

Activism has been successful in linking sexual orientation as a behavior protected under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, and this almost always supersedes an individual's First Amendment right of free speech and the practice of religion. This is evident by the fact that religious exemptions must be written into the bill to comply with "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof", but as is the case in this bill, clergy and buildings are protected, but not individuals who have a moral or religious conviction on the topic of sexual behavior. My representative, Sharon Har came under the threat of censorship by the Democrat party of Hawaii when she exercised her free speech to represent her constituents on the definition of marriage, because the party deemed violating the party platform on equal rights violated the membership requirements of the DPH , and her membership in the organization could be affected. That is tremendous political pressure and I commend her and the others who have not succumbed to the pressure, but have remained steadfast in defending the democratic process. It concerns me that activism has become so powerful that we are in a special session, and a few people's definition of party platform should supersede representing constituents' views. It does not bode well for the individual.

Back to the DSM. Sexual Orientation is not just heterosexual or homosexual. Before 1973 homosexuality was listed first under the heading of Sexual Deviancy, followed by many others. Activism from without and within the American Psychiatric Association succeeded in changing the definition of homosexuality in the DSM in 1973 to Sexual orientation disturbance that is a disorder only if you are disturbed by, in conflict with, or wish to change your sexual orientation. Otherwise, it is just one form of sexual behavior.

Dr. Spitzer wrote the definition change and in his proposal he stated:

"When all the arguments are carefully examined, a few simple statements can be made with which hardly anyone can disagree:

- A significant proportion of homosexuals are quite bothered by, in conflict with, or wish to change their sexual orientation.
- Modern methods of treatment enable a significant proportion of homosexuals who wish to change their sexual orientation to do so.
- Similarly, by no longer listing it as a psychiatric disorder we are not saying that it is "normal" or as valuable as heterosexuality."

In 1980, in DSM III, sexual deviations was dropped and replaced by paraphilias. Today, through activism, homosexuality is not even referenced, and you are not free to voice the above arguments. Laws have been passed in some states to make it illegal to treat people who do not embrace their homosexual desires. There have been discussions on removing all paraphilias from

the DSM. This is from the article in *Open Access Journal of Forensic Psychology*, 2, 241-272. **Defining Paraphilia: Excluding Exclusion** by Andrew C. Hinderliter

“One criticism of the move to remove homosexuality *per se* from the DSM was that the same logic would lead to the removal of the other sexual deviations. In a debate with Robert Spitzer published in the New York Times (Anonymous, 1973), Irving Bieber said that he did not think homosexuality was a mental disorder, but that it should be kept in the DSM, which, he stated, “contains other conditions [that do not satisfy Dr. Spitzer’s definition] that I don’t consider mental disorders either, such as voyeurism and fetishism.” Spitzer’s response is telling: “I haven’t given as much thought [as Dr. Bieber] to the problems of voyeurism and fetishism, and perhaps that’s because the voyeurs and fetishists haven’t organized themselves and forced us to do that” (p. 109, brackets in original). Not only did those opposed to the declassification of homosexuality believe that the same logic would also imply the sexual deviations more generally should be declassified, Silverstein (2009) writes that this was “the long range goal of the [gay] activist committee” (p. 161) that met with the nomenclature committee in February 1973. He recently expressed explicitly what had been implicit in his argument there: “If there was no objective, independent evidence that a homosexual orientation is in itself abnormal, then what justification was there for including any of the other sexual behaviors in DSM?” (p. 162).

Fast forward to 2011, and the B4U-Act symposium. B4U-ACT was established in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) organization with one of the purposes “To publicly promote services and resources for self-identified individuals (adults and adolescents) who are sexually attracted to children and seek such assistance.”

Brief descriptions of presentation at:

Pedophilia, Minor-Attracted Persons, and the DSM: Issues and Controversies

B4U-ACT Symposium, Baltimore, MD, August 17, 2011

Sexual Alignment:

Critiquing Sexual Orientation, The Pedophile, and the DSM V

Jacob Breslow, B.A.

One of the major changes attempts to establish a clear distinction between pedophilia as a non-diagnosable ascertainment, and pedophilic disorder as a diagnosable, distressing and non-normative disorder that requires psychiatric intervention. Allowing for a form of non-diagnosable minor attraction is exciting, as it potentially creates a sexual or political identity by which activists, scholars and clinicians can begin to better understand Minor Attracted Persons. This understanding may displace the stigma, fear and abjection that is naturalized as being attached to Minor Attracted Persons and may alter the terms by which non-normative sexualities are known. Furthermore, this paper argues that this distinction is potentially another step towards the complete re-thinking of paraphilias within the DSM – a step that follows historically and theoretically from the removal of homosexuality.

That goal was accomplished in DSM V which came out in May 2013:

“Additional changes in DSM-5 include a rethinking of paraphilic disorders. While their diagnostic criteria remain unchanged from DSM-IV, the updated manual distinguishes between paraphilic behaviors, or paraphilias, and paraphilic disorders. A paraphilic disorder is a "paraphilia that is currently causing distress or impairment to the individual or a paraphilia whose satisfaction has entailed personal harm, or risk of harm, to others.”

The Implications

The new approach to paraphilias demedicalizes and destigmatizes unusual sexual preferences and behaviors, provided they are not distressing or detrimental to one's self or others. Clinicians are tasked with determining whether a behavior qualifies as a disorder, based on a thorough history provided by both the patient and qualified informants.”

We have seen historically that activists have pushed for, and then used changes in the definitions within the DSM to push their agenda and make changes to our laws (and all laws are based on a society's definition of acceptable behavior). With the fluidity of these changes, the broadness of “sexual orientation”, and the vagueness of “marriage equality” will there be any recourse for our society to legislate sexual behavior or marriage, if the definition of marriage between one man and one woman is eroded? Will laws against marriage for the “B” in LGBT be defensible? Will age of consent laws successfully be challenged? Does our society care? I think there is much yet to be discussed in long term consequences that a special session does not allow time for.

As this could be any contentious issue, a no vote on this bill in special session would show respect for the normal democratic process of passing a bill and give citizens the confidence that elected officials are not succumbing to political pressure instead of representing them. A yes vote validates this circumventing of the process for activists to use in the future to push an agenda that failed during the regular legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara O’Nale

Tiony A. 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.

Tiony A. Laupapa
Name

4149D Guadalupe Circle

Kapolei, HI 96707
Address

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Edwynn Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tony J. Laupapa
Name

4149D Guadalcanal Circle
Kapolei, HI 96707
Address

Kaleo 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: KALEO NAVARRO

City, State: Waipahu, Hawaii

Subject: I will testify

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

Kaleo Navarro

Date:

10/30/13

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I am very concerned about the effect on traditional marriage and family as a whole. Children come into this world through the action of one man and woman. That is how god intended for us to live. I am also very concerned about the religious freedoms being effected by this bill. We live in a country that allows freedom of religion. That is a huge factor in the foundation of our country. People choose to live differently from each other and worship how they desire. There is no reason anyone's religious views or way of living should be forced or imposed on others. Another concern is the effect on small business - we should be allowed to choose who we do business with and decline clientele because of religious views. No one should be forced to do something they are uncomfortable doing. I am very concerned about my children and their future. I ask you to let the people decide on this important issue as it will change our society immensely. Please think of our future generations and the impact this decision has on them. Please vote no on SB-1.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Scott Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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 the people, and your constituents, sufficient input in the legislative process. I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. The only legitimate way to change this is to let us, your constituents, decide. Please do not bypass the democratic process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 1
Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013
10:00am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Keilani Briones and have grown up in Hawaii. I am testifying regarding the Marriage Equity Act to recognized marriage between individuals of the same sex. I am testifying against this measure.

I believe marriage is a between a man and a woman and is a deeply religious issue. I also believe that America's 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I have a strong conviction that marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children. It is engrained in our very nature for children to need the positive influence of a father and mother. Thus, maintaining the traditional definition of marriage is important to the fabric of family and our society.

I also believe that the current draft of this bill is completely inadequate to safeguard my constitutional guaranteed religious freedoms. I believe the exemption language is too narrow to protect religious freedom for individuals, small business and religious organizations in our state.

I urge this body to vote no on this bill and to give the people the right to individually vote on an issue that will so closely affect our communities and the society in which we live and raise our family.

Thank you,
Keilani Briones
55-103 Lanihuli St.
Laie, HI 96762

Name: Ezra Bumanglag

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.

 Ezra Bumanglag
Name

 94-820 Kumukuke Loop
 Waipahu, HI 96797
Address

Dear Legislators, Hearing Officers and Committee,

I am opposing SB1369 or similar Bills for three reasons:

1. The bill which is being considered is too broadly worded, specifically in its religious exemption language. It doesn't lay out specific provisions or protections for any religious organization that wants to keep a same-sex marriage from occurring in their facilities or on their premises due to their beliefs and tenants of faith.
2. Because content of this bill will affect every family and citizen of Hawaii, all the people of Hawaii should have a chance to vote through referendum.
3. The tradition of marriage being between one man and one woman has been the bedrock of our American culture and the foundation for stability for countless civilizations and all major religions of this world. Is there a reason for this? I think so!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2013
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Chris Lee
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Rep. Nicole E. Lowen Rep. Beth Fukumoto
Rep. Dee Morikawa Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING SB1

DATE: Thursday, October 31, 2013

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Comments: I am grateful to our country and to this wonderful state which establishes my right to share my views with Aloha.

PLEASE protect our freedom of religion, freedom of speech and right to vote. We should be able to freely exercise our Constitutional freedoms and rights. Our committee, including the outer islands and rural areas, should have an adequate opportunity to read, research, ask questions, and to carry on a dialogue - a particularly dire concern for residents of the outer islands. By conducting this special session, those inalienable rights are being denied to the people of our state, we owe it to the future of our state to do our due diligence

There are legal implications [known and anticipated], which should not be overlooked.

This type of action, demonstrates a disregard to its people, its future and to our democratic process. Our First Amendment and Constitutional rights seem in jeopardy.

As a Hawaii resident and voter, I am bewildered at how we got to the point where the democratic process is being inadvertently disregarded.

Making such a decision takes away the rights of all to share their view, especially disconcerting when they are the majority. Redefining "marriage" virtually erases traditions the world has known for centuries to appease a small population and imposing views contrary to the beliefs of the majority. In addition, the [legal] ramifications of this proposed law will adversely affect the majority of churches, small businesses, students who choose to live out their faith, schools, and the community.

As a Veteran, I am disheartened because the very freedoms that I and my fellow Veterans put our lives on the line (and many have died or suffered permanent injury) to protect, preserve and defend, are at risk.

As a Parent, it saddens me to have seen our child in private school last year participate in an "underground Bible study" because tolerance for religious freedom is perceived as minimal - our children have been ostracized and some even bullied in our school, because of their faith and convictions. They should be free to practice and live out their faith openly. If it's already difficult for kids to openly follow their faith, the fear is that our Keiki will feel even more discriminated against in public schools, especially if we follow the footsteps of Canada where their curriculum [and also required in homeschooling] imposes teachings contrary to the faith and religion of many. Imposing conflicting teachings on our impressionable children, without a say-so by parents again takes away from our Constitutional rights.

As an American, I cherish that the founding of our country is directly tied to freedom of religion. The center of our life is our faith and religious freedom in our home. The proposed law has countless flaws and potential land mines for many organizations, churches, employers, schools and teachers etc., leaving many vulnerable to lawsuits because they are holding true to their faith and religion, even when they respectfully and with love, opt out of participating in something (e.g. ceremony, service, curriculum, etc.) directly conflicting with their faith and religious freedom and freedom of speech. There is nothing democratic about taking away someone's right to choose - please protect our rights as well.

We respectfully request that our representatives research the adverse effects already in Canada and there other states, it is important to do our due diligence in making a life-altering decision. I would like to conclude with the following:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

We also ask that the state allow its people the appropriate time to review this and let us decide - please do not take that away from us, it is not a positive precedent to set in our state, nor our country.

I am opposed to SB 1 and respectfully ask that the people be allowed to vote and be afforded an equal opportunity to research this proposed law and express our viewpoint, without rushing.

Respectfully submitted with Aloha~
Trish Matthews

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

98-458 Hoomailani St.
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 456-8198

October 30, 2013

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Hearing on Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

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

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB1. Same-sex marriage will produce marriage inequality rather than marriage equality. As currently defined, all citizens may marry a member of the opposite sex regardless of race, age, economic status, religion or gender preference. No one is left out. However, as soon as same-sex proponents are allowed to redefine marriage to allow their special interest group to gain the legal status of marriage with all of its benefits, other sexual minority groups, such as polygamists, will want the right to marry as well. Indeed, it is already happening.

Ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Certainly this means the majority of people, not one vocal and politically powerful interest group. Marriage has benefits, but it also has responsibilities. Perhaps the most important function of marriage is to produce and raise children, and to teach them what it means to be a man or a woman. A father cannot fulfill the role of a mother, nor can a mother fulfill the role of a father. All children have a biological mother and father. They have a desire to know their parents. To know one's parents and to be loved and raised by them is the best possible scenario. Couples consisting of two men or two women cannot produce children. They should not be allowed to have the same rights as heterosexual married couples if they cannot fulfill the same roles as producers, nurturers, and role models for children.

People such as myself who believe that God ordained marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman, will find our deeply cherished religious beliefs reduced to "hate" speech and "bigotry". Surely the founding fathers of our country, most of whom were Christian, would object to this.

Same-sex marriage will have a detrimental effect on our children and our society in general. Please do not attempt to redefine marriage. Leave this decision to the citizens of this state if not the country as a whole. It is going to impact everyone in myriad ways, so let everyone have a say. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Sharon Toyomura

To our honorable lawmakers,

I would like to submit my testimony in OPPOSITION of bill SB1. I strongly feel that the sanctity of traditional marriage between man and woman must be protected. Marriage in this form has been at the foundation of society and changing its nature will lead to the weakening of families in our state and nation. This will lead to a multitude of social and economic problems in the future.

Aside from being opposed to the nature of the bill itself I have strong concerns that the bill does not have sufficient protection for religious organizations and small business.

I urge you to make the following adjustments to the bill:

1 – Protect religious organizations and officials from being required to support or perform same-sex marriages or from having to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities for both their congregations and non-congregation members.

2 – Protect individuals and small business from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same-sex marriages.

Mahalo,


Amy Casey

45-356 Hui Iwa st

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear House Judicial Committee,

Sited below is a statement by Dallin Oaks, a former State Supreme Court Judge: It sums it all up for me. Thank you for your time.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom

Those who favor homosexual marriage contend that “tolerance” demands that they be given the same right to marry as heterosexual couples. But this appeal for “tolerance” advocates a very different meaning and outcome than that word has meant throughout most of American history and a different meaning than is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Savior taught a much higher concept, that of love. “Love thy neighbor,” He admonished. Jesus loved the sinner even while decrying the sin, as evidenced in the case of the woman taken in adultery: treating her kindly, but exhorting her to “sin no more.” Tolerance as a gospel principle means love and forgiveness of one another, not “tolerating” transgression.

In today’s secular world, the idea of tolerance has come to mean something entirely different. Instead of love, it has come to mean *condone* – acceptance of wrongful behavior as the price of friendship. Jesus taught that we love and care for one another without condoning transgression. But today’s politically palatable definition insists that unless one accepts the sin he does not tolerate the sinner.

As Elder Dallin H. Oaks has explained,

Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another’s differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one’s standards or one’s opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.

The Church does not condone abusive treatment of others and encourages its members to treat all people with respect. However, speaking out against practices with which the Church disagrees on moral grounds – including same-sex marriage – does not constitute abuse or the frequently misused term “hate speech.” We can express genuine love and friendship for the homosexual family member or friend without accepting the practice of homosexuality or any re-definition of marriage.

Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place “church and state on a collision course.”

The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they exclude same-sex couples from club membership.

Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished.

How Would Same-Sex Marriage Affect Society?

Possible restrictions on religious freedom are not the only societal implications of legalizing same-sex marriage. Perhaps the most common argument that proponents of same-sex marriage make is that it is essentially harmless and will not affect the institution of traditional heterosexual marriage in any way. “It won’t affect you, so why should you care?” is the common refrain. While it may be true that allowing single-sex unions will not immediately and directly affect all existing marriages, the real question is how it will affect society as a whole *over time*, including the rising generation and future generations. The experience of the few European countries that already have legalized same-sex marriage suggests that any dilution of the traditional definition of marriage will further erode the already weakened stability of marriages and family generally. Adopting same-sex marriage compromises the traditional concept of marriage, with harmful consequences for society.

Aside from the very serious consequence of undermining and diluting the sacred nature of marriage between a man and a woman, there are many practical implications in the sphere of public policy that will be of deep concern to parents and society as a whole. These are critical to understanding the seriousness of the overall issue of same-sex marriage.

When a man and a woman marry with the intention of forming a new family, their success in that endeavor depends on their willingness to renounce the single-minded pursuit of self-fulfillment and to sacrifice their time and means to the nurturing and rearing of their children. Marriage is fundamentally an unselfish act: legally protected because only a male and female together can create new life, and because the rearing of children requires a life-long commitment, which marriage is intended to provide. Societal recognition of same-sex marriage cannot be justified simply on the grounds that it provides self-fulfillment to its partners, for it is not the purpose of government to provide legal protection to every possible way in which individuals may pursue fulfillment. By definition, all same-sex unions are infertile, and two individuals of the same gender, whatever their affections, can never form a marriage devoted to raising their own mutual offspring.

It is true that some same-sex couples will obtain guardianship over children –through prior heterosexual relationships, through adoption in the states where this is permitted, or by artificial insemination. Despite that, the all-important question of public policy must be: what environment is best for the child and for the rising generation? Traditional marriage provides a solid and well-established social identity to children. It increases the likelihood that they will be able to form a clear gender identity, with sexuality closely linked to both love and procreation. By contrast, the legalization of same-sex marriage likely will erode the social identity, gender development, and moral character of children. Is it really wise for society to pursue such a radical experiment without taking into account its long-term consequences for children?

As just one example of how children will be adversely affected, the establishment of same-sex marriage as a civil right will inevitably require mandatory changes in school curricula. When the state says that same-sex unions are equivalent to heterosexual marriages, the curriculum of public schools will have to support this claim. Beginning with elementary school, children will be taught that marriage can be defined as a relation between any two adults and that consensual sexual relations are morally neutral. Classroom instruction on sex education in secondary schools can be expected to equate homosexual intimacy with heterosexual relations. These developments will create serious clashes between the agenda of the secular school system and the right of parents to teach their children traditional standards of morality.

Finally, throughout history the family has served as an essential bulwark of individual liberty. The walls of a home provide a defense against detrimental social influences and the sometimes overreaching powers of government. In the absence of abuse or neglect, government does not have the right to intervene in the rearing and moral education of children in the home. Strong families are thus vital for political freedom. But when governments presume to redefine the nature of marriage, issuing regulations to ensure public acceptance of non-traditional unions, they have moved a step closer to intervening in the sacred sphere of domestic life. The consequences of crossing this line are many and unpredictable, but likely would include an increase in the power and reach of the state toward whatever ends it seeks to pursue.

Sincerely,

Janell Yim

From: Larry & Josie Matsuwaki [<mailto:larryjosie@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:50 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony on SB1

We stand for Traditional Marriage and strongly disapprove same sex marriage. Your decision will not only affect the present generation but also the generations to follow. We urge you not to pass this bill for the sake of "the life of the land is perpetuated in RIGHTEOUSNESS". For a measure of this importance, the people of Hawaii should let their voice be heard by casting their vote. We voted in 1998 and that vote will still stand.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Matsuwaki

Josie Matsuwaki

Koloa, Kauai

From: Larry & Josie Matsuwaki [<mailto:larryjosie@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:50 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony on SB1

We stand for Traditional Marriage and strongly disapprove same sex marriage. Your decision will not only affect the present generation but also the generations to follow. We urge you not to pass this bill for the sake of "the life of the land is perpetuated in RIGHTEOUSNESS". For a measure of this importance, the people of Hawaii should let their voice be heard by casting their vote. We voted in 1998 and that vote will still stand.

Mahalo,

Lawrence Matsuwaki

Josie Matsuwaki

Koloa, Kauai

Hearing: Thursday, October 31, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
House's Committee on Judiciary
House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am resident of Hawaii and who joins with the vast majority of Hawaii residents in supporting Marriage Equality. It is crucial that all families have the same rights and protections under law. All couples deserve to have their relationship recognized and valued and to have access to the same benefits. I have seen too many gay and lesbian couples suffer emotionally, financially and legally due to inequity from disparate treatment by the government. Civil Unions are not enough. Civil unions allow for second-class citizenship and do not ensure the same respect and rights as marriage. Increasingly more states are recognizing the necessity of this important legislation and we should follow in this this direction that allows for freedom for all. Please support this law that will allow all couples to express their love and commitment through marriage.

Most importantly, I want to emphasize that passing the legislation for same-sex marriage teaches our youth that everyone deserves equal treatment and that discrimination is not tolerated in our state. I hope for the children growing up in Hawaii to learn that our government ensures equal rights for gay and lesbian couples. If we want our children to stop bullying and discriminating against others, then we must make sure our laws truly reflect the promotion of equality.

I am confident that Hawaiian legislators will support a path to justice by voting in support of marriage equality. It has been too long of a wait for gay and lesbian couples and the time is now to ensure that equality for all couples is recognized here in Hawaii.

Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laura Schuetze
500 University Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing
Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong
Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees
on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1. As a native
Hawaiian Christian and lifelong citizen of Hawaii, I humbly ask you to LISTEN to the cry of the
people! This bill although worded so eloquently has many loopholes and traps that will give
certain rights to one minority group while infringing the rights of a majority. This bill not only
attacks my religious freedom, but it also imposes many unspoken agendas upon our 'ohana and
educational system as we know it. I do not speak "legalese" and I believe many of you also do
not understand the language of this bill. Supporters of this bill have been in "cohoos" from the
start of this discussion in 1998. Even then the wording on the ballot was written in a way that
CONFUSED many, including myself that stood against same-sex marriage. Yes, we voted to
allow you, our legislature to decide for the people, (The legislature shall have the power to
RESERVE MARRIAGE FOR OPPOSITE-SEX COUPLES.—Article I, section 23, The
Constitution of the State of Hawaii.) The voice of the people then and now has not changed!
Every opportunity the people of Hawaii has had to vote on this matter ended with a resounding
NO to same-sex marriage, yet here we are once again fighting the same fight. This time with our
hands tied behind our backs because of the deceptive tactics done to push this bill SB1. I am
opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week
and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which
are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the
regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who
elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate
thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote
in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Rebecca Kapihe Kaneohe, HI

October 30, 2013

To: All Hawaii Legislators

From: Karen Kolonick

678 Kalanipuu St. Honolulu, Hi 96825

I thank you for taking the time and consideration to review and approve SB1, allowing for same-sex marriage.

For the record I stand in **full support of approval of this bill, SB1.**

This will finally allow my family full and equal rights under the law, and we no longer have to live under the cloud of being second-class citizens.

I grew up in Hawaii, and my "same-sex" spouse and I have been together for 13 years. We had a commitment ceremony in 2003, and we were legally married in California in 2008. I work for a large local corporation, my spouse owns a small business, we have two children who've attended local private schools (Punahou and Mid Pac), we own property in Hawaii Kai, drive a mini-van, pay taxes, and live a life that mirrors what some are calling a "traditional" family. Despite all of this level of commitment, we still can be blatantly discriminated against because our marriage is only recognized as a civil union in Hawaii, therefore, we are still not entitled to over 1000 federal rights, affecting us financially and emotionally.

We are not asking for acceptance from those who feel/fear their God doesn't approve, on the contrary, we want their religious beliefs and freedoms protected. However, we would like the same consideration. My God, and Christian church, Calvary by the Sea, does approve of our marriage, and supports our family. Does that make my church "less right" than theirs; do these people hold the only line to God? I think not.

Once the dust settles these non-believers in equal rights will find that allowing same gender marriage will have no affect on their lives, but it will have a life changing affect on our lives, allowing me and my family equal protection, and allowing our children to finally feel the dignity of our family being just as equal and valued.

The majority should never get to suppress the civil rights of a minority because there's more of them, just look at all the equality that we still would be without if that's how our country operated. Women, African Americans, all minorities, and even couples of different ethnicities, would all still be oppressed.

It breaks our hearts that our own state representative is so vocal against our family. Gene Ward proudly proclaims that our family, his constituents, are "less-than" in his eyes.

To the rest of you who see that we can't put personal civil rights up for a "vote" from the people, I thank you. For those of you who recognize the critical importance of the separation of church and state, I thank you. For those of you who recognize the faces of fear and won't let that dictate your judgment of right and wrong, I thank you.

Thank you for supporting my family, and so many more like us. Thank you for joining the United States Supreme Court by choosing the right side of history.

With Heartfelt Aloha,

Karen Kolonick

October 30, 2013

Members of the House

Dear Legislators,

I oppose the Hawaii Same Sex Marriage bill or SB1. Please let the people decide on this complex issue.

I believe that all are equal in God's eyes. Give everyone equal rights, just don't redefine marriage. Can it be written that those individuals in a civil union receive the same rights as those individuals in a married union? I believe that this would solve many of the issues out there right now.

As a member of a religious organization, I am also concerned with how the bill is written and if it does in fact protect the religious leaders as well as the organization itself. It needs more clarification in order to protect churches and protect the freedoms established long ago to allow us all to worship in our own way. This is why many people came to America. To gain freedom from religious oppression. Let us not lose the basic principles that made America a great nation. Let the people vote to decide!

Sincerely,
Angie Kaonohi
47-785 Ahuimanu Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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
Kristin Nagamine	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and the committees on Judiciary and Finance: My name is Kristin Nagamine. I am voter, I am 25 years old, am a parent of a young child, and I am also a student at UH Manoa, where I am studying to become an elementary teacher. I strongly oppose Senate Bill 1. I am in the 18 to 30 demographic and though I've read that most think we are either apathetic to this issue or are pro-same sex marriage, this is simply NOT the case. I along with many others my age in fact do care strongly about preserving the sanctity of traditional marriage, keeping it between one man and one woman. This is our state, this is our future, and if this bill passes, the values this country and our state of Hawaii were founded upon will be nullified. This bill will lead to grave consequences; some that we can see and some that are still unknown. As a parent I want to protect my little one from learning something in school that is against our beliefs and the values I have tried to instill in her. This bill also will put the churches in the line of fire- the churches where we freely worship, churches who go out of their way to help and partner with communities. I urge you to reconsider your vote and vote no to SB 1.

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
free9000	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My main concern is the bill's impact on religious liberty.

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bob Yee

94-219 Kuhana Place Waipahu HI 96797

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people.

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

The legislature has not carefully reviewed economic impact with narrow views. The research on "The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on Hawaii Economy and Government" prepared by Sumner La Croix and Lauren Gabriel dated February 2013 are so limited and incomplete. It does not provide any support on income tax impact to Hawaii State. As a married couple, we always choose to use household tax status for saving tax. The report wrongly implies tax revenue impact. Based on the link web page, a married couple may save \$7,727 most with income of \$100,000 per year. (<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/taxes/3-tax-traps-same-sex-couples-can-avoid-1.aspx>) In 2010, Hawaii had 3,239 homosexual couples based on Hawaii census. Just Federal government may lose \$50,000,000 tax.

All other taxpayers need to cross-subsidize by increasing taxes. This is neither fair nor reasonable.

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.

Brian Chang

Palolo, Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:41 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: KEALOHACAREHOME@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
BLAIR TIARE K LANDO	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I strongly oppose SB1 and plead the voice of the people of Hawaii be heard.

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

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Aloha,
I strongly oppose SB1!

Born and raised in Hawaii. Graduated from Waipahu High School and University of Hawaii Manoa; Hawaii is my home. I have no plans of living anywhere else.

I'm very disturbed with this bill. There are very limited protections for and rights on this bill.

"As a minister, will my First Amendment rights be violated if preach against the homosexual lifestyle?"

"If a same sex marriage couple wants to use our church for their wedding, is there anything I can do to prevent them from using the place?"

What about section 572c, parentage presumption; how can a non native Hawaiian child receive rights and privileges of a native Hawaiian just because they become part of a same sex marriage family?

In education, will the teachers be forced to educate students about the GLBT lifestyle and beliefs? When sex education is taught from the GLBT perspective, will my kids be forced to listen and will I as a parent have the right to pull them out of the class without being prosecuted?

What about the special rights that same sex couples will have if they file for divorce? According to the bill they will be waived the 6 month resident time frame. Why are they exempt from this rule?

If this bill passes, we run the risk of having the nickname of our state, the Aloha state being changed to the Gay capitol of the world. Is that what you want? Millions of people from all of the world will come to Hawaii for Same sex marriage; what kind of message will we send to the families of traditional marriages?

Hawaii has long-lasting values and traditions that are worth keeping. We can keep these core values while being relevant for today and future generations. Let's stop following other states and start leading our own.

Make the right decision for you and the people of Hawaii by voting NO to SB1. The proponents of this bill are a small percentage and, they're not even from Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Ellie

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

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

House Finance Committee

I am a registered voter on Alexander Street 96822.

I am OPPOSE to this Same-Sex Marriage Bill for the following reasons:

1. The bill is UNCONSTITUTIONAL because it uses STATE LAW (Public Accommodations) to override CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (Freedom of Religion/Speech).

2. The bill is UNFAIR because it really LIMITS PROTECTION on FAITH ORGANIZATIONS. With the three stipulations that must be met, two are totally UNFAIR: Faith facilities must be used by members only (church is not exclusive and everyone knows this); Faith facilities must be used for Faith activities (and that is also not true, because churches are open to allow other activities to the public). One cannot expect that these two conditions be met because Faith organizations help the public in whatever way it can throughout the years and this is a GOOD THING.

3. The bill is UNFAIR because it DOESN'T address FAITH INDIVIDUALS and even their BUSINESSES. Same-sex couples will be able to sue these people for not wanting to serve them. This is not a HATE ISSUE, but rather a decision to follow one's conscience based on his/her faith. This is RELIGIOUS FREEDOM and FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

4. The Special Session DOES NOT ALLOW for enough time to get all testimonies presented to the legislature; this includes outer island individuals or individuals who do not have access to computer. This is such a social-change issue that the people should be involved. All Hawaii's people should have a say in this wide-impacting issue. Do not deny them.

5. There is a RUSH on this issue and this should be AVOIDED. There should be more time to look at all FAIRNESS to both sides. This bill currently protects same-sex marriage couples only.

6. In all fairness, THE PEOPLE should have its say and VOTE on this issue. This is the only way to truly get a wide range of public opinion involved. Please remember that you represent THE

I urge you to make the right decision, and it is about FAIRNESS...providing more time to evaluate such an important topic and consider all aspects, ALL PEOPLE and ways of living.

Our State Motto talks about the Life of the Land being perpetuated in Righteousness. So, lets do the Right thing and consider the FAIRNESS of this bill...because it is OBVIOUSLY NOT FAIR.

Thank you for your genuine consideration on this matter. Please do not take Hawaii down that road of UNFAIRNESS...it will be demeaning to the people and soften our faith in our Legislators.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:41 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: pmeatoga@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
pane meatoga Jr	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Let the people of Hawaii decided this issue. Put is on the Ballot So all counties can be part of the process in making the decision.

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

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

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

I offer up for your consideration:

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

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

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

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kent Alverio	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my 'Strong' opposition to Bill SB1. As a local 'resident' Native Hawaiian I feel like a represent the voice of the people of Hawaii nei. Not some of these 'professional' speakers that have been flying in. Also, one person's freedom shouldn't have come at the expense of someone else's freedom. (i.e. 'Public Accommodations' and my freedom to meet in a public place to Worship.) The rights and 'feelings' of 'everyone' should be considered. Not just the testimonials and feelings of a very 'few' outspoken and well 'connected' individuals. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenou 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 and I pray for the Spirit of the Almighty God to be upon you. God Bless Kent Olilani Alverio Honolulu, Hawaii

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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Stephanie-Izumi Kawakami

City, State: Mililani, Hawaii

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

Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:

I am in strong opposition of SB1. My name is Stephanie-Izumi Kawakami and I have lived in Hawaii almost all my life. I am a voting citizen and currently live in Mililani with my husband, Shaun, and our two young daughters.

I am 28 years old and I want you to know that I am from the younger generation and I do care greatly about this issue and I strongly disagree with redefining marriage. I do not hate the LGBT community; in fact I love them. I am a young person, I am a wife, I am a mother, and I value and love all people without discrimination. I am all for people being treated equally.

I am aware that our society is changing and that Gay and Lesbian relationships are in our communities. I am also aware of the changes it will bring to our education system, and the effect it will have on our children, families, communities & beyond in the years to come. Why change something that has been in place for centuries, in just a few days? Please give it more time and please let the people decide.

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

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Stephanie-Izumi Kawakami

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2013

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

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

HEARING DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013 AT 10:00
SENATE BILL 1
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION

Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Amy Bento and I stand in strong opposition to Marriage Equality. To my understanding your debate is about rights to benefits for the protection of a group of people. This group of people is asking to be placed in the same category as marriage between a man and woman. This complicates your debate as this mixes the law of benefits and the natural law of marriage. Man made law vs. Natural Law. Which do you think will have negative consequences to our culture and society? Is it same sex marriage, a man made invention or natural marriage between a man and woman? It has been shown throughout history that when we stray away from what and who we are made to be our health is negatively impacted. For example, sexually transmitted diseases and abortion have increased with the sexual revolution and artificial birth control. No-fault divorce has weakened marriage and commitment. Now more than ever we need to strengthen and support natural marriage and not weaken it further by allowing marriage equality. This proposal of marriage equality is not the same as natural marriage. The love from a same-sex union does not produce children. It produces identity confusion and does not allow them to have a relationship with their mother and father; a relationship which children have a right to. You want to talk about equal rights? Speak for the children and do not deny the right of a child to their mother AND father.

For the sake of natural marriage and the rights of the children, I ask you to strongly oppose marriage equality.

Thank you,
Amy Bento
94-1165 Kaloli Loop
Waipahu, HI 96797

To our honorable lawmakers,

I would like to submit my testimony in OPPOSITION of bill SB1. I strongly feel that the sanctity of traditional marriage between man and woman must be protected. Marriage in this form has been at the foundation of society and changing its nature will lead to the weakening of families in our state and nation. This will lead to a multitude of social and economic problems in the future.

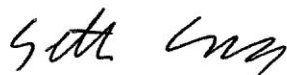
Aside from being opposed to the nature of the bill itself I have strong concerns that the bill does not have sufficient protection for religious organizations and small business.

I urge you to make the following adjustments to the bill:

1 – Protect religious organizations and officials from being required to support or perform same-sex marriages or from having to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities for both their congregations and non-congregation members.

2 – Protect individuals and small business from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same-sex marriages.

Mahalo,



Seth Casey

45-356 Hui Iwa st

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear House of Representatives

MARRIAGE IS NOT A CIVIL RIGHT!!! If 34 states of are not in a rush to call a "Special Session" on same-sex marriage, why are we? Are we trying to "sneak" one past the people of Hawaii against the majority's will?

I and my church family who are registered voters in six branches located around Oahu are asking you to please consider our views before casting your vote on same-sex marriage. We are opposed to same-sex marriage for the following reasons.

We believe that it does not represent the will of the people of Hawaii whom you represent. The decision was put to the people's vote in 1998 and the majority went against same sex unions. We still believe, despite what the polls say, that the people have not changed their views. We believe that this vote should again be given to the people, and not forced through by a very few in a "Special Session" which is against the majority desire of the people of Hawaii. It is not democratic to not let the people have their say, after all, its consequences and fallout effect would affect everyone in one way or another. No amendments can be made to a bill passed in the special session; how is democracy served -especially in such a historically controversial issue? There are so many factors and facets associated with this issue to discuss, debate and delineate over that not allowing this to be amended before this bill is refined would be undemocratic. How can a bill for such a controversial subject be satisfactorily settled by a few in few days -even without the possibility of an amendment?

Abercrombie's religious exemption in the bill very quickly disqualifies churches because of the various practices traditionally carried out in almost all of the churches throughout history -like allowing various public usages of its facilities- thereby rendering them liable to fines, penalties, injunctions and more should they choose to exercise their religious rights.

The fallout effect of legalizing same-sex marriage in Canada has taken a terrible toll on families, churches and schools and more. These are institutions that have existed throughout history and their members are adversely affected. Families are not allowed to home-school their own children, pastors are ordered what to preach and teach and not to preach and teach or face the consequences, little children are taught sex and homosexual sex acts being prepped from kindergarten. Family and civil values that have held civilizations together throughout history are being thrown out! Please, if nothing else, pay heed to this!!!

Please give us a listening ear as the consequences of legalizing same-sex marriage has far-reaching damaging effects. Homosexuality makes up less than one percent of the

population, but the damaging effects will affect every family, religion and school here. Please stand for "Traditional Marriage".

Aloha and Mahalo,

Victor C. Groves
(808) 366-9654

October 26, 2013

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB1

For Hearing on 10/31/13

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:

My name is Grace Alarcio and I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1. My husband and I live in Ewa Beach. I am a mother of 4 children. I also do business as a Real Estate Agent for Realty Dynamics, LLC in Waipahu.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me. Your service to our state is a wonderful thing. It is a tough job at times and requires a lot of your time. Thank you and I pray God will bless you and your family. That you will know the love of God. That He will reveal Himself to you. That He will draw you by His loving kindness so that you may know Him. He is an amazing God. So full of love and goodness, a listening ear and a comforting presence. He is the Great I Am. He is everything we need. I am sorry if you cannot see the truth of who He is, and who the enemy is.

God loves all people. But He hates sin. Same sex relationships are an abomination to God. God created man first (Adam). Then out of man (Adam), He created Eve. She was created for Adam, to be his helpmeet. They were to multiply and fill the earth. Physical intimacy outside of marriage is sin. Intimacy between two men or two women is sin. If we as a state and a nation stand behind same sex marriages we open the door for the enemy to come in. Which is just like telling God to get out.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1. I do not believe that same sex marriage is appropriate or right. I do NOT want my children to be taught that same sex relationships are normal or right. I believe marriage is ONLY between one man and one woman. If this bill gets passed then the State of Hawaii will be mandating that society has to accept same gender marriage as normal. BUT IT IS NOT NORMAL !! I am a citizen of the United States of America and a local resident of the State Of Hawaii. I do not want this bill passed.

I am greatly concerned that IF this bill should pass, the GLSEN will put their education curriculum into all public and private schools! This is already in the country of Canada. This same organization which was behind pushing same sex marriage in Canada is pushing it here in Hawaii. That would likely mean the education material will be pushed into our school system. The education material is filled with sexual content unfit to give to students, especially our young keiki. So sad to think that our legislature will allow this into our schools. If this SB1 bill passes, that's what will happen. I urge you to check this out for yourselves. It is true.

It is a terrible thing for the legislature to not allow the people of Hawaii to Vote. We the people should be allowed to vote. The representatives are to represent the people, the majority, NOT the minority.

There were over 1,000 people on Monday that wanted to testify but were turned away. Probably 99% of those people oppose the bill. I think the legislators are afraid to let the people speak and to vote. They are afraid the people will win and the bill will not be passed.

Yes we have allowed prayer to be taken out of our public schools and babies to be killed by abortion. We have been asleep, I have been asleep, in a sense. But we are awake now and we will no longer be passive and let things happen in our land of Aloha. We will stand up.

I will be present to testify.

Thank you,

Grace Alarcio

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:54 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: GCSINC808@GMAIL.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
LANCE A K LANDO	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I strongly oppose SB1 and plead that the voice of the people be heard on such a critical matter that will affect the future of our State.

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

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

I'm opposed to SB1 and I humbly ask that these committees oppose this Bill also.

I believe the Marriage Equality Act as currently drafted is woefully inadequate in protecting my 1st Amendment rights and opens the possibility of unintended effect on local culture and the education system that have not been given the time in this abbreviated session to be fully explored.

As a sole proprietor this bill means that if a project is uncomfortable for me because it's content runs counter to my personal beliefs, simply turning it down would potentially leave me open to litigation and the destruction of an important portion of my livelihood. In other words I can be punished simply for disagreeing with another's view.

This bill is no longer just about affording Same-Sex-Couples the title of marriage and equal tax status - which is already available through the existing Civil Unions Bill - this bill now has the potential of trampling over the public's 1st Amendment Rights and this is serious enough to kill this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jaime S Doctolero
94-828 Lumiauau St #N204
Waipahu, HI 96797

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

As a Hawaii public school educator I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage, as I believe this contentious and complex issue requires more time for public input and study of possible social ramifications. We teach our children to respect the rights of others and teach them about our constitution and what democracy really means. What message are we sending them when we do not allow the democratic process to work because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a SIX-day special session.

I am greatly concerned about what this could mean to our educational system, which I have diligently worked for the past 29 years. When something like this becomes law the term "equality" becomes blurred as evidenced in other countries and states that have passed Same Sex marriage laws. In the defense of "equality" the rights of others are trampled on and in the end our children are the losers.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. Please consider the lessons other states and countries have learned from passing these laws. None of the other 34 states that are considering this law are rushing into this. In education the purpose of studying history is so we can learn from the mistakes of others and not commit the same errors. Please do not allow these mistakes to be perpetuated by not listening to the voice of the people who voted for you.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lauren Arimoto
Mililani, Hawaii

October 26, 2013

Dear Leaders of our State,

I humbly thank you for the opportunity to share my heart and thoughts regarding this very difficult issue. First I would like to confess that I, like every human being born am broken, and in desperate need of grace. My view is not an attack or bias against any person but a desire to speak the truth in love with a standard that is beyond myself but that which gives us a reference point in which we live and truly love one another.

Francis Schaeffer once said, "For any finite particulars to have any meaning in life, it has to have an infinite reference point." For us as humans to have any meaning, purpose or any responsible moral code to live by, we need an infinite reference point. If we all had our own reference point then one can condemn or approve any law or moral behavior as right or wrong.

Who is to say that Adolph Hitler did any wrong unless we have a standard that says, "Thou shall not kill." Mr. Hitler thought he was doing the world a favor through his ethnic cleansing but it went against a higher moral law that brings a reference point of what was right and wrong.

I humbly submit that God himself and His word is and has been the reference point for us and our country since the birth of our nation. Our forefathers had the Bible as our reference point, moral compass, laws, rules of conduct and absolutes that allowed our society to have a foundation of thought and conduct to live by.

We can however choose to submit to His ways and principles or change and make our own rules to live by, but we must understand that although we have the freedom to make those choices, we do not have the freedom from the consequences of our choices.

It is with this heavy heart that I share my deep, deep concern for the direction that our country, our state and even our families are moving, from once being a people who stood upon God's word as our guide to having our own reasoning and relative moral compass to be a guide for ourselves.

If we look at the history of the human race, we can conclude that

when society turns away from God's divine purposes and ways, it ends up being corrupt and self-destructive.

About 2000 years ago, the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Roman church. It is almost scary how his words penned at that time resonate so true for us today. I humbly ask that you take some time to connect with this passage and ask what responsibility as leaders who will help shape our future should respond to the decision that will soon be addressed and made.

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless,

ruthless. **32** Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

When Jesus walked this earth, his life demonstrated what true love really meant. He loved sinners and reached out to the world around him. When confronted with the Pharisees who wanted to stone a woman caught in adultery he told her accusers, "He who is without sin cast the first stone." One by one they all left. Alone with the woman he spoke love and truth to her. He said, "neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more." Jesus loved the sinner but hated her sin. He knew that it was sin that would destroy us. Homosexuals are loved by God, but like any behavior that does not conform to God's standard; God cannot condone that behavior. Although a murderer, liar, fornicator, or thief are all loved by God, their behavior is not acceptable.

That we must love despite ones sexual orientation is no doubt. However there are deeper and greater issues that compel me to say that allowing same sex marriage will be a step away from God's Heart and Purpose for marriage and family and thus we will reap the consequences that will continue the turning away from His perfect and good plan for our lives. I am saddened to say this but I too must share my heart. Thank you for taking the time to hear my heart!

Aloha Ke Akua,

Ronald Kam

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
Bryan Sanchez	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process. The fact that there can be no amendments to the bill essentially negates any concerns raised in testimony or by you, the Legislature. I oppose this bill because the alleged religious protection clauses provide no protection for individuals to exercise their First Amendment rights of speech and religion. Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process! Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:54 AM

To: House Special Session

Cc: eric.marlowe@byuh.edu

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

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eric-Jon Keawe Marlowe	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I urge you to vote against the same-sex marriage bill in the special session and instead allow the bill to follow the usual legislative process that would allow greater transparency, fuller debate and the maximum participation of the electorate. That said, I recognize the governor and many legislators are set on pushing this through and I therefore also ask that religious freedoms be much more robustly protected in the current bill. I have read widely on the matter and have found that most of my concerns and suggestions are addressed in the attached letter to Senator Baker. I ask that you carefully read the letter and do all you can to ensure such safeguards are in place. Again, this bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Eric-Jon Keawe Marlowe Laie, HI 96762

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I respectfully and humbly submit my testimony regarding the House Bill on Same Sex Marriage or Marriage Equity.

A quote from the Senate regarding the Senate Bill stated

“The Senate’s bill preserves religious freedoms and ensures that the rights of all Americans are preserved as enshrined in the United States and Hawaii Constitution.

As I understand it, the thought here is that by not passing this bill we would be discriminating against a few.

In our Post Modern Relative World view, how then do we decide social issues without a moral compass or absolute truth on which to base our decisions? This is why I believe that the discussion has shifted from Same Sex Marriage to Marriage Equity because of its appeal to society’s desire for equity across the board.

-Why then were the Boy Scouts pressured into allowing gay members. Could not those members start a club with other like-minded individuals? Rather they fundamentally desire to change an existing organizations principles and moral beliefs.

-Why are numerous businesses such as Chick Fillet ridiculed, sued and forced to close their doors?

-Why would we think that our schools and particularly albeit most importantly our children be bombarded with same sex information under new curriculum?

-Why would we not think that all businesses here would not be tested for accommodating the same sex lifestyle?

We stand on the precipice overlooking an abyss of which there is no return once we leap. I humbly ask that you consider very carefully and understand that we are not stepping out into the unknown but you will be taking this step with full knowledge of the trials and problems encountered by previous states. Just as our shores hold back the ocean from proceeding further inland so I ask that you take a stand and stop this legislation for the sake of Hawaii’s future.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Hannah Daido	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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

My name is Tim Fujino and I am a retired United States Air Force Officer. I would like to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 1 because I feel that this bill has been rushed into this special session without allowing the public adequate time to voice their concerns. I ask this committee to please defer this issue until January's General Session to allow all of us a fair opportunity to speak up for or against this controversial issue.

I thank you for your time and consideration!

Aloha,

Tim Fujino

Monday, October 28, 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

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,

FULL NAME Ana Barrintos Perez

HOME ADDRESS
858 6th Ave
Honolulu HI 96816

October 30, 2013

Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Karl Rhodes, Chair

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Re: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Dear Rep. Rhodes and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Rep. Luke and the Members of the Committee on Finance:

I AM IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO BILL SB1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Despite its claims, this legislation is not about equal rights.

But rather than argue about this point as we have been doing so endlessly, as well as the many other valid points you've heard over and over again, let me focus on one point that will compel you to vote against this legislation. That is

This legislation endangers our children.

First, highly credible studies have shown that children raised by gay or lesbian parents are at a significant disadvantage when compared to children raised by the traditional family of a married, biological mother and father.

Unlike the "manufactured" studies that try to prove otherwise, a recent scientifically-rigorous study by Professor Mark Regnerus clearly validates earlier findings that show extreme negative effects associated with important social, emotional and relational outcomes on children raised in same sex households.

These studies clearly show that children need both a mother and a father to be well-adjusted.

Please, look it up "New Families Structures Study," by Mark Regnerus.

Second, schools will be required to indoctrinate our children into the homosexual lifestyle in a way very detrimental to children. This is not speculation. It is happening in Massachusetts and in Canada.

It is your obligation as an elected representative of the people to be fully aware and knowledgeable of what will happen if this legislation is adopted. We elected you to protect us. We fully expect you to protect our children.

I do not believe that you will be able to vote for this measure once you realize the real threats this legislation will impose on our children. Let me assure you I am not fabricating these dangers. These threats are real and are supported by solid evidence.

Despite what you have been told by the proponents of this bill and what you may want to believe, the threats to our children are real and extreme.

We're depending on you as our legislators to do the responsible thing and to vote against this bill for the sake of our children.

Very truly yours,
Gary Okino

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
elsa souza	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am a very concerned windward resident. I strongly oppose this special session and SB1 bill. It is not representative of what the people want. It does not reflect the majority views. It does not reflect the morals that this country and state were built on. Marriage between a man and a woman was instituted by God to reflect His glory. No person, minority, Or government has any right or authority to distort, change, destroy, or pervert what God Has deemed good without severe and generational consequences to themselves, their family, and their society. God forgive those for they know not what wrong they are doing. Elsa Souza

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October 30, 2013

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

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

I am a resident of Laie and am writing to express my opposition to SB1 to legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii for the following four reasons:

First, an issue of this magnitude should not be relegated to a five-day special session. This bill proposes to redefine what all cultures and societies for millennia have determined to be the optimal means for creating the most viable, nurturing environment for the next generation of citizens to be brought into this world - the family with a father and mother. The societal stability that comes from a traditional family is well documented. A bill that alters the very fabric of that society at a minimum should be given the full vetting process that could come next January during the regular session. The stated need to get this done before year's end so tax benefits could be gained for same-sex couples simply does not outweigh the importance of reviewing this issue in a longer legislative session.

Second, the religious liberties protections in the current draft of the bill are woefully inadequate. What's wrong with following the lead of every other state that has enacted same-sex marriage through the legislative process by providing robust religious liberty protections? Several respected constitutional scholars from around the country who are IN FAVOR of same-sex marriage have written to all legislators detailing the problems with the bill and the need for more robust religious liberties protections. To the extent you may be worried about opening the door to religious institutions discriminating on other grounds besides same-sex marriage, it is a simple thing to draft carve outs.

Third, we the people should decide whether same-sex marriage should be legal. If the people of Hawaii were entrusted to make the decision in 1998, why are we to be silenced this time around? What's changed since then to take this issue out of the hands of the people? It seems that the Legislature views Article I, Section 23 of the Hawaii Constitution as the public's abdication of its authority to decide what marriage is in Hawaii. That is not the case. And just because the Legislature may have the legal authority to decide this issue does not mean it has the moral authority to deprive the people from voting on this monumental change. Let the people decide!

Finally, and most important, legalizing same-sex marriage will have severe negative consequences on our island State and have far greater impact than merely qualifying same-sex couples to obtain federal benefits. In fact, despite the Governor's and other proponents' assertions that the bill's purpose is to grant same-sex couples in Hawaii access to federal benefits available to married couples, I submit that legalizing same-sex marriage ultimately is not really about benefits. Looking to what the gay-rights

lobby in Massachusetts and other jurisdictions have done, legalizing same-sex marriage is simply the first step in an all-out effort to force their views onto the public. To support traditional marriage is not to be "anti-gay." I have no quarrel with people who want to live in same-sex relationships. I have no problem including them in anti-discrimination protections for housing and employment, but marriage is much more foundational to our society than housing and employment. Of all human relationships, marriage between a man and a woman is unique and provides the greatest possibilities for the successful rearing of the next generation. We cannot abandon that simply for increased government benefits for a small segment of our community.

I respectfully request that you vote NO on SB1.

Thank you for your time.

Aaron Shumway
55-451 Naniloa Loop
Laie, HI 96762

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

Dear Chair Hee, Chair Luke, and Members of the Joint House Committee on Judiciary and Committee on Finance

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Please hear me out. I was born and raised in Hawaii. I have friends that are heterosexual and friends that are homosexual. We converse with each other out of love and respect as humans. Most importantly, though we can agree to disagree.

Everyone is subject to their opinions, but What we do not do to each other is impose, intrude or force each other to conform. That is not the local or Hawaiian way. We are accepting people, but we do not force conformity. This Bill does just that... forcing both the Senate and the House to a "special session".

This Bill is about redefining a core definition that has wistood thousands of years and is at the heart of every prosperous society. We separated sex from marriage and marriage from reproduction, that is why it is confusing. It should not be confusing. After all, you and I would not be here without a man and a woman. Yes, traditional marriage is imperfect, but aren't we all. That is where we need to work harder to support traditional marriage, not to redefine it.

This Bill is about a slippery slope and precipce against that which we value as humans. Once marriage can mean anything other than a heterosexual union, it can and must mean everything. It is just a matter of time. What will prevent legalizing an adult from marrying an underage child? What will prevent marrying multiple partners? I do not want to see that. We are not California, or other States in the union. Hawaii is unique and a leader in the world, not a follower. People come to Hawaii because we have what they don't.

This Bill is about weakening the rights and freedom of parents to determine how they want to raise their children and have a say in how they are educated. The educational system however will not be the only grounds affected.

This Bill is about indirectly undermining the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. If the U.S. Constitution is undermined, how can we stand as a State or a Nation much less preserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? This Bill is poorly written and has not seen proper due process.

Those are some of the issues at hand which I want to highlight today.

I end with our beloved State motto: Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono. Do what is righteous for the local and Hawaiian people.

Blessings to you for making the right decision for yourself, your children and family, our communities, our beloved island of Hawai'i and God.

If you are for the bill, I kindly ask that you reconsider based on the few merits I've discussed. There is no reason to urgently and forcefully push this poorly written Bill through without careful consideration and due process.

If you are undecided, I respectfully ask that you let the local people of Hawaii decide. The same people who voted you into office, will speak.

And if you are against the bill I sincerely appreciate your hard work and legacy; you have my utmost support and vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jonathan Lee
Honolulu, HI 96816

My name is Jeanne Wasden and I vehemently oppose SB1.

I have many objections to this bill but I will concentrate on one.

The attempt to redefine marriage is an assault on the basic unit of this nation, the family, and hence on the people. Words matter!

It is dangerous to redefine any word. Our founding rights, organization and liberties are based on a few short documents whose words were so carefully chosen that our nation has survived for 247 years. Our civilization is the product of millenia of words. It is audacious to assume that the consideration by a handful of men and women could, over a period of a few weeks, come up with a satisfactory re-definition of a word so fraught with implication, precedent and meaning as marriage.

I am American and a resident of the American State of Hawaii. My heritage, however, is from Western Europe. Many people in the Islands have reasons to be resentful me and my heritage. But I love my culture. I was born this way. There are even some who might venture that Europeans are second-class citizens in the Islands. There are certain privileges that Hawaiians enjoy for which I **cannot** qualify, including financial benefits. My children will never be permitted to attend the wonderful Kamehameha schools nor will I, or they, qualify for certain scholarships or grants that apply to native Hawaiians. Because of my heritage I will NEVER be Hawaiian.

BUT I'm okay with this and I will vehemently oppose a redefinition of the word Hawaiian because it was never intended to apply to everyone. It is not a civil right. It describes a **state of being** that is important and sacred to those who meet the definition. That is the nature of words. They describe. New words can be constructed or configured to describe other states of being.

That is why I don't need to be Hawaiian to enjoy the privileges of being a resident here. The lovely people of Hawaii and their Aloha spirit have given me a different distinction. Kama'iana. This word refers to a long-term resident of the Hawaiian Islands. It means "Child of the Land." Although I will never be accepted by many Islanders, I am surrounded by neighbors and friends who love and respect me, I am granted the rights and privileges of citizenship AND my constitutional rights are unimpeded.

Marriage ... was never meant to apply to everyone. It is not a civil right. It describes a state of being and is important and sacred to those who meet the definition. Re-defining the word marriage is tantamount to extending the word Hawaiian to everyone, legislatively mandating re-education in schools and then forcing native Hawaiians to desecrate their sacred language, literature and traditions.

I'm pretty sure the redefinition of the word Hawaiian will never come before a committee or this legislature despite the thousands of people who could benefit

financially from such a distinction or who feel they are treated unfairly because they are not under the Hawaiian umbrella.

This won't happen, AND SHOULDN'T, because it isn't trendy to undermine a native culture. It is, however, trendy to undermine marriage, family and God and THAT is the reason we are here.

If you are foolish enough to change this definition ... to open this Pandora's box ... especially without regard to the voice of the people you claim to represent ... all of our children and grandchildren will suffer for your actions. And remember, as we see today, we are only one gubernatorial administration away from changing the definition of words we all hold dear. Consider the words American. Constitution. Liberty. Freedom. Rights. Love.

Please, please, please vote NO to SB1

Mahalo

J.F. (GIUSEPPE) LOCATELLI
House District 19
Senate District 10

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhodes, Chair
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I believe that the word "Equality" is misrepresented in the naming of this bill and S.B. 1 contradicts the will of the people of Hawaii. Additionally, S.B. 1 undermines the First Amendment of the United States (U.S.) Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Our nation's 4th President and architect of the U.S. Constitution, James Madison, noted that: "*Conscience is the most sacred of all property.*" As a Catholic, I could enumerate a number of moral and ethical reasons as to why I do not lend support to S.B. 1, such as the conscious clause and the significance of the first miracle that Christ performed: "...*the wedding at Cana.*" (John 2: 1-11). Recall, the wedding at Cana was between one man and one woman. Nonetheless, I trust there have been many noteworthy points put forth more eloquently from clergy and other experts of the like. Historically speaking, it is an objective truth that the institution of marriage has been between a man and a woman, whether sanctioned by the church or state—as well as cross cultural and as "enlightened" as some of us may think we are in the 21st century, there is much wisdom to be learned from our ancestors.

Marriage during the time of the Kingdom of Hawaii was defined to consist exclusively of one man and one woman. See, e.g., Compiled Laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1884), Title 5, Chapter XXVIII, Article LIII. This understanding of marriage has continued in Hawaii up to the present time. This definition is consistent with the marriage laws of over 92% of the nations in the world. Because this understanding of marriage "*is made up of men and women, potential and actual mothers and fathers, it is child-centered*" (F. Rohlfsing III Esq.).

For most of U.S. history the institution of marriage vis-à-vis a family consisting of a married mother and father has benefited society as a whole. Author Nick Schulz in his book, Home Economics traces how American families have changed since the 1950s. He examines the economic consequences of the changes in the American family, and offers ideas for how to combat the issue in the years to come. Schultz writes: "If we want to talk constructively about issues such as poverty or income inequality, we need to bring what has happened to the family into the picture." He further notes that the

most beneficial scenario for a child is to have parents that are married—a biological male father and a biological female mother. S.B. 1 is yet another step away from that model of stability. In other words, we as a state, and nation for that matter, should look for ways to strengthen the institution of marriage between a man and a woman vis-à-vis the family unit, instead of ignoring it and further moving it in the opposite direction that weakens it.

Another point to take into consideration is that many studies list the United States in the top ten, and several others list it as the global leader of divorce (NationMaster.com). Given that fact, law-makers like you, should ask why a same-sex couple would want to enter into a marriage “contract?” That question may have already been answered: money and/or benefits. Based on that argument, then our state legislators should call upon our federal congressional delegation to take this issue up to the federal legislative body. Since the U.S. Supreme Court and not the State or Circuit Court ruled on the issue of federal benefits. Moreover, based on that rationale, the language at the federal level should be changed to include civil union and not marriage. In other words, civil union couples would share the same monetary benefits as married couples, husband and wife, but under the title civil union. In other words, the federal law would resemble Hawaii’s current law. This point illuminates some of the ambiguity of the legislation before you today, S.B. 1.

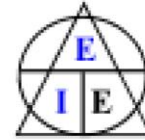
Although I have my objections with S.B. 1 from a Catholic and academic perspective, from a governmental standpoint, I subscribe to the wise words of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln: “...*this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*” The people of Hawaii spoke with their (super-majority) votes in 1998. Thus, the people of Hawaii should be allowed to have their say on this issue. Under our State Constitution, the only means whereby the people can directly express their view is through the constitutional amendment process. As a citizen of this great state, I strongly encourage you not to let the people be denied rather trust the people to decide.

I therefore strongly urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1.

Respectfully yours,

J.F. (Giuseppe) Locatelli

From: David Eastman, Owner of E I Electrical
To: The Committee on Judiciary, and the Committee on Finance
For: Second Special Session of 2103 Hearing on October 31, 2013
Regarding: The Same Sex Marriage bill, SB1
Request: To testify in person



I have a lot of friends and associates who are gay. I **DO NOT** however support the current same sex marriage bill SB1. I especially do not support the fact that the current bill going before the Legislature does not exempt religious organizations or businesses from being forced to participate in same sex marriages. I am an Electrician on Oahu and my various domiciles and business addresses span several wards and political boundaries within this state. I have included one of my business mailing addresses below encase you feel the need, or would like to, correspond with me.

I have been reviewing and re-reviewing this matter and have talked with people on both sides of this issue to better understand it. One of my main objections is that this bill creates what I refer to as **Marriage Superiority, not Marriage Equality**. If I for example as a man wanted to get married to a women there is no law that allows me to choose any religious denomination, and impose my desire to marry her on them regardless of my own religious affiliation. Religious organizations are member based and primarily only marry members of their own faith. A Christian couple for example would have a hard time finding a Jewish Synagogue, Buddhist Temple, or a Muslim Mosque that would marry them. Even long term members of a specific faith must ask their clergy for their blessing and permission to be married by them. That clergy can withhold or deny their marriage until they see fit, because they want them to meet certain religious or personal standards first. The clergy do this to ensure that their union will be done correctly, and hopefully give them a firm foundation on which to build a lasting marriage. Why then is the Gay and Lesbian community being granted Marriage Superiority in which they can force themselves upon practically any religious organization or small business at any time with no prerequisites that would be required of members of that faith? Why are they being given special access to that which I myself and the vast majority of others do not have access to?

The only group of people that I know that have special access to facilities, by law, is those with disabilities. For example a person in a wheel chair should have access to any bank of his/her choosing. That however is for physical access only! That person must still qualify to use the banks services however by; proving their financial worthiness, showing proof of an acceptable financial history, and they must be a qualified member in good standing with that bank. Granting them access to the bank does not grant them access to their vaults, their private business practices, or special programs that they reserve for only the best members. Yet this marriage act grants same sex couples unprecedented access similar to this, to any and all religious organizations and small businesses. I would certainly hope that the State is not attempting to say that being homosexual is some type of disability, as that would certainly enrage people on both sides of this issue. Even if the State did however that still would not justify granting this type of superior access, this type of Marriage Superiority.

I support the rights of those, regardless of sexual orientation, who wish to live happily together, and have equal access to whatever financial benefits that may come with it under a the law, hence a civil union. It must be made very clear however that having the right to a civil union does not give them the right to demand that religious organizations and small businesses be forced to provide services to them to

obtain that union. Using the word marriage, in the same sex marriage bill, now drastically changes the dynamic of the union of these couples, and what they can hence demand of the community, religious organizations, and small businesses.

There have already been several accounts of bakers, photographers, and various pastors/ministers being sued throughout the nation for not wanting to participate in same sex marriages, or for providing their services or facilities for them. In its current form this same sex marriage bill does not provide protection to religious organizations and small businesses that do not want to participate. In fact the current wording could be construed to make it seem as if they are being forced to participate. It must be made very clear in the bill that those organizations are under no obligation to provide services for such couples. It should also state that religious organization and businesses still maintain the right to refuse service to anyone, especially if that service is not in the best interest of, or to the detriment of the providing party. This should be especially true if that couple is not members of that religious organization, or regular patrons of that business.

Although I am not Catholic I agree with the premise raised by The Roman Catholic Bishop of Honolulu, Larry Silva, in which he asked, "Would churches that refuse to celebrate same-sex marriage because of deeply held religious convictions be deprived of the freedom to live those convictions?" and "Would Christians, Muslims, and others who believe that homosexual acts are contrary to God's law be persecuted for holding on to those beliefs?"

It would seem plausible to me that some gay or lesbian couples who are seeking such services from unwilling parties are doing so to entrap them into litigation. That is especially true in regards to a union or marriage wherein one would surmise that the loving couple would only want those services provided to them by someone who believes in their heart that it is right and proper. Hence, it again begs the question of why would anyone, gay or straight, want a hostile or unwilling party to provide for, or preside over, what is supposed to be the happiest day of their lives?

The current bill would leave open the door for discrimination litigation that would tax an already overburdened legal system in Hawaii. These lawsuits would not only create a burden for the party being sued but for the State as well. This could potentially cost the courts system in Hawaii hundreds of thousands of dollars and possibly millions of dollars over the years to come. It would thereby have a negative impact on the State budget especially considering that the projected windfall of tax revenue from gay civil unions in Hawaii, following the passage of Senate bill 232, never happened. Hence there would be no way to offset those litigation expenses without reaching into tax payers' pockets. In fact there were only 417 couples who took advantage of civil unions from January 1, 2012 until July 5, 2012 according to Wikipedia. That low amount of unions most likely did not even create enough tax revenue to cover the cost of the legislative process of passing that bill, let alone be able to cover the potentially massive costs of future litigation that could be caused by this new bill.

In an exchange with one Republican state legislator, the Governor actually admitted that he foresaw "gay marriage" possibly leading to various litigations and potentially even polygamous unions.

[The legislator] asked the Governor, "Based on your reasoning that Same-Sex Marriage is a civil right, then how can you disenfranchise a bi-sexual from marrying the people he/she loves?"

His response, "I fully expect a lawsuit to be filed in about a year."

There are religious institutions that only marry people of their own faith, within their own facilities, presided over by ordained members of their own faith. This is considered by those member couples to be a privilege and not a right. This is true of the vast majority of religious institutions and churches here in Hawaii. Some clergy will even interview with a perspective couple prior to marriage and in some cases not condone that marriage until certain criteria are met. Forcing clergy to marry, what some would consider an unworthy couple could drastically undermine the authority of those clergy. To change that dynamic would undoubtedly greatly injure those institutions and their membership. I believe that a marriage is a union under God between one man and one woman. I would not support, or be a member of, a Church that believed in or otherwise capitulated in any way to support any other type of marriage. Civil union is one thing, and gay and lesbians have been afforded that right, but the sacred institution of marriage under God is something completely different.

The current bill I feel also infringes on the separation of church and state in that it creates a de facto environment in which religious leaders would be forced, under the threat of litigation, to maybe violate their own beliefs. Thereby the State would acquiesce into changing the basic premise of some churches. Those churches would, under and through a perceived force of law upon them, by not abiding by this new law in its entirety, be subject to the State, and within its control, and thereby again this bill would be violating the separation of church and State.

This bill should include verbiage that EXEMPTS religious organizations and small businesses from being forced to provide for its implementation. This is especially true if participation violates a basic premise of their faith or business model and could significantly affect their membership and or their patronage. We live in a free market society and forcing a business to cater to any one segment of people is not in keeping with free market ideals. There are plenty of organizations that would freely and openly support such a union, but those who don't should not be forced to.

We, that vast majority, have agreed to tolerate and even support gay unions to a limited degree. This has been a great lesson in tolerance to all. The gay and lesbian community however must in turn be willing to tolerate our ideals as well and not force their way of life upon us. Tolerance after all, is a two-way street.

I believe that the needs of the many out way the needs of the one or the few, but the rights of the many should never out way the rights of the few. There is a balance however in that even the minority cannot impose or force their beliefs on the majority, especially when the majority has already conceded to bending or compromising their ideals for the benefit of that minority.

In conclusion I again state that I DO NOT support the same sex marriage bill that is going before the legislature on October 28, 2013. I also will not support or even continue to support legislatures who do. Thank you for your time and consideration in this regard.

David W. Eastman
(808) 341-2546
6800 Kalaniana'ole Hwy #129
Honolulu HI, 96825

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 9th, 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

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
Isaac K Tandal	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Don't take away the voice of the people. Let us decide!!

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

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mark Yamamura	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Homosexual couples in the State of Hawaii have similar State rights as heterosexual couples. The passing of SB1 acknowledges the State's approval of Homosexual lifestyle which does not represent the will of the people in the national level and in Hawaii as evidenced in 1998 when we gave the Legislature the affirmation to limit marriage to one man and one woman. This issue divides our community not on the basis of fairness as far as Hawaii law is concerned but on the basis that a lifestyle is being sanctioned by the State. The concerned ramification of a bill as SB1 is that the State will be in a posture to dictate the lifestyle it deems appropriate in our schools, in public and private forum. I respectfully request that such definition of marriage be left to individuals to decide not by legislation but through dialogue and through life lived as to which benefits the State in the "public square." The State should maintain the order necessary for such dialogue to continue and not take sides over this issue.

TESTIMONY

TO THE HOUSE JUDICARY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN A MAN & WOMAN
- THIS IS A NATURAL LAW
- IT IS NEITHER A CIVIL RIGHTS OR DISCRIMOTARY ISSUE
- IT IS A MORAL ISSUE
- MARRIAGE IS NOT JUST ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS, BUT IT IS A RELATIONSHIP ROUTED IN HUMAN NATURE THERFORE GOVERNED BY NATURAL LAW
- SSM IS NOT IN THE CATEGORY ORDAINED FOR THE REASON THAT IT IS NOT OF NATURAL ORDER AND NATURAL LAW
- MARRIAGE WAS ESTABLISHED BY GOD FOR THIS VERY REASON: TO PRO CREATE LIFE AND TO CONTINUE THE PERPETUATION OF HUMAN LIFE WHICH CAN ONLY EXIST BETWEEN A UNION OF A MAN & A WOMAN.
- TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED THE SAME THING
- 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!

Written Testimony Submitted by:

**Fenton S.G. Lee
3041 Puhala Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822
Date: October30, 2013**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kyoko Pharis	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 26 Now it is not common that the avoice of the people desireth anything bcontrary to that which is right; but it is common for the lesser part of the cpeople to desire that which is not right; therefore this shall ye observe and make it your law—to do your business by the voice of the people. 27 And aif the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; yea, then is the time he will visit you with great destruction even as he has hitherto visited this land. 2 For as their laws and their governments were established by the avoice of the people, and they who bchose evil were cmore numerous than they who chose good, therefore they were dripening for destruction, for the laws had become corrupted. 3 Yea, and this was not all; they were a astiffnecked people, insomuch that they could not be governed by the law nor justice, save it were to their destruction. I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am opposed to the way the governor and our elected officials have secretly decided on this bill before it getting to the floor of the senate and house. The principles of democracy and the democratic process are being undermined, disregarded and trampled on in this special session. I support equality for all including the rights of conscientious and religious freedoms. The wording of this bill is mean spirited and cynical. It contradicts and eliminates religious freedom. As our elected representatives, we request you to provide as much protection for religious and conscientious freedoms as you have done to protect the opposing view. This bill should be rejected and given due process where the wording of this bill can be properly examined and agreed upon during the regular session as all other bills. The people who have already voted on this issue and elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy. This legislation SHOULD NOT BE DONE IN SECRECY BEHIND CLOSE DOORS WITH ONLY ONE SIDE BEING HEARD AND CATERED TO! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Jon Pharis

Aloha,

Marriage between One Man and One Woman is the cornerstone upon which society, and most importantly our civilization has been built. The union, the holy matrimony between One Man and One Woman has certain functions, has significance, a specific purpose, design, and destiny for why it has originated that way.

One man and one woman has the ability to procreate, to sustain the health, the fostering, and cultivating the future of our land. One man and one woman not only look for the benefits that they can gain for themselves, but for the benefits of others to come, more specifically their children.

I understand and am well aware of the issue at hand is about acceptance, welcoming, leveling the playing field for everyone and anyone to join in marriage. However, this issue goes beyond the words you see on paper in front you. I am opposed and don't agree with EVERYTHING in SB1. The ripple effect of a small group of people will impact a vast majority. The cornerstone of our moral society and value system is being shaken. The cries to change the status quo for equality is important. But it is also important to uphold with high regards the long-term effects and future consequences of such a radical change in culture, environment, and society.

I appreciate each one of you genuinely and with all sincerity. I truly do. I thank you very much for your commitment. With you, holds the power to keep the life of the land, the life of our beautiful Hawaii, our diverse Hawaii, our healthy and thriving culture and community between One Man and One Woman.

Thank you very much.

Rachel Lee

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
Frederick Harris Jr.	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: I oppose HB1.

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Date: October 30, 2013

To: Chair Karl Rhoads
Chair Sylvia Luke
Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Strong Opposition to SB 1 (Relating to Equal Rights)

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

Thank you for your service to our community. With love and respect for my gay acquaintances, I oppose SB 1 relating to same sex marriage and have listed some of my reasons below.

1. Let the People Decide on Marriage. The marriage of one man and one woman has been the foundation of society since the beginning of time. It provides couples with a stable home in which to raise children, and gives children opposite sex role models. Because this issue will transform our state and is so divisive, it is one that should be decided by the people of this state.

2. Inadequate Religious Exemptions. The religious exemption provisions do not adequately protect churches and do not offer protections to ministries, religious people who own businesses, and people of faith. Around the country, despite our Constitution and laws protecting religious liberty, people who hold traditional values on marriage and human sexuality are being persecuted, harassed, silenced, mocked, robbed of their constitutional rights and unjustly punished at increasingly alarming rates. Here are a few grievous examples.

a. Loss of Religious Liberty and Parental Rights. Parental rights and religious beliefs have been subordinated to the rights of same sex couples. Schools across the country indoctrinate children from kindergarten and on about same sex relationships. There is no parental right to receive notice and/or to opt their children out of this indoctrination in Massachusetts where same sex marriage is legal. See: <http://blog.alliancedefendingfreedom.org/2013/07/09/public-schools-impacted-by-supreme-court-marriage-decisions/>

b. Forced Closures of Religious Ministries. Catholic Charities were forced to close rather than place children with same sex couples for adoptions/foster care (e.g., District of Columbia, Massachusetts). See: http://www.catholic.org/national/national_story.php?id=19017 and http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/same-sex_marriage_law_forces_d.c._catholic_charities_to_close_adoption_program/

c. Complaints Filed against Churches/Ministries. Complaints have been filed against churches and ministries when same sex couples are denied use of facilities to celebrate/solemnize same sex unions. See: <http://www.examiner.com/article/complaint-filed-against-christian-ministry-for-not-allowing-same-sex-marriage>

d. Complaints filed against Christian Business People. Same sex couples have filed complaints against Christian business people who refuse to provide services for their same sex unions/marriages/commitment ceremonies. In at least one case, fines were levied against the Christian

(e.g., a New Mexico photographer was fined over \$6,000 for refusing to photograph a same sex couple's commitment service) and an Oregon bakery was forced to close due to the harassment of gay rights activists. See: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/gay-couple-files-complaint-against-christian-bb-owners-for-refusing-civil-u> and <http://www.christianpost.com/news/court-to-hear-case-of-nm-photographer-fined-for-refusing-to-film-gay-ceremony-80205/> and <http://now.msn.com/religious-baker-wont-make-same-sex-wedding-cake> and <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/September/Oregon-Bakery-in-Gay-Wedding-Cake-Controversy-Closes/>

e. Silencing and Punishing People Who Hold Traditional Values. The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that the passage of DOMA was based on "animus" against gays, rather than as a genuinely held moral or religious viewpoint. It is likely that this decision will result in further persecution and punishment of those people who believe that same sex relationships/unions/marriages are morally wrong (fines are being imposed and job performances adversely affected). This decision is an ominous warning that certain religious books like the Bible and religious speech on traditional marriage will be viewed as hate speech. Pastors and people of faith should be able to speak freely about the topic of traditional marriage. The fundamental principles of democracy are being eroded by the courts tossing out legitimate laws passed by a legislative body or brought about by the people through a referendum process, and in the process subordinating religious liberty, parental rights, free speech and our democratic process to an atheistic or secular world view hostile toward persons with traditional values. See: <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/June/Faith-Community-Braces-for-Impact-of-Gay-Rulings/> and http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-307_6j37.pdf

3. Other Destructive Effects of Adopting a Secularized/Atheistic World View. Rejecting traditional values on human sexuality and marriage has been destructive on our fundamental constitutional rights of religious liberty, free speech, rights of privacy and the very essence of a democratic society, including parental rights.

a. Opposite Gender Children May Use Shower/Bathroom Facilities of the Other Sex Based on Gender Identity. In California, starting January 1, 2014, children in public schools K-12 will be permitted to use the bathroom and shower facilities based on the child's belief which sex matches his/her gender identity. This law not only violates the privacy rights of children, but it robs them of their innocence and the values many people of faith believe about modesty and the sanctity of human sexuality in the context of a heterosexual marriage. See: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/12/california-transgender-students-bill- n_3745337.html.

b. Ban on Reparative Therapy. In California and New Jersey, parents are prohibited from placing their children in therapeutic counseling to overcome same sex attraction (ban on reparative therapy). If a parent violates this ban, the NJ legislator who authored the bill emphatically said that we (the state) will take your kids away from you (if you try to put them into reparative therapy). The law tramples on parental rights, and their religious liberty, as well as the free speech rights of therapists. See: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/apr/5/dod-presentation-classifies-catholics-evangelicals/?page=1>

c. Adverse Business and Workplace Consequences. The Pentagon has classified evangelical Christians and Catholics as extremists alongside Al Queda and the KKK. Service members have been punished for stating (when asked) that they believe same sex marriage is morally wrong. In Hawaii a lesbian couple sued a Bed and Breakfast when the owners refused to rent a room to them because of the owner's religious beliefs. Fox Sports analyst, Craig James, was fired for his statement that gay people "would answer to the Lord for their actions." See: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/16/hawaii-bed-and-breakfast-lesbian_n_3092203.html, and www.huffingtonpost.com/...fired-fox-anti-gay_n_3886832.html,

<http://townhall.com/columnists/toddstarnes/2013/08/20/airman-punished-for-opposing-gay-marriage-files-complaint-n1668889/page/2> and <http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/September/New-LGBT-Protection-Law-Criminalizing-Believers/>

d. Potential Loss of Non-Profit Tax Benefits. The State of California is considering legislation (SB 323) to strip the Boy Scouts and other non-profit organizations of their tax-exempt status and to pay a use tax because they believe same sex relationships are morally wrong and don't allow adult gay scout leaders. If this happens, it would not be surprising that religious institutions who hold traditional views on human sexuality will be next. See: <http://www.npr.org/2013/09/03/218572821/california-lawmakers-target-boy-scouts-tax-exempt-status> and http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB323&search_keywords=

e. Radical Redefinition of a Family. California has restructured the basic family unit, and now allows children to have multiple legal parents. It is unknown what type of impact this would have on the children but there is data by experts regarding the effects of children being raised by same sex couples. Mark Regnerus, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, wrote *A Married Mom and Dad Really Do Matter: New Evidence* from Canada (October 8, 2013). He discussed the findings of Canadian economist, Douglas Allen, that children of same sex couples were notably more likely to lag in finishing their own schooling compared to children of opposite couples. See: <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-brown-bills-parents-20131005,0,7226241.story>

4. Significant Legal Defects in the Bill. In addition, as a family law attorney, I am troubled by the number of defective provisions in the bill that were ignored by the authors/drafters of the bill, and subsequently by the Hawaii Senate.

The parentage provision in SB 1, on page 5, lines 4-9 is defectively drafted and violates a biological parent's most fundamental constitutional rights.

First, the parentage provision of SB1 applies legal presumptions to an impossible set of circumstances when it comes to same sex couples. It violates the basic definition of a legal presumption. Specifically, Nolo's Plain-English Law Dictionary defines a presumption as:

An assumption of fact accepted by the court to be true unless someone proves it to be untrue. A rebuttable presumption is often drawn from prima facie evidence.

The attempt to redefine the meaning of a presumption of parentage creates confusion and invites litigation for those who can least afford it.

Second, this parentage provision in SB1 may be to be found violative of the fundamental constitutional rights of the biological parent who is not married to the biological parent (who is married to someone else).

If a non-biological parent who is a spouse (of a biological parent) becomes the presumed parent of the child born to the biological parent/spouse under SB1, then what happens to the biological parent/non-spouse's rights? There is no notice that is required to be given to said biological parent/non-spouse in a divorce and custody proceeding between the same sex couple. Please review the presumption of paternity provision in HRS 584-4.

Please understand that after the same sex couple is divorced, and custody of a child is granted to one of them, the rights of the biological parent (not married to the one of spouses undergoing the divorce) will be forever terminated under current case law. Specifically, the issue will be res judicata (it cannot be raised again), based on the Hawaii Supreme Court case, *Blackshear v. Blackshear*, 52 Haw. 480 (1971).

The effects on Native Hawaiian parents and children appear to be significant, as well as non-native Hawaiians. If a non-Native Hawaiian is married to a Native Hawaiian same sex partner, but the non-native Hawaiian becomes the biological parent of a child who has no Native Hawaiian blood, it appears under SB1 that the non-Native Hawaiian child will be put on the birth certificate with the races of both parents, so that it will appear that the child is a Native Hawaiian, when he/she is not.

On the other hand, if a Native Hawaiian man is the biological parent of a child whose mother is in a same sex marriage relationship, it appears that the non-biological parent would be given parentage rights under this bill and the Native Hawaiian father's parental rights would be terminated (as it is not required under present law or under the bill to give notice to the biological parent who is not married to the biological mother) if the same sex couple should divorce. Further, there appears to be no mechanism to put the child's Native Hawaiian race on the birth certificate and protect the benefits he/she would be eligible to receive as a Native Hawaiian. At the present time, a mother who is married cannot put the name of the biological father on the birth certificate if she is not married to him, absent a court order.

Since the bill removes the gender element in parentage, it appears that the issue may have similar effects on opposite sex couples as well. Under current law, a wife does not have rights to claim parentage if her husband became the father of a child with another woman. A reading of the parentage provision appears to give her a claim to parentage of the child of her husband's girlfriend (biological mother of the child).

This provision is also troubling if we have a situation in which a person in a marriage becomes the biological parent of a child with another married person. There is no mechanism for a child to have 4 parents. Whose rights will be terminated, in light of the current paternity statute, the *Blackshear* case and SB 1?

Also, allowing non-residents to file for divorce in Hawai'i appears to violate fundamental due process rights. What nexus do they have to Hawaii? Our Family Courts are already overburdened with a backlog of cases, and need additional judges and staff. It takes months to be heard if one files a post-divorce motion, petition for guardianship/adoption and motion to have a divorce proceeding resolved through a contested process. This provision will further burden our citizens in seeking to have their disputes resolved expeditiously through our courts, and subsidize legal proceedings of non-taxpayers at the expense of Hawaii taxpayers.

Same sex couples already enjoy the benefits of marriage through the existing civil unions law. If a couple desires to receive federal benefits, the legislature can explore other avenues without infringing on the constitutional rights of the rest of our citizens and without passing SB 1. In addition, such a process should benefit family members who want these federal benefits as well.

There are other issues I have with the bill, but will address them later due to time constraints. In light of the defective provisions in the bill, the adverse impact on our religious liberty, the concerns discussed above and those I will share later, please vote no on SB1. Let the people decide this issue. Again, thank you for your service to our community and the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

SANDRA YOUNG
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 2897
Aiea, HI 96701
Telephone: (808) 487-8464

Deann Aiu
91-390 Papipi Road
(808) 343-7369
deannaiu@me.com

Subject: Special Session On Same Gender Marriage

Dear Honorable Chair Karl Rhodes and Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I would like to inform you that I am opposed to a special session to legalize same-gender marriage. I am a wife, a mother and a daughter, a citizen of the State of Hawaii and more importantly the United States of America. I am a child of God and one who believes that marriage should remain between one man and one woman. This has been tradition from the beginning of time and has remained in existence because of its proven worth.

Being a daughter in a divorced home, and now a mother of two very special young boys, I can see how the effects of family, including a mother and a father, can have a positive impact on the growth of a child. I firmly believe that a mother innately offers a caring, nurturing, loving upbringing for a child. Balanced with the riskier, fearless approach of a father, my heart tells me that this was particularly God's design for family.

As this law is presented before the House, I ask that you firmly consider the rights not only of the gay community, but those who are people of faith. It is not fair nor right that people of faith should have to participate in activities that directly violate our beliefs in traditional marriage. Jesus, the Ten Commandments, prayer and references to God as our hero has already been removed from the public education system. Who is fighting for our first amendment rights? Who is allowing our children to express their beliefs within society?

I hope that my testimony is taken into consideration, and it is received in love. I am standing forth for what I believe, not to cause dissention or fighting, but to protect my current and future family members, to honor what I believe is natural, God honoring and the truth. As a concerned and voting citizen, I ask that you, as an elected official, listen to the people that you represent and go forward with what we are speaking through you. I trust that you will represent me and my family as we wish to be seen.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness

God Bless You,

Deann Aiu

From: Darlene Walker [<mailto:mervinanddar@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:00 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 1

I am a registered voter writing to express my opposition to the so-called gay marriage bill making its way through our Hawaii State legislature.

Marriage has historically been between a man and a woman only. That is the only union that can produce children and perpetuate the human race.

This issue, in various forms, has come before the voters before. Each time we have said "NO" to civil unions/marriage.

Why do politicians want to go against the will of the people?

Some want to make this a civil rights issue. But it is NOT about denying people human rights because of their skin color. It's about sexual behaviors. We do have laws against other sexual behaviors: prostitution and rape for example.

Let's not make a legal behavior that is outside the norm of society and history.

Thank you.

Mervin Walker

Date: Oct. 30, 2013

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

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

My name is Glenn V. Butler. I reside at 87-320 Kulawae Street, Waianae, HI 96792. As a family man, having served in the U.S. Army for 23 years, and a resident of the State of Hawaii, I stand in opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality.

I am one of two children born to my parents in Cleveland, Ohio. Today, I am married, and have seven (7) children of my own. Some of whom are also married, and also have children of their own!

My purpose in mentioning this is not to rehearse, in part, my family lineage. But to demonstrate that, if it were not for my parents being a man and a woman, and my wife and I being a man and a woman, and my married children being married to the opposite sex, it would not be possible for me, or my children, or their children to exist!

Sir, I even submit that somewhere along your lineage, you, your children, your children's children, and so on, would also cease to exist were it not for marriage of the opposite sexes! Had a bill like this been passed before our existence, I daresay that you and I might not even be alive to consider such a bill today!

Honorable Chair, and members of the Committee, as I review your membership, I believe that many of you were raised with the same societal morals and values that were normal during our upbringing. No argument or doubt that norms have changed, and are being challenged for more change as time progresses. I believe that change in many areas of our lives is inevitable. But I also believe that all change is not beneficial or good.

In the final analysis, SB1 is not just about equality. Throughout the history of mankind, there are numerous examples of the complete destruction of societies allowing or adopting the same-sex way of life. Although I believe it is in-part because of declining morals of the society. It is also all too obvious that where there is no pro-creation between same sexes, population also declines eventually to non-existence!

That is not the end-purpose for which I honorably served in the armed forces of my country. Nor the reason that I nurtured and raised a family in this country. Nor the reason I reside in the State of Hawaii. Where I decided to retire, continue raising my family, and productively serve in the community I reside. Where the State Motto says "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness"

As an African-American, I can give a heartfelt, fully-documented testimony of the inequality and injustices suffered by others of my race, as well as by other minorities in this country and in this State. But in all of those cases, I cannot see where the morals and values of a people, even though challenged, were changed to suit or support the views of a few over the good of the masses.

The United States of America, and the State of Hawaii, is made up of a diversified group of people. Many races. Many cultures. Many ideas and philosophies. In my lifetime, I have depended upon our leaders to decide what is best for the masses. Understanding that everyone is not going to be satisfied with how things go. I submit that, although an honorable endeavor, it is an impossible task to please everyone. It has been the same in my household. As well as every area of my life, both personally and professionally.

You are the governing body in whom it has been entrusted the ability to make decisions which will affect the quality of life for my family and I, and the people of Hawaii. Being a servant of people, I understand the importance of knowing the heartbeat of the people. Thereby being able to make decisions that will provide the quality of life that the voice of the people have expressed is desired for them.

I remind you of your responsibility to the people as a whole. Not just to a few that have special interests that will not benefit the whole. With all due respect, if it is not clear to you what it is that the people of the State of Hawaii want in regards to SB 1 on Equality. Then vote NO on this issue during this special session. And let the people have the opportunity to vote and decide on SB 1. Thank you.

Sincerely,

GLENN V. BUTLER

CONCERNED CITIZEN

MSG (RET) ARMY

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

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

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

I stand in strong opposition to the Bill relating to same sex marriage.

This bill would alienate my rights of religious freedom and those of the entire state of Hawaii. You cannot offer rights to one group without stripping them from another. The weakening of the rights of Religious Freedom, on which this country was founded, will weaken the foundation of this country. I stand to support and strengthen my county and its' people, not weaken it. Closely tied to these rights is the family. No matter one's religious beliefs and standing, the family is, and always will be, the most basic and fundamental unit of any society. No family of any kind can exist without the union of a man a woman. And as the fundamental unit of society, the need for the strengthening of families is among the greatest of all needs in a society. That is not a religious opinion, it is fact. Same sex marriage can only serve to weaken families, and it turn directly weaken our society and our country. As representatives of the people of this country, it is your duty and responsibility to uphold and strengthen the country and its' people, not weaken it with support of same sex marriage.

As representatives of the people, it is also your duty and responsibility to represent our voices, that they may be heard. You were elected to do so, not to push your own personal opinions or political agenda. Marriage is not and never has been defined as a civil right, and should not be addressed as such. Furthermore, this special session is an inappropriate and inadequate way to handle the issue. We respectfully request that this issue be out to vote by the people, especially given the extreme misrepresentation of the people's voices that existed in Senate hearing. I was extremely disappointed in the Senate and their lack of response, respect, and responsibility to the voices of the people. As much as it is your responsibility to listen to and represent the voice of the people, it is mine to actively work towards supporting those politicians who do, and work against those who do not. I will continue to actively stand in strong opposition of this bill, in opposition of same sex marriage, and all those politicians who would pursue to support and uphold bills, political practices and any other values or activities that will weaken our society and country.

I thank you for your consideration and urge that you sincerely listen to your people!

Beth Sepp

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
Patricia Fetner	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1 and urge members of the House of Representatives to vote no. Redefining marriage has serious consequences and the people of Hawaii deserve the right to debate this issue and not have it decided in a 6 day special session. Thank you for your service to 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

To: THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND FINANCE
Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Vice Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Johanson, Finance Vice Chair
Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

From: Leslie Jones, constituent, businesswoman, health professional

Re: Hearing on SB1 scheduled for Thursday, October 31, 2013 10:00 a.m

Testimony in opposition to Same-sex marriage bill SB#1 "Relating to Equal Rights"

Thank you Chairman Rhoads, Chairwoman Luke, and Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance.

My name is Leslie Jones and I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1, but perhaps not for the reasons you might think. At the heart of this bill is an honorable idea, a concept that we hold dear and indeed foundational as a nation and as people of the Aloha Spirit here in Hawaii, the idea that all persons are created equal. While supporting this idea is a noble pursuit, I submit to you that in its attempt to do so, this measure misses the mark.

The notion that we are all created equal is an absolute truth, but equality must not be confused with sameness. Men and women are created equal, but we realize this does not mean they are the same. They are biologically different, and express their needs and wants in different ways. In the same manner, Hawaii's citizens are all created equal, but at the same time are individually different from one another, each with unique wants and needs. The tradition of our nation and our culture has always sought to honor these differences. This bill on same-sex marriage attempts to honor equality among Hawaii's citizens, but in doing so, confuses equality with sameness, and should be amended to better accomplish its purpose, which is equity. Hawaii is a special place and we have always done things a bit differently than other places, and for good reason. We consider what others have done and we reinterpret it to preserve and protect our unique traditions and culture, as we must do with this bill. We have an opportunity here, if we are aware of and accept it, to offer a uniquely balanced and aloha-filled win-win solution to the rest of our nation.

Marriage as an institution has a unique history and purpose under the law. Marriage was not created by government; it is a religious institution, a specific expression of religious freedom. Government did not create marriage, and therefore does not have the authority to define it; it accepts the definition given by we the people to whom all government in America is accountable. By sacred definition, marriage is lifelong commitment between a man and a woman, for the express purpose of representing and expressing Biblical values. Government comes alongside marriage and codifies it as an institution because our citizens agree that marriage serves a valuable function in society. But a society cannot function effectively when it seeks to dismantle and rearrange the foundations on which it was built. We

see this today in the fragmentation of our ohana, in the confusion of our young people as to whom they should emulate, in the anger, frustration, and impatience of our daily lives. If we are to regain our way of self-governance, we must reunite ourselves with the foundational worldview that can effectively handle our fragmentation and confusion, the worldview on which our nation was founded and to which it still adheres today.

Today's debate is not about same-sex marriage. We can all agree that every American citizen has an equitable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The problem is in how we are trying to go about ensuring equity without trampling on religious freedom and our foundational values. While I believe a win-win solution exists, this bill unamended is not it, and in fairness, with the short duration of this special session we may not have the time to address the issue adequately. In our rush to attempt equity, we are abrogating fairness and justice. In so doing we separate the rights we hold dear from their source, and end up debating about who and what is considered sacred. All of us are created with the desire to unite in and with something greater than ourselves, and in our culture, one of the highest expressions of this is the commitment expressed by two people in marriage. But why marriage? What difference does it make what we call the committed union of two hearts? Because there is something about marriage that we all recognize as sacred, as extra-special, as beyond the ordinary relationship, as something that gives us all hope. For anyone who has ever witnessed or participated in the marriage ceremony of close friends or family, no doubt you can relate to their feelings of exuberant joy. They are contagious. And rightfully so. We are endowed by our Creator with these feelings and desires. But therein lies the problem. In this bill WE are rushing past source of these gifts to get to the gifts themselves, in the process ignoring the Source of those gifts and the love and aloha with which those gifts were given. It's as if our children at Christmas were to ignore the gifts we give them, and the love and aloha with which they are given, just to get to the gifts alone. What sense does it make to separate the giver from the gift? The gift then loses its meaning as an expression of the relationship between the giver and the receiver. It stops being special.

Marriage IS special. WE are each special. And this is so because the Source, the Giver, is special. The Source of marriage and of our gifts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Source that is larger than all of us, the Source of the Aloha Spirit, and the Source that the institution of marriage is designed to honor. The Source Who created all of us and made us special. That source is not government. Government did not create marriage. Marriage comes from our Creator, the Source of all life as a symbol of the larger-than-life union between that Source and us. Government did not define that special union; government exists to embrace and preserve it.

So, Let us honor that which is sacred. Let us honor our Source. And as we seek a win-win solution, let us do so in a way that respects the Source's definition of marriage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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
james cox	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: All honorable members, thank you for considering this testimony. I, James K Cox, am opposed to SB1 and opposed to same sex marriage. Nowhere in human history has any country or society officially sanctioned marriage between same-sex couples. For current legislative and executive officials to presume they know better than all of humankind's collective history, to presume that by acting in favor of SB1 they are doing some wise and glorious rectification of a heinous grievance, is hubris and naiveté in its highest form. Neither is SB1's supposedly providing "fairness" and "equality" a cogent argument in its favor. Life is not fair. The world is not fair. Laws are not about fairness – laws are about standards. It was not fair to me that I couldn't pass the vision tests necessary to pilot aircraft. Where's a law making that fair? Would it then be fair to all the flying public if a law was passed for me to fly with decreased vision only because I decried grievance and unfairness in the vision standards? Marriage laws are about societal standards. Passing any law allowing same-sex marriage is not an exercise in fairness; it is a declaration that you as elected leadership, and by extension our society, now has as its standard that homosexual marriage is representative of us, our mores, our belief systems, our way of life. Passing SB1 is ignoring everything fundamental about America and supplanting it with nouveau whimsy. Is current marriage law unfair to gays? Sure it is. It is also unfair to every natural born Lithuanian that he cannot run for the office of President of the United States of America – shall we change the constitution to be fair to him? Current regulations are unfair to wannabe pilots with bad vision – shall we pass laws allowing them to fly in the interest of fairness? What is marriage? Who defines it? Clearly precedents in legislative bodies have used the traditional meaning to craft their laws regarding marriage up to this point in time. Who are you to redefine it now, just because a loud voting bloc agitates today? Were they not as aggrieved last year, last century? Will you pass other bills when other marriage advocates agitate? Incest marriage? Polygamous marriage? Why redefine hetero marriage, why now, and why only for same-sex couples? For every reason you can cite for changing marriage to include same-sex couples, can be applied to other fringe social groups as well. Every argument against redefining marriage for every other fringe group can also be applied against defining marriage for same-sex couples. Ask yourselves, why am I voting for SB1? Why now? Why not yesterday, tomorrow? Why am I not addressing polygamy, incest marriage? Will I be for those marriages next week? Why?

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.