allow the selective and biased opinions of religious extremist to sway your discernment. Four and a half years ago, I met the love of my life and it has been the most natural, enriching, and holy experience yet. If we decided to undertake the privilege of marry each other, I would hope my elected officials provided us the human right to do so.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure and I urge you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's ohana.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

My name is Iris Faulkner and I am a voting resident of Mililani Mauka. I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. You've heard all the arguments for and against this bill but I would like to add that as I've learned about the startling ramifications of making this bill law, as seen in Canada and other states, I am deeply saddened every time I look at innocent children and families and think of the appalling circumstances they could be subject to that this bill, if it passes, could lead to.

I have read and re-read this bill several times and am trying to understand it as a layperson. I have many questions as to what some phrases imply, and as seen in the 1998 bill that I thought secured the definition of marriage being between one man and one woman, one lawsuit can enter a loophole and change things in a day. If those that voted for the 1998 bill did not see this coming, then how are we assured that the bill we have before us today will not lead to a loss of religious freedom, loss of parental rights, the loss of speaking up for our values without backlash or even being put in jail for it?

I am asking you to look at this with greater care. Please give yourselves and your constituents more time to be educated on this issue and not rush into a decision. I don't want you or anyone else to look back years from now and say, I never thought this could happen in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Iris Faulkner

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

*Tiu Laupapa*

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

*Tiu Laupapa*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

*4149D Guadalcanal Circle*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Kapolei, HI 96707*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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

Comments: Dear Representative Yamane: 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 am a Native Hawaiian and Asian that went to school and lived on the mainland in the 60's when simply not being white Anglo-Saxon protestant meant you could be denied basic civil rights. As a society we have made significant progress since then. However, I do not think it correct or necessary that my religious rights should be denied while ensuring the civil and religious rights of gays and lesbians based on the principle of equality. The proposed legislation should not focus on the term "marriage" but rather on the measures of equality that all can agree with. The term "marriage" is not gender neutral. It has historical and biblical context. Any dismantling of the institution of marriage evokes strong emotional and visceral reaction in the vast majority of our community and does not unite us but rather divides us. I am a Mormon and view the narrow protection given to our Bishops and Stake President's from having to officiate at gay weddings as horribly inadequate to protect my religious freedom. Our temples, chapels and other infrastructure, and services such as Bishops storehouse, education, employment, social services, and other community outreach programs must also be protected from infringement of demands from gays, lesbians and others whose lifestyle is contrary to our basic beliefs. According to our understanding of God's commandments, we are to love all his children and we do, but that does not mean we should be forced to accept their sinful ways nor allow their sins to taint all that we hold sacred. All the infrastructure and services provided by our church to members and non-members alike, are an extension and symbol of our faith which we hold to be sacred. To deny us the freedom to use our infrastructure and services to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ as we understand the gospel is to deny me my freedom of religion. I should be able to practice my religious freedom without imposing on another person's religious freedom. By holding our church's infrastructure and outreach services hostage to the demands of gays and lesbians to use same for their civil or religious purposes is tantamount to imposing their beliefs on me. I have no right to demand the infrastructure and services of other churches to be used by me to foster my beliefs and the same measure of equality should be applied to gays and lesbians. Respectfully request you work earnestly with your fellow legislators to protect our religious rights as you seek to secure the civil rights of the gays and lesbians. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Warren Ah Loo 94-391 Nui St. Mililani, HI 96789

To our representatives,

I strongly oppose the bill SB1. While I love all people, I am certain that my parental and religious freedoms are being ignored should this bill be passed. I already feel that the senate has totally ignored the cried of many of the people they should be representing. Please say “no” to this bill until you can ensure that my parental and religious rights will also be protected.

Mahalo for your time,  
Desiree Adams

To: Honorable Chair Rhoads and Honorable Chair Luke and respective representatives who are members of the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Finance

From: Larie Manutai

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013

Re: Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 1 Relating to Equality

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Dear Honorable Chair Hee and the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

My name is Larie Manutai and I am testifying in opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality. Under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, citizens of the United States are guaranteed religious freedoms. The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." This part of the First Amendment is commonly known as Freedom of Religion.

Marriage as an institution was established by God. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint's "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" states in part that "Marriage between a man and a woman is essential to [God's] eternal plan." This bill is in direct opposition to my religious beliefs and would prohibit my ability exercise my religion freely.

SB 1 as written does nothing to protect churches and business owners who do not wish to provide services for individuals who choose a lesbian, homosexual, gay or transgendered lifestyle based on their religious beliefs. Abortion laws, while legalizing abortions, protect doctors who refuse to provide this type of service. However, a business owner refusing to provide services to a lesbian, homosexual, gay or transgendered couple would be fined. This does not adequately protect a business owner who is trying to freely exercise their beliefs and is a blatant restriction on the free exercise clause in the First Amendment to the US Constitution. Under Reynolds vs. US, the Supreme Court states that "Congress cannot a pass for the government of the Territory which shall prohibit the free exercise of religion. The first amendment to the Constitution expressly forbids such legislation." State laws that infringe on the free exercise of religion must fulfill a compelling interest in order to be validated.

Individual businesses (i.e., caterers, musicians, entertainers, wedding planners, etc.) who would reject participation in same-sex marriage ceremony or reception based on wanting to live their convictions, should be exempted as well. Their refusal to provide services to such groups would not cause an undue hardship on same-sex couples because there are many business and organizations that service couples regardless of their sexual preference.

Many churches rent space in the buildings to pay bills and fund various programs and services that they provide. Such a churches refusal to rent space to a same-gender couple wanting to use their facilities would leave them open fines. This law unfairly targets and discriminates against such organizations, and does not afford protections for those churches, and can be viewed as an attempt by the state to change the religious views of a particular church or congregation.

Public accommodations laws were created at a time when African Americans could not get serviced at hotels, restaurants, or other places of business. There are many organizations businesses that will service individuals regardless of their sexual preference. This law should be amended to protect Churches who rent space in their buildings and they should be exempted from fines under this law.

In closing, I urge that you look closely at this measure and think about the ramifications that it will have on our State. Do your research so that you can come to the best conclusion for all people.



Name Lafaekē Iiawae

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 10:00 a.m.

From: Lafaekē Iiawae

City, State: 94-334 Puuhohe St #3 Waiyake HI 96791  
I will be testifying.  
Subject:

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and 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 and did not give legislators the right to define marriage as we are finding out only now! The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Why should less than a hundred people decide what's good for almost a million people that live here in Hawaii? Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I look forward to further instructions on obtaining my ticket number.

Signature: Lafaekē Iiawae

Date: 10/29/13

Tony Laupapa

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

*I will be testifying*  
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 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.

Tony J. Laupapa  
Name

4149D Guadalcanal Circle  
Kapolei, HI 96707  
Address

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Dawn Yount	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: I 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 In 1998 I voted to preserve marriage between one man and one woman and in doing so, I gave the Legislature power which is coming back to haunt me today. This power was given in good faith and with the expectation that the Legislature would honor my wishes along with the wishes of the people of Hawaii for such a time as this. The media reported that 21 out of 25 representative will be voting "yes" on this bill which will redefine marriage forever. I am urging you to please give me along with the people of Hawaii back the power to vote on this issue so that we can settle this one and for all. Please let the people vote! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Dawn Yount Honolulu, HI

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair House Judiciary committee

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Finance committee

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

31 Oct 2013 at 10:00 am

I plan to testify in person

Submitted by: Barbara O’Nale

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

My opposition to this bill for circumventing the normal process a bill should go through is even stronger since my experience in giving my testimony to the Senate on Monday. So many people showed up to testify in person, the allotted time was cut from 2 minutes to one minute. People who do not live in Hawaii testified, but registered voters whose schedules did not allow for them to arrive early were turned away. I arrived shortly after 10 am, was in group 9, and it was around 4:30 pm when our group lined up. By the time it was my turn, only three of the committee members were actually sitting there. I do not know if my testimony was heard by the other members, though I doubt it actually matters, and if there is no change in the predicted Senate vote after hearing the overwhelming number of impassioned pleas to take the time to listen to the people in regular session or allow us to vote, then I probably wasted my time. I will never know though if they might have had questions about my concern for the activism that led to homosexuality being dropped from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, the activism that is currently going on to drop other paraphilias (the term that replaced sexual deviancy in 1980), the changes B4U-act wanted in diagnosing paraphilias (pedophilia is one of them) that did occur in the May 2013 release of DSM-V, and how the “B” in LGBT and these paraphilias can be ignored in the vagueness of marriage equality if the definition of marriage between a male and female is eroded. You can just barely mention a topic in one minute, you can’t expound if you are not asked a question, and if the majority of the committee is not sitting there, you are even further limited.

Governor Abercrombie keeps trying to convince us that everything has already been heard and discussed. The changes to the DSM came out in May of 2013. Have you read them and is it worth discussing as we have this definition of marriage debate? Up until the time I testified, I did not hear ONE person mention the DSM, and as I could not find the written testimonies on the website, I do not know if anyone else addressed it.