

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
elizabeth tokunaga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I would to speak about my rights as an American

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 30, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Relating to Equality

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Let me tell you why.

My mom chose to be in a relationship with another woman. It has had a lasting effect on my siblings and I for over three decades.

This is how it's affected me during my elementary school days. The reality of my mom's relationship would bring random thoughts of depression that also included the weight of darkness and gloom. I knew in my heart of hearts that my family secret would have its way with me from both angles, my mom was no longer in my life and my peers would eventually find out and rub it in my face. The questions from peers began to come "who's that lady your mom is always with? Where's your dad? How come your mom doesn't live with you?" These questions haunted me as a little girl. Now looking back I realized that no other adult had the courage to confront her or even speak up to tell her that her instant gratification was bringing heart ache and sadness in her kids. The silence was torture. I would think am I the only one who feels that this is wrong?

Intermediate and high school was a whirl wind of suppressing and covering up what was eating me on the inside. Alcoholism, drug abuse, self-abuse, wreck less living was what I found helped me to numb myself from the anger and resentment I had towards my mom for the choices that she made.

The painful result has made its way into my life as a wife and a mother. Now my mom is going through the consequence of a lifestyle as a lesbian. My mom has since ended her relationship with her partner but not without a price to pay. Allowing herself to feel the joy that she is entitled to when spending time with her children and grandchildren does not come so easy. Almost as if she must earn her position as mom and grandma. There aren't enough "I love you" and "I forgive you" that can encourage her being present body and mind with all of us. Even though my mom tries to move forward it's as if she is tormented by the choice she has made for almost half of her life to spend it with another woman.

It is clear from my experience that passing this bill will have disastrous consequences not only for the immediate family involved but also in the long run to the couples choosing to live a lifestyle of homosexuality.

I realize that I have no control over the MANY people choosing a lifestyle of homosexuality but as a mom I CHOOSE to practice self-control when it comes to sexual relation for the good of my children and the little eyes looking up to me as a coach, an aunty, and an educator. I refuse to sit back and allow the SILENCE to once again bring darkness and heart ache to another family. Instead I have recently revisited my dark pass (including my mom in this cause I felt the need to ask her permission to share such a personal story) and to speak up against the thought that this bill would allow what is thought to be something positive and to except it as normal.

Passing this bill without an EQUAL opportunity to place my vote in regards to my opposition tells me only one thing, I have no say, no control and my opinion has no value. I say it is only right to give me, and the residents of Hawaii an opportunity to have a say in order to avoid this pain to repeat itself over again in other families here at my home, where I was born and raised, where the culture and the legacy is worth fighting for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lani Kohatsu
Waimanalo, Hawaii, 96795

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in GREAT concern and in opposition to the Senate Bill SB1. I am a local resident, born and raised in Hawaii. I was raised in a home that taught us moral values, and love and respect others.

I and my entire family are totally against passing the law to legalize same sex marriages in Hawaii. In doing so, it distorts the minds of our children, our community, and our country. It confuses children from right and wrong. God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. It was from the beginning of time that God create woman for man, because it was not good that man be alone. He did not create man for man, or woman for woman.

Allowing same sex marriages in Hawaii will be a total fail of our system, and corrupt the minds and thinking of our children, and distort their thinking of a "traditional marriage". I don't hate homosexuals, but allowing them to marry here in Hawaii will create a bombarded paradise flooded with homosexuals flaunting their sexuality. Hawaii is paradise, and yes we have troubles in our islands, and if the law is passed to allow homosexuals to marry in Hawaii, we will have homosexuals from every which way in the world flooding Hawaii and flaunting their sexuality. This is a very dangerous thing because those who are opposed to the same sex marriage, and for traditional marriages will feel violated.

Why bring trouble to our paradise? KEEP HAWAII PARADISE & KEEP TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES IN HAWAII.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1!

Mahalo,

Zina Hough
Hanalei, HI. 96714

Craig Gomes

94-1450 Lanikuhana Ave Apt 391

Mililani, HI. 96789-2435 Telephone: 808-625-0606

Ye **MUST** be BORN AGAIN: Spoken by Jesus, The Christ, The Son of the living God in John 3:7

Dear Honorable lawmaker,

Nature shows us that males mate with females; it then natural for males to marry females.

(The definition of natural is that something is consistent with nature.)

It is a fact that the act of sodomy spreads human waste on the people participating in that act.

It is also a fact that the intentional spreading of human waste on people is filthy.

The act of homosexuality, by definition, is a filthy act that is against nature.

We should make no law declaring an unnatural filthy act to be wholesome and consistent with nature when in reality it is the opposite. Certainly, we must not make a law that punishes people for hate crimes if a US citizen says that the act of homosexuality is against nature and natures God.

No one should be punished for speaking, or acting on the truth.

From the beginning of recorded history, males married females, so it is not necessary to have **urgent special session** to overturn the truth from ages past, that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Please remember that the Supreme Court's OPINION is not the law of the land. Only lawmakers can make law. The Supreme has made horrendous mistakes in the past such as declaring the OPINION that **slaves are not people but property** in the 1857 Dred Scott decision. I'm sure you'll agree how evil that ruling was.

If you pass this homosexual marriage bill as proposed, you criminalize those that believe the self-evident truths that the act of sodomy is a filthy act and that homosexuality is unnatural since it is against nature and natures God.

It is not enough to make protections only for clergy. All those who exercise their free speech right and religious liberty rights guaranteed by the Constitution for over **two hundred years** must be protected from harm, harassment, and punishment simply for stating or acting on the truths mentioned above.

If you decide to pass a bill making marriage mean something that it has never meant before in the ages past, please provide protection for those that simply believe the obvious about homosexuality and for those that have faith in God and want to follow and proclaim His teachings.

If passed as proposed, you will end up persecuting those that have faith in God, and those that believe that homosexuality is against nature or is biologically unnatural or that sodomy is by definition filthy since it spreads human waste on its participants.

Please do not pass a bill that harms people for simply believing the truth, or reciting what Gods says in His Word about homosexuality.

Free speech and the free exercise of religion must not be sacrificed for the fleeting whims of recent public opinion. Especially when that whim is contrary to the laws of nature, thousands of years of human history, our States Constitution limiting the legislature to making marriage between one man and one woman, and the discrimination that will follow if such a bill is passed against those who believe the truth about homosexuality.

I want to thank you in advance for considering not to allow same gender “marriage” or to provide the protections mentioned above.

May God richly bless, protect, and give you wisdom as you make laws for our State that helps and protects our citizens,

/s/ Craig Gomes

From: Gary Fuchikami [<mailto:gfuchikami@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:56 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB1

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I are strongly opposed to SB1, which creates homosexual marriage in Hawaii. Marriage is a very sacred institution created within a religious framework and should be preserved as one man and one woman. Passing SB1 will result in many serious consequences that none of you can imagine. It has already caused serious issues in California with unisex bathrooms, etc. "It won't happen here" you say? As California goes, so goes the entire country. Virtually everything that has happened there has happened here sooner or later. This is only one of the serious concerns we have with the unintended consequences that none of you have thought about.

Please vote against SB1 and let the voters decide on this very serious issue. It should NOT be decided by a handful of elected officials who do NOT represent the voters in their district (Senator Espero is one who wants to vote for it despite the majority in Ewa Beach who oppose it, not to mention his turning his back on his Catholic "beliefs", if he truly believes that at all!)

Respectfully yours,
Gary Fuchikami & family
Ewa Beach

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

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

I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide.

Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

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

Junko O. Austin
91-300 Hoano Place, Ewa Beach Hawaii
Phone Number: (808) 685-3670
E-mail: junko.austin@hotmail.com

INTERNATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF WITCHES AND AMALGAMATED MAGICKS

Local 665, Honolulu, Hawaii

October 30, 2013

Yngvildr Blzpaeth, G.M.

Int. Sisterhood of Witches and Amalg. Magicks, Local 665

P.O. Box 1901

Honolulu, HI 96805

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for S.B. 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Hail and Gesundheit,

The International Sisterhood of Witches and Amalgamated Magicks, Local 665, ascends in strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights. This unholy union was formed through the recent merger of the International Sisterhood of Witches, Wise Women, and Sorceresses with the Consolidated Honorable Order of Amalgamated Magicks, Wizards, Seers, and Mystics, as you probably know.

Although many have claimed that the Prince of Darkness supports the legal recognition of civil marriages between same-sex couples, this is not true. Not to play the Devil's Advocate, but through a communion with the Evil One, the Sisters learned that he has no opinion on same-sex marriage, as he takes more souls from heterosexual people already. Hypocrisy and pride are two especially deadly sins.

However, given the sharply varying interpretations of the Bible you have heard, making this decision on the basis of what someone says is the will of the Hebrew god is as ridiculous as following Satan. When Bigotry is coated with Religion, it is still Bigotry, and is never elevated to "Morality" or even "Faith." Having been persecuted by so-called "Christians" for as long as homosexuals, often also burned alive like so-called "faggots" (hence the name), witches understand this keenly.

On the other hand, the federal tax benefits and state law protections that same-sex couples would gain through the passage of Senate Bill 1 would greatly aid local members of the International Sisterhood. While most lesbians are not witches, most witches are lesbians and consequently, they face constant discrimination against both their craft and religion.

Thank you for protecting the religious rights and family needs of the worthy members of the International Sisterhood of Witches and Amalgamated Magicks.

So it is Written,

Yngvildr Blzpaeth

Grand Mistress, Local 665

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

From: tomd012@hawaii.rr.com [<mailto:tomd012@hawaii.rr.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 8:54 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades and Luke:

I strongly oppose SB1. In 2011, Governor Abercrombie passed the Civil Unions Law so same sex couples that enter into civil unions in Hawaii could receive all of the same state benefits as married couples. In addition, since the Supreme Court ruled the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional, same-sex couples that are legally married in a state that recognizes same sex marriage can move to states that do not legally recognize same sex marriage and can still receive the federal benefits of marriage. Thus, same sex couples can receive the same state and federal benefits as any marriage.

The current language in the draft bill does not grant adequate protections against lawsuits and other litigation for religious entities and their followers in regard to the usage of their facilities. In order for churches to protect themselves from being forced to do something against their beliefs.

Our church, St. Patrick in Kaimuki, has in the past allowed non-parish organizations such as a hula halau, other Catholic private organizations, etc. to use the St. Patrick School facilities for their meetings. Continuing to do so will leave our church unprotected and liable to a law suit from a same sex couple wishing to get married in St. Patrick Church.

We have also had Catholic couples who aren't members of our parish wish to get married in our church (e.g., coming from the mainland, Japan). SB1 as currently written will disallow this.

Finally, passage of this bill will deny private business owners who do not accept same sex marriages due to their religious beliefs also open to law suits (e.g., New Mexico florist who refused to do the flowers for a same sex wedding).

Freedom to practice our religion is a fundamental constitutional right. Passage of SB1 will deny this right to many. I strongly urge you to vote no on SB1 and let the people of Hawaii decide on this most important issue.

David A. Tom
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: stintonrw@gmail.com [<mailto:stintonrw@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Rick Stinton
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 6:16 AM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Opposed to SSM Bill for democracy reasons

I am opposed to the Legislature legalizing gay marriage at their Special Session because it does not honor government by democracy. The Special Session does not allow the time for citizens on both sides of the issue to present their cases. It does not allow for amendments. It appears to push through an agenda on a divisive social issue that will change the basic definition of the social unit of society, rather than allow the normal democratic process to work. To my knowledge, no other State in the Union is holding a Special Session on the issue. It is not necessary.

If the democratic process affirms gay marriage in Hawaii, then so be it. But the voice of the people should be heard and the issue fully vetted. The Special Session does not allow for that. Furthermore, the language of the Bill at points is problematic, and will lead to future law suits and problems. It needs more work and clarification, rather than being rushed through.

Personally, I believe that the people of Hawaii should vote on this issue. The Supreme Court has not ruled that gay marriage is a right, only that States who grant gay marriages must give equal benefits. So please do not participate in the deception that the Supreme Court has sanctioned gay marriage as a right. A person may hold this conviction, but this is the value of a democracy - issues should be discussed, debated, and voted on.

I urge you to hear the people of Hawaii. Do not legalize gay marriage at the Special Session.

Yours truly,

Rick Stinton
733 Mokapu Road, Kailua
[808-225-6941](tel:808-225-6941)

Glenn Yamada
c/o 95-801 Kipapa Drive
Mililani, HI 96789

October 27, 2013

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I belong to an Oahu church that has a pre-school (non-profit) and sponsors events such as fairs (where baked goods and items are sold but proceeds donated to other religious organizations) and movie nights all of it non-profit and open to the public. From my understanding of the proposed bill and from speaking with attorneys on Hawaii's Public Accommodations law, the church is not protected because:

- The Public Accommodations law is very broad and can be applied to for-profit as well as non-profit organizations
- SB1 bill does not exempt religious organizations from the law
- The Public Accommodations law trumps whatever religious exemptions that are stated in the bill

My question to all of you who are on the committees and other House members is under the above scenario, which is common with larger churches, how will my freedom of religion and freedom of speech rights guaranteed under the US Constitution be protected?

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

From: rsole68750 <rsole68750@aol.com>

To: JDLtestimony <JDLtestimony@capitolhawaii.gov>

Sent: Wed, Oct 30, 2013 6:04 am

Subject: Testimony

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 & Luke & Members of the House Judiciary & Finance Committees:

My name is Mary Sole.

I reside at 98-2032 Kikala St., in Aiea.

I am in opposition of SB 1.

My testimony is for the House Judiciary & Finance Committee session which will be held on 10.31.13 at 10 a.m.

Same sex marriage, although He loves the people who are involved is an abomination to God. We, as a society have absolutely No right to change what has already been established by God, that of a marriage between one man & one woman. We will pay for its consequences if SB 1 becomes law, here. Who are we to think that we can change what God has already designed without any consequences?

Committee members, you are under God's authority. & as such, may you honor Him by following His commands. Same sex marriage is detested by God. Do what is pono. Vote no to SB 1!

For there is no authority except from God, & the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
Romans 13:1b-c

This Special Session also dishonors God, & the people who make their home here. The democratic process is being circumvented. A decision that you & your colleagues will vote on is of such great magnitude that it should not be made in the time allotted for this bill to become law. This is not pono.

Registered voters who have elected people in their political offices (such as yourselves, committee members), should decide on whether same sex marriage, a highly charged issue should be here in our island home or not.

Let the registered voters decide!!

Clergymen who are under God's authority are also being dishonored. The religious wording in

SB 1 should be made more stronger. As it is now written, it does not fully protect our clergymen. & our clergymen should be protected as they serve a vital part in our community.

&, yet, King Kamehameha III (Kauikeaouli) knew where his authority came from.. In an 1840 Enactment of Kingdom of Hawaii Constitution, signed by the king on 10.8.1840, in the preamble under section entitled, Constitution, King Kamehameha offers a covenant to God. As a Christian & a Hawaiian, knowing that a Hawaiian monarch honored God warms my heart.

King Kamehameha III left a legacy of honoring God, in whom his authority was given by Him.

Committee Members may you do what is right, & continue on with the legacy that has been set before you honoring a holy God in whom your authority was given by Him.

Vote no to SB 1!!

Mahalo,

Respectfully,
Mary Sole
10.30.13

Re: Testimony in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoades and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Finance Committee

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has been on the forefront of Aloha and civil rights in the United States including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, nondiscrimination clauses for employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and Civil Unions. Now is the time for Hawai'i to pass the marriage equality bill granting marriage rights to same gender couples. The U. S. Supreme Court struck down DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) which allows married same sex couples in those states that have marriage equality to obtain the federal marriage benefits (over 1000) that are already granted to opposite sex married couples. Also, married same sex couples in military will also receive the federal benefits of marriage, which is significant in Hawai'i with its many military installations throughout the state.

I am a gay catholic man who has been with my life partner for over 22 years. We are Reciprocal Beneficiaries, receiving our certificate in 1998. We hope to finally gain the recognition of our love and commitment and be granted the rights and responsibilities of marriage already granted to opposite sex married couples. I am also a member of Dignity Honolulu, the local chapter of Dignity USA for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics and their friends and supporters. Dignity USA has been consistent in its support for equal rights for LGBT people, through its membership in the coalition called, *Equally Blessed*, with the partners, New Ways Ministry, Call to Action, and Fortunate Families. These groups are progressive Catholic groups that support marriage equality because of their support for social justice issues which relate to our faith.

Recently, Bishop Larry Silva had sent out a letter opposing marriage equality with offensive and inaccurate statements regarding gay and lesbian families. Studies show that children raised by two parents, either opposite sex or same sex parents, have a better quality of life than those raised by just one parent, or have no parent at all. We should be supporting all families, which then supports the welfare of the overall community.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1 on marriage equality for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Gene Corpuz
1139 9th Ave., #1602
Honolulu, HI, 96816
GeneCMSPH@aol.com
808-779-1965

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades and Luke:

I strongly oppose SB1.

The current language in the draft bill does not grant adequate protections against lawsuits and other litigation for religious entities and their followers in regard to the usage of their facilities. In order for churches to protect themselves from being forced to do something against their beliefs.

This bill will discriminate against our churches, private business owners who do not support same sex marriages for religious reasons, and ultimately our children who we want to teach as we know best as parents.

I attend St. Patrick Church in Kaimuki, which has in the past allowed non-parish organizations such as a hula halau, other Catholic private organizations, etc. to use its facilities. According to the current SB1 draft, doing so will require our church to open itself up to same sex marriages. This is unconstitutional.

We have also had Catholic couples (who show proof of being Catholic) coming from places like Japan and other states wishing to get married in St. Patrick. The bill as currently written will subsequently do away w/ the religious exemption of our church to not do same sex marriages.

This bill is far-reaching with serious consequences. It should be left up to the voters of Hawaii to decide. I strongly urge you to vote no on SB1.

Rosemarie N. Tom
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 1:34 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: gshimizu1@hawaii.rr.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
Garner Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha Honorable Chairs and Committee Members, I know you must be overwhelmed with your schedules and demands for your time, and I wished we could've had further opportunity to meet face to face to connect and share our hearts. I appreciate your patience and understanding, bearing with me as I attempt to communicate honestly and clearly, to convey my thoughts and position. First of all, thank you so much for serving the people of Hawaii, and for all of your efforts working in our government and community. I can only imagine the pressures and challenges you must face making hard decisions on issues that divide our community. Having run two times for the House, I have only a very small glimpse of your world, and have the highest respect and appreciation for your desire and commitment to help make our Hawaii a better place. As for our beliefs and preferences, whether we agree or whether we may have to agree to disagree on the issue of marriage for a same-gender lifestyle choice, we must still treat each person with respect and honor. There is no question or debate that there is no place in our society for hate, prejudice or discrimination. As a person of faith, on behalf of the Christian community, I would like to ask you for your forgiveness for any wrong representation of God's love you may have experienced. I hope that our majority have been well meaning and loving representatives of our faith, and that I could be counted as one of them. Our lives should reflect truth and love in all things, and not hateful rhetoric or emotional opinions. We need to be able to talk to each other in a composed, constructive and professional manner. Our discussion and communication should be civil and factual. There is no doubt that high passions and tensions exist, but I hope that we can wipe the slate clean of past mistakes, hurt and pain, which will help allow both sides to live together in harmony. I sincerely pray for this to happen. I understand that we live in a great Nation where everyone has the freedom to choose. If someone has a sincere belief that they should have a relationship with someone of the same-gender, then no one can prevent that. If someone else has a contrary sincere belief in an Almighty God that has different standards of conduct based on their spiritual faith, then similarly they should not be prevented from and be free to express themselves, as well as practice their beliefs without restrictions. Although I may not choose an alternative lifestyle, my disagreement is not because I judge or think less of anyone, but a conviction I have from my sincere spiritual faith and belief; and the

related principles we follow. This belief system has a large following throughout the world and its history. All of society's codes of conduct and laws are established to help us live together, to reasonably guide and direct us regardless of our differences. We live in a country where the Constitution is the law of the land, established from the beginning to protect our rights of free speech and the right to exercise our religious beliefs, as given to us in the First Amendment. Much of our laws and system of government has roots in faith teaching and writings. We have numerous national parks and monuments around the country that prominently display past leaders', heroes', and our faith and honor in an Almighty God. Our culture and society are established upon and intertwined with this faith-based spiritual aspect. This is largely true in many countries all over the world. Conversely the same-sex lifestyle is a distinct minority, with scarce mention or influence in our world history. Should one small group of people be elevated to a higher level of entitlement above others, where their rights take the place of and surpasses everyone else's rights? Obviously there should be no special class of entitlement, and no one should have their freedoms taken away and be forced to believe something they disagree with. Nonetheless, faith believers have already experienced a loss of our rights under the misnomer of "separation of church and state". The right to prayer in school, removal of "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, are two simple but powerful examples of the ongoing erosion of our rights and freedom. We also see many other actual cases in Canada, Massachusetts, and Oregon, places where same-sex marriage has already been approved, where the faith based community and others who disagree, have lost their right to express and exercise their beliefs and values in the educational system and even in business. This is not about public accommodations or discrimination, but the right to one's beliefs, and the right and freedom to exercise those beliefs and expression of it, as it is established and protected by the Constitution. Any person can choose to smoke and wear shoes in their home, and I can choose not to in mine. No one should target you negatively or penalize you because of your preference on this. I would not demand my preferences upon your actions in your home, and I would not want you to smoke or wear shoes in my home. I would honor your choice and expect the same honor in return if I chose differently. If I own a pizza joint, can a customer expect and demand me to serve them steak and potatoes? These may seem like insignificant unrelated situations but they attempt to make the point that one person or group's preferences or even rights cannot be elevated above another's. Both sides have very different perspectives. But I implore you to step back from the whirlwind of confusion and emotions, and simply look at the significant volume of facts, data and statistics objectively. There is no scientific proof of a homosexual gene. It does not exist, it is not reproducible. Homosexual males have significantly higher incidences of STD than heterosexual males. It is not natural or healthy. It is not how we were designed to function and proliferate, and it does not occur elsewhere in nature. Homosexuality was classified as a mental disorder up until 1973. Thereafter a core group of supporters have been able to reclassify and market this lifestyle preference in a powerful new way, so that now it has even become a "civil rights" issue. It is a lifestyle choice. It's pretty clear that a same-sex marriage is not equal and not the same, as on opposite sex marriage. It's not a judgment, or prejudice, it's just a factual statement that they are clearly different. When $A+B=C$, then C is not equal to $A+A$ or $B+B$. [Ok sorry that's the engineer part of me coming out. LOL] Nonetheless although I do not agree with that

choice and would not want that personally, I do not demonize those who choose it. We probably all have close family and friends who follow this lifestyle and we love them no matter. In 1998 almost 70% of the people voted to approve traditional marriage between one man and one woman. With the common layperson not being an attorney or having control over establishing bullet-proof wording against unintended interpretation, the affirmative vote for "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." was a definitive, affirmation decision against same-sex marriage. The legislature was given authority to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, NOT to redefine it. Because of the precedent of this existing Amendment, and the overwhelming majority who voted for it, a revisiting and re-voting of the 1998 Constitutional Amendment would be the fairest way to decide this amongst a community that is clearly divided. If one side does in fact hold the majority, we will have to acknowledge that decision. This issue is much too important to be squeezed into and rushed through a special session, which in many ways feels like an unexpected and unfair takeover of our democratic process. Can you let the people decide? Governor Abercrombie himself stated a primary reason to call for a special session to expedite approval, was due to same-sex couple's annual income taxes being affected. If the current civil-unions law falls short of federal rights and benefits as recently ruled in the Supreme Court's DOMA case, can we legislate changes to correct this? Is there a way of broadening the current civil-unions language to accomplish this? And at the same time protect the sanctity of marriage that large majorities of the people of faith have held so dear and holy for centuries, and protect the current rights of a majority who disagree with an alternative lifestyle? Could it be that simple? If Governor Abercrombie's concern is valid then couldn't this be separately addressed to correct this situation as applicable? That would take care of the urgent crisis of tax returns, and then allow much more careful and thoughtful handling of same-sex marriage that is warranted, for this history changing epic consideration. We should be able to thoroughly study and be educated on any unintended negative ramifications to avoid, expending the utmost care to protect the people and our society for the generations. Wouldn't that make more sense instead of "just getting it over with" or "just getting it done"? It seems practically obvious that the Governor and a majority of the democratic caucus have a predetermined agenda to "approve" this bill. Conversely, Representative James Tokioka was quoted in Star-Advertiser that he was going past his personal viewpoint, and instead voting NO to reflect the 70% of his constituents who have told him they are against this bill. You are someone at a high level of respect in the political field, and visibility in our community. Your voice and position carries much influence, and there is probably much more ahead for your future. Each person will have to search for truth in their lives and find the answer, and whatever decision or changed decision you make, I know you want to be fair to all of the people as much as possible. No matter your personal viewpoint, I believe that you want to fairly represent the majority of your constituents, and also represent and follow a principled democratic process. The public hopes and believes that our elected officials will do what is right and fair for the majority, over and beyond any powerful special interest group. The public testimony at Monday's Senate hearing was overwhelmingly against SB1. We cried out for the preservation of our freedom that was birthed from our country's beginning. We cried out for justice and due process through our democratic republic. Will you be someone that will demonstrate fairness,

earn the public trust, and truly represent the will of the people? Thank you again so much for your fair deliberation. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Mahalo and blessings, Garner Shimizu Moanalua Valley

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Testimony against SB1 by Lynn Shimasaki, Kailua, HI

October 31, 2013

I am not a hater of gays and lesbians. I have friends and loved ones who are gay or lesbian. I might even be willing to accept the concept of civil unions in deference to these family members and friends.

But redefining marriage to be a union between two same sex individuals just goes too far. The Bible clearly states that it was God who created the institution of marriage, designed by Him to be a sacred bond between a man and a woman. Marriage is more than just a tradition, but an institution created and ordained by God.

Defining marriage in any other way is to make a mockery of God's original design and can only be described as an abomination toward God. It also makes a mockery of believers of God the world over, who can only view this as an abomination toward God's moral laws.

Even if you do not believe in God, at least believe in the institution that has survived in its original design since the beginning of mankind, and across all religions, countries and cultures. It has served not only our culture and society well, but the cultures and societies across the globe for thousands of years.

What makes us think that we can now tamper with this ageless institution? Nothing has changed. We are no smarter, or enlightened than before. I am afraid how we can now be so foolish as to contempt God and the institution He ordained. God will not be mocked and I am afraid for the consequences to our society and nation.

Please vote no on SB-1.

10/30/13

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Ronald & Edelyn Saot

Address: 91-1049 Mikohu St. #11A

Ewa Beach HI 96706

Phone: 808-291-1032

Subject:

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

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process. The fact that there can be no amendments to the bill essentially negates any concerns raised in testimony or by you, the Legislature.

I oppose this bill because the alleged religious protection clauses provide no protection for individuals to exercise their First Amendment rights of speech and religion. Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

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

Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ronald Saot", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a large initial "R".

Good Evening Chairman and Representatives,

My name is Annalea Cavasso and I am 15 years old and strongly against Same sex marriage.

First it hurts our families. A family should be between one man and one woman. That's how the family works best. That's the way God made it from the beginning.

Second I don't want it to be taught in school. I don't want my future children and grandchildren to be taught that is a proper way of life.

I ask that you vote against this Bill. And Let the people decide.

Thank You

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to inform you that I do not support the legalization of same-sex marriage in Hawaii. I strongly believe that marriage should be between one man and one woman, and that same-sex marriage is not a "constitutional right." If same-sex marriage is not legalized, it does not mean that we would be discriminating against our gay and lesbian community. This matter should not be considered as a civil rights issue.

I understand there are those that want to get "married" because of career options. For example, if a couple is in the military and are not "married," then they are not able to move together when one or the other is stationed elsewhere. However, changing our law should not be the option. The regulations within the military should be changed.

If the law is changed, how will we be teaching the next generation? Will we be discriminating against one or the other when teaching our children about health education? Will we have to spend money to change/re-write our books about health education?

I pray that you are provided with the guidance, wisdom, and courage to **vote against** the legalization of the same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,
Carla Simao

Dear Congressmen,

I oppose SB-1. The special session as it is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

No amendments can be made to legislation and as a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.

Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?

A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-days special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".

The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carve out.

The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 – the polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage. So why not let the people vote?

Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.

A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input.

Thank you for the work that you do in our behalf. Please vote NO on SB-1

Sincerely,

Frank Lueder
92-1021 Palailai Pl
Kapolei, HI 96707

Testimony in support of SB1
Relating to Equal Rights

Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

October 31, 2013
10:00 am, Auditorium, Hawaii State Capitol
I will not be testifying in person.

Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I strongly support SB1, as it is an important step in ensuring that all of Hawaii's residents are treated equally under the law.

Many who oppose this bill have suggested that its passage would deny them their first amendment right to exercise their religious beliefs. First, the exemption for religious organizations that has been written into this bill is a concession that addresses their concerns. More importantly, however, is the fact that the first amendment, while guaranteeing citizens the right to exercise their religious beliefs, just as forcefully protects all citizens from having others' religious beliefs imposed upon them in such a way as to curtail their civil rights.

Passing this bill would ensure that all of Hawaii's residents are afforded equal rights, protections and benefits, and would be in the spirit of inclusion and aloha that this state embodies.

Thank you.

Leeanne Oue

10-30-2013

Aloha,

my name is Greg Lopez. i currently reside in Kailua, Oahu.

I am a father of four, and have been happily married to my wife for 9 years.

while i harbor no ill feelings to those within the gay community- my personal beliefs conflict with this bill you are trying to pass.

it is my understanding that we voted you (the lawmakers) into office. and i am very concerned on the method of which this special session was organized. i strongly believe that we the people have the right to vote on this issue.

i also feel that there are so many issues that follow should this bill pass. my question is how extensive was the research done before deciding to hold this special session? is the research objective?

as a parent i am very concerned about my children. it is our duty as their parents(both mom and dad) to teach them about life. including (when the time comes) sexuality. i can only imagine once this bill is passed... how soon after will special interest groups request a more thorough curriculum be required for sex education? which will include safe homosexual sex. that alone is alarming.

the list can go on and on- at the core of my testimony is this. If you say that you are truly here for the people... then leave it up to the people. Let the people decide on the matter. If you do not allow us to vote on this... rest assured many lawmakers careers will be ending prematurely because they failed to work for the people. Thus forcing us to find lawmakers that are for the people.

thank you
Greg Lopez

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

I'm absolutely against legalizing same-sex marriage. I'm not saying we should be bully to those who somehow loves same gender partners and are wishing to openly establish a household ... We should not be bully to someone because of disability, low income, lack of college degree, etc.

However, we should not say OK if it is not right. Just imagine " $1+1=2$ usually but $1+1=3$ is also Okay" Can you say that?

No just based on the Christianity Bible, all mammals know that a pair of male and female can establish a family that can last over generations. A pair of same gender cannot yield kids. If that principle change, the species will be extinct eventually.

If same sex marriage becomes Okay by law, our society will lose our foundation and will be destroyed starting from our elementary school. Our children would be the first victim by confusion that would be triggered by legalizing same-sex marriage.

Please do not let this disaster happen in Hawaii!!!

Thank you.

Keiichi Nemoto

A State Worker who loves Hawaii.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nicholas Tom	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is Nicholas Tom. I am a student at Leeward Community College. I would like to voice my opinion against bill sb1. Thank you for this opportunity! It means a lot that I can express my beliefs freely!

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RE: Special Session on the topic "Relating to Equal Rights"

Date/Time of Hearing: 31 October 2013, beginning at 10:00 AM in State Capitol Auditorium

Esteemed servants of the people,

My name is Dennis Vaillancourt, a private citizen of Hawaii, and I come to you today in opposition of this bill.

I come to you today to offer my thoughts on the topic presented by this bill before you that deems to provide "equal rights". First and foremost, while this bill purports to provide a perceived measure of equality to all who profess to be in a committed relationship, I will ask that you take a closer look at what this bill will do and what it does not do. First, what are the real, definable, and articulated consequences should this bill pass? Second, and most importantly, what are the unintended consequences that can come about with the passage of this bill? Understanding the impact of the unintended consequences is just as, if not more important to understanding what a solution to a problem does bring to the table.

If I were to apply problem solving logic to what I have just asked of you, I would first begin with asking the following question: "What is THE problem we are trying to solve with this legislation?" A lot of testimony you have heard supposedly remedies inequity due to tax law. So, is THE problem a "label" of marriage ... or is it more accurate to describe the problem as fairness and equality in taxation, or is the problem an issue with medical facilities denying access to the same privileges for medical care visitation or decision making as those of heterosexual couples? Second, what are the gaps in equality that we are trying to fix? What does the data show? To make a reasoned decision we must first remove the emotion from the argument and base our analysis on the facts. For example, if the federal tax laws were to add the phrase "or those in a civil union" to the IRS code that currently grants heterosexual couples a tax benefits, does it really matter what label we place on committed relationships? Given that there is a lot of emotion surrounding this bill, it is critical that any bill put before our legislators be well thought out, and address each and every consequence – both intended and unintended. I do not see evidence that the language in this bill accomplishes that requirement.

I humbly implore this legislature to look at the documented consequences of the passage that this kind of law have levied on people in other states and on the impact it has had on their keiki!!! There have been a whole host of unintended consequences and a denial of a parents' rights in how their children are raised and educated. Finally, as a parent, and as a trained observer, it has been my experience that our girl keiki need a woman as they go through their teen years while a boy keiki needs a male role model. Same sex couples cannot provide this kind of role modeling – science has proven that men and women are wired differently.

I humbly implore this legislature to take a hard look at all of the intended AND unintended consequences that can come into play. Voice them out loud, address them in the language of the bill, and specifically state the intent of the legislature in the language of the bill. Better yet, kill this bill and address the real root cause by addressing THE problem at hand.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that I am in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind attention and consideration of this testimony.

Very Respectfully
Dennis Vaillancourt

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
MALIA ROBINS	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
John Rogers	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am of the opinion that this bill makes a travesty of the democratic process. I cannot understand why, with such a great impact to the lifestyle and harmony known to exist in Hawaii, this bill would be pushed through without complete vetting by our legislative representatives. Obviously, the temptation is to arrive at a negative conclusion on the motives of our legislators but I resist that. While the intent appears to present the concept that some segments of our populace cannot trust the rest of the populace to make the right decision. I am also concerned that this bill appears to reduce the freedoms of one group to enhance the freedoms of another. Doesn't this seem to be a rather frightening possibility? How can we possibly consider and resolve all of the implications of injustices that might accrue to one segment of the population over another? I am of the opinion that the safest, most democratic step that can be taken is to put the matter before the people of Hawaii through the ballot. A special session to consider and then enact into law a measure of this magnitude with major implications just doesn't seem right to me. Therefore, I stand in opposition to this bill.

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Dear Hawaii Legislators,

Kindly preserve traditional marriage in the state of Hawaii for future generations.

We respectfully petition you to vote no on the same sex marriage bill; at a minimum, allow the residents of Hawaii, your employers, to let their voices be heard through a state-wide vote on this issue.

We believe the mass demonstration held at the capitol on Monday, October, 28th, 2013, strongly showed the requirement for this.

We are horrified with the negative changes every other state or province has experienced after passing this type of allowance: attacks on religion, radicalized public education and assault on businesses.

Please consider your decision prayerfully and make no law which infringes on residents' God given, and constitutionally assured, rights.

Thank you in advance,

Kathleen and Mark Hashimoto

DATE: October 30, 2013

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Tom Brower	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla	Rep. Jessica Wooley
Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Bob McDermott
Rep. Ken Ito	Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami	

RE: Hearing Thursday, October 31, 2013
10:00am
Auditorium, State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St
SB-1 Equal Rights

FROM: Jodi Chowen, private citizen
Laie, HI 96762

MY TESTIMONY:

Thank you for your service in behalf of the citizens of Hawaii. Contrary to what is being reported, the religious exemptions in SB-1 are far too weak and offer no real religious protections. Legal scholars concur that the bill damages freedoms we currently enjoy which permit us to have this very debate today, and which we have enjoyed for over 200 years.

There is mounting evidence that same-sex marriage will ultimately disadvantage children and create further burdens to our society. Before rushing to a vote, I plead that you consider the significant social and financial implications which have been widely documented in places where similar measures have passed. We cannot afford this measure financially, but more importantly, the cost to our children is far greater. *Children have a right to be raised by a father and mother.*

Please act to protect our religious liberties and the future of our children. Let the people vote on legislation which will guarantee religious liberties for clergy, religiously affiliated organizations, and our rights of conscience. Let the people vote for the future of our children.

Thank you,

Jodi Chowen

From: Easter Almuena [<mailto:easter.almuena@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:00 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SS marriage

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades and Luke:

There is a natural order to life. Man and man cannot produce an offspring. Woman and woman cannot produce an offspring. Marriage then follows a natural order of life where only a man and a woman can produce an offspring. In marriage they can raise a family.

Same-sex marriage is an issue that should be determined by the people because if it becomes a law, it would affect the lives of everyone who lives in Hawaii. Let the people decide if same-sex marriage is what the majority of the people in Hawaii want. Let us exercise our right to vote in the 2014 election. Every child of God in Hawaii who can vote certainly has the power to exercise that right. Let the people decide.

Let the people decide! And let marriage follow a natural order!

Marriage is not an equal rights issue. Marriage is a Divine institution established by The God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob between a male and female committed to one another to create a family. It is an entity with a distinct division of labor.

Genesis 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

No man can mother a child, and no woman can father a child.

Homosexual behavior is defined in the text as an unrighteous act just as fornication, idolatry, heterosexual adultery, sodomy, thievery, covetousness, drunkenness, reviling, and extortion.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

It is in direct conflict with God's design.

All people have "urges" but we are instructed to control our "urges". I may have an urge to have sex with every good-looking woman I see. If I were a pedophile who had urges towards children, I might want to sexually molest or abuse a child. If I were angry with you, I might have an urge to slug you in the face. But I am instructed by God [just as we all are] to control myself and not engage in such behavior.

We live in a society, which requires righteous behavior to survive and prosper. Unrighteous behavior leads to the destruction of our society. The government is perverted if it licenses unrighteous behavior, and it encourages its own destruction.

We would not expect the government to license fornication, heterosexual adultery, pedophilia, child abuse, extortion, etc.

The government has no business licensing unrighteous behavior. Homosexual behavior is a sin just like any other sin. There is no justification for the government to stamp its approval on it and force society to pay homage to it. Such approval only encourages the wrath of God to be poured out upon our state.

Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the 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 vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality,^[c] wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving,^[d] unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

The consequences of rejecting God leads to minds that become “worthless”. They are unable to think.

When we observe states like California, where they can’t figure out what bathroom a person should use or what gender to put on the birth certificate, we can see that these people have become lunatics who can’t see the obvious. Their minds are worthless.

This is either a well-heeded warning or an indictment against you as lawmakers, this governor, and the people who support you.

It is time for you as legislators to remember and respect the state motto, “The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.”

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

From: Gary Fuchikami [<mailto:gfuchikami@hawaiiantel.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:56 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB1

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I are strongly opposed to SB1, which creates homosexual marriage in Hawaii. Marriage is a very sacred institution created within a religious framework and should be preserved as one man and one woman. Passing SB1 will result in many serious consequences that none of you can imagine. It has already caused serious issues in California with unisex bathrooms, etc. "It won't happen here" you say? As California goes, so goes the entire country. Virtually everything that has happened there has happened here sooner or later. This is only one of the serious concerns we have with the unintended consequences that none of you have thought about.

Please vote against SB1 and let the voters decide on this very serious issue. It should NOT be decided by a handful of elected officials who do NOT represent the voters in their district (Senator Espero is one who wants to vote for it despite the majority in Ewa Beach who oppose it, not to mention his turning his back on his Catholic "beliefs", if he truly believes that at all!)

Respectfully yours,
Gary Fuchikami & family
Ewa Beach

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Amanda Finlay
Re: In Support of Marriage Equality

My name is Amanda Finlay, and I am writing in support of Marriage Equality. I graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in the spring, and I recently passed the Hawaii State Bar Examination. I moved here to be with my girlfriend, another lawyer, who was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. We've known for a while that this is where we would end up, and I'm starting to learn that when you're from Hawaii, the urge to return never really leaves you. It seemed like almost a foregone conclusion that we would come to live in Hawaii to start our family.

Unfortunately, the reason we moved here may also be the reason we have to leave- love. We are both twenty-five years old. In a few years, we will be looking to get married and start a family. We've always planned on doing those things in Hawaii, but with the law as it currently is, we cannot risk potentially compromising the legal protection or dignity of our family by continuing to live in a state that does not respect us.

But the main reason I am writing to you in support of marriage equality is that my generation supports it. Recent polls show that the vast majority of my generation supports full marriage equality, and this support only increases when looking to members of my generation with college and graduate degrees. This means that the next generation of lawyers, doctors, professors, entrepreneurs, etc., stand behind the rights of my family.

Because equality is an increasingly important value to my generation, any particular state's stance on LGBT rights is a determining factor for many young professionals deciding where to begin their career. Hawaii has so many amazing things to offer an up-and-coming generation of leaders, but all of those things will be overshadowed by a dark cloud of discrimination, should marriage equality not pass in the state legislature.

In a few years, I may have to leave Hawaii. Not because I want to, but rather because, as a lawyer, I understand how important the formal recognition of a marriage truly is. In a few years, as more and more young professionals from my generation begin to settle down, establish careers, and start families, young professionals of my generation will move to a place that treats all of its families with the dignity and respect that they deserve. My generation wants to live in a state that truly recognizes equality.

There are currently fourteen states with full, legal marriage for same-sex couples. If it comes to making a decision between starting a life in one of those states, and starting a life in Hawaii, for me and my generation, the choice is clear.

From: Kathy Hashimoto [<mailto:kathyhashimoto@hawaii.rr.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:00 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB1

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

Marriage should be between one man and one woman.

I am concerned that you are considering passing a bill that would allow same-sex 'marriage' in Hawaii.

Because of my Catholic faith, I am morally opposed to this bill.

Also, in states that have passed bills similar to this one, churches that will not perform or are against same-sex 'marriage' are not allowed full religious freedom to refuse homosexual couples who want to be 'married.'

Additionally, children who are enrolled in public school are being indoctrinated to think that that kind of lifestyle is morally acceptable and given preferential treatment.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 1.

Sincerely,

Marie Hashimoto

October 30, 2013

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

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

Dear Chairmans Rhoads and Luke,

I am writing this testimony strongly opposing the passage of S.B. 1, The Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it redefines the most core institution of society, marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman has been and is interwoven into every fabric of our society, both legally and socially, throughout all generations of time. To redefine marriage by including same sex couples is to redefine the beliefs and values of individuals who firmly hold on to marriage as that between a man and a woman.

In addition, the most critical element that this bill does not properly address is our individual right to religious liberty. Not only does it deny individuals from exercising their First Amendment right of freedom of religion, but also the rights of religious institutions:

- (1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only “religious organizations.” Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.
- (2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.
- (3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

page 2

Allow the people to decide on this issue of marriage as I believe the Legislature is going against the will of the people. This is one of the most contentious social issue in our history and it is being decided in a matter of days, far from the fair and open democratic process that affords us citizens of this great nation. This process is being disregarded during this special session. The Senate Committee heard and received over 1500 testimonies; 60% of whom oppose SB 1. Yet, the committee voted for this bill. Is that fair and just.

Give this bill due process during the regular session where it can be properly 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 indigenious and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in this special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Edralyn Caberto
98-234 Hale Momi Place
Aiea, Hawaii. 96701

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

Hearing Date & Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10 am

Hearing Location: Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Strong **Opposition to SB1**, Relating to Equal Rights

From:

Jerome Kanakalu Sr.

City, State:

Ewa Beach Hi.

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION
AND SB1, RELATING TO "EQUAL RIGHTS"
Also known as the same sex "marriage" bill**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

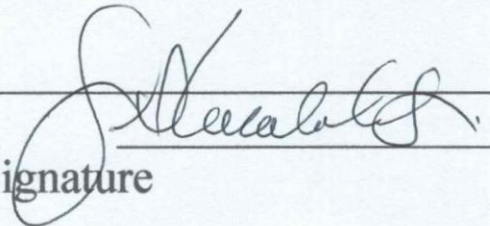
As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and the proposed bill that IF passed would legalize same sex "marriage," SB1, relating to Equal Rights. I oppose the Special Session because it rushes the democratic process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input 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 the freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill IF passed would 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 reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples **only**. 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, SB1.



Signature Date 10.30.13

808.685.5906

Jbkohana@hawaii.rr.com
Email Phone number

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

Hearing Date & Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10 am

Hearing Location: Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

From:

Bernadette L. Kanakula

City, State:

Ewa Beach Hi.

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION
AND SB1, RELATING TO "EQUAL RIGHTS"
Also known as the same sex "marriage" bill**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and the proposed bill that IF passed 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 the freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill IF passed would 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 reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples **only**. 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, SB1.

Burrodū L. Kerejū
Signature

Date 10.30.2013

Jbkohana@hawaii.rr.com
808.685.5906
Email

Phone number

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
Betty Tazono	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: As a public school educator and wife of a pastor who performs many weddings, I am greatly concerned how this bill will infringe on our rights and beliefs. I am concerned for our innocent grandchildren, what they will be forced to learn, without parental knowledge. Hawaii is known as paradise on earth....please do not make it into a hell on earth!!

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

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.

From: Sheree Pokipala [<mailto:shereepokipala@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 7:23 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: SB1- same sex marriage

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this Special session and the proposed bill that if passed 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 don't think that you have done enough research to see how this will affect our society, our churches and our schools.

Can you promise me that if this bill is passed that our churches will not be sued or persecuted because they will not marry a gay couple because it is against their beliefs? Or that a teacher who refuses to teach about same sex marriage or gay lifestyle as a norm because of his belief, that he will not be fired because of his refusal? Or that if a parent wants to opt out their child from learning in school about a gay lifestyle or same sex marriage, will be allowed to opt out and not be charged with discrimination? This bill has too many loopholes and will not protect those spoken above.

By passing this law, you will be opening up a Pandora's box in society, that we will not be ready to deal with.

If this bill is supposedly about equal rights than it should also be given to people who want to marry multiple persons because they love each person equally, or a relative marrying a relative. What's to stop a straight person from marrying the same sex, not because of love but just because they want to receive benefits? Those lifestyles are unlawful because man and God's law says that it is wrong.

There is such a thing as right or wrong. There is the natural law of the land and body, mans law and especially Gods law that tells us what is right or wrong. Natural law and Gods law always coincide with each other. A same sex couple cannot create a child on their own without adoption or without the help of the opposite gender, that is a natural law of the human body and Gods law of creation.

Mans law is generally decided by the majority because of the many differences of opinions and beliefs. This is too major of an issue to be decided by you all and should be given to the people to decide. The people have already spoken on this issue before when we voted on a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples only.

If you will not listen to us now, by letting the people decide, believe me you will hear us in the voting booths!!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill SB1.

Sheree A. Pokipala

shereepokipala@gmail.com

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cussana Mapu	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: I oppose Bill SB1. I oppose this special session. I oppose the absence of the democratic process of letting the peoples voice be the deciding factor. You have had a very clear visual laid out showing all of you what the people, your constituents, are imploring you to do. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!! As a former social studies teacher I tried to instill into my students how important the basic democratic process of voting is and how it is their civic duty to participate in this process. Their response, "Yeah right Mrs. Mapu. Those guys don't care. They do what they like." The whole process of this special session sadly affirms these intermediate students responses. Are your special interest groups dollars who support this bill worth compromising your knowledge of this process and the original reasons why you came into this office. To serve and represent the people Based on the, let me be honest, arrogant facial expressions of Senator Clayton Hee and others, it was clear that they didn't care. In the words of my students, They did what they liked. I hope this committee shows otherwise. I oppopse Bill SB1. I oppose this special session. I support the action to let the people decide, so I can go back to my students one day and say, with integrity, They do care. They really do. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Michelle Fuluvaka [<mailto:michelle.fuluvaka@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:24 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Oppose SB 1

Aloha,

I am writing to let you know that I oppose SB 1 and ask that you stop this bill from passing. Traditional marriage provides the ideal situation for raising children. Children need the different but complimentary roles that a father and mother provide. Marriage between a man and woman is an institution set up by God and this bill is trying to redefine God's law. Passing this law will diminish religious freedom by restricting how our churches are used and what is taught to our children in school.

There are other ways of providing government benefits without trying to redefine one of the oldest laws for man. I hope you have done your homework and seen the negative effects from other places that have allowed same sex marriage. Look with open eyes not political eyes. Please pray or meditate (whatever your religious or spiritual preference) on this issue and seek for higher guidance.

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Fuluvaka

808-293-9501

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 4:45 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: nodaengr@hawaii.rr.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
Roy Noda	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Testimony file was emailed to House Judiciary committee.

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

Dear members of the House committees on the Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Susan Duffy. I am opposed to the SB1 and I am writing to urge you to vote no to any bill that would legalize same sex marriage and to ask you reject any legislation that would seek to undermine the institution of marriage as we know it. Marriage equality cannot be achieved by making same sex couples the equivalent of opposite sex couples. It simply will not work and I think that as a community, we need to focus on the “marriage” part of this bill.

The essential “public” purpose of marriage is to attach mothers and fathers to their children and to one another. Marriage is adult society's institutional structure for protecting the legitimate interests of children who also have rights in our society. Children deserve to have a mother and a father. I am sure you have heard from many professional organizations that claim that same sex couples make fine parents but I would caution against such optimistic claims particularly since we know that some of these studies have been called out for using flawed methodologies.¹

Redefining marriage redefines parenthood and instead of making things equal, it will now be introduce new inequalities into society. Genderless marriage will set the wheels in motion for a whole new set of problems since same sex couples do not procreate together.

Today, the legal presumption of paternity means that children born to a married woman are presumed to be the children of her husband. With this legal rule and the social

¹ “Not a single study has found children of lesbian or gay parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents.” This quotation is from the American Psychological Associate (APA) 2005 Brief on “Lesbian and Gay Parenting.” Charlotte Patterson, “Lesbian and Gay parents and their children: summary of research findings,” American Psychological Association 2005, pp 5-22, quote on pg 15. <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/parenting-full.pdf> However, a recent comprehensive review of the 59 studies that made up the APA’s report concluded that every study cited had serious methodological flaws. “Not one of the 59 studies referenced in the 2005 APA Brief compares a large, random, representative sample of married parents and their children.”

practice of exclusivity, marriage attaches children to their biological parents. Marriage "equality" requires the dubious move from "presumption of paternity" to the gender neutral "presumption of parentage." Inevitably state will find itself involved in taking the taking of sides and you will be against the "natural parent" in favor of the now "legally constructed" parent. This is just but one of the unintended consequences that are cropping up all over where same sex marriage has been legalized.

We already have civil unions in Hawaii and our understanding was that this was enough. We had to have civil unions so that same sex partners could have their benefits. If need be, go in and change the civil union's law so that they can get their federal benefits. There is no reason to take such a dramatic step in record time to fundamentally change the institution of marriage via a special session.

If you vote yes to any bill which undermines marriage, you will harm your constituents in ways that you cannot even begin to imagine and all for the sake of giving the title of "married" to same sex couples who head less than 1% of Hawaii's households. If you are so certain that the people want to have same sex marriage legalized here in the islands, then by all means, put it to a vote of the people, but do not use a special session to slip this through thinking we won't notice.

Please, for the sake of the future children of the state of Hawaii, resist the pressure you are facing and vote no on any measure that seeks to legalize same sex marriage.

Chair: Senator Clayton Hee
George Ferge
Self
(808) 239-9379
Monday, 28 Oct 13
Oppose Bill

My name is George Ferge. I am a 71 year old Hawaiian father and grandfather. My family's future is at risk by this change to the definition of marriage. This bill will destroy the very basic foundation of husband and wife. Children of same sex marriage couples will be exposed and taught that what their homosexual parents teach them will eventually proliferate heterosexual children and I'm afraid by this association our society will destroy one day the foundation of mankind will be so corrupt that the laws that kept society in order will be challenged and changed by these groups of people. Let us not forget history when societies were destroyed by their immoral behavior. I am asking how you in the government can be so blind. Remember the legacy that you all leave behind as you decide the fate of this bill and how it will affect your family and future generations. Our children's future is at risk! Let a pure conscience guide you to do the right thing. Mahalo.

I am sick and tired of being treated like a 2nd class citizen just because of my sexual orientation. So sick and tired, of what's the point we're only judging a very small portion of an individual's being of he/she is homosexual when there's so much more to look at a person. For example: caring, loving, humor, etc.

For gosh sakes we are all human beings! Do we really have to repeat a similar version of what happened back in 1963? Is this truly the Aloha spirit? Or is it only given to the ones who aren't homosexuals? If that's the case, then there should be an underlined print of what Aloha means; especially towards our tourists.

In closing, I have 3 words to sum it all up. "Love thy neighbor."

I am a strong support for equal marriage.

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND FINANCE

Hearing Date: October 31, 2013
Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: State Capitol Auditorium

To: The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair of Judiciary
The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair of Finance

From: Shylar K. Young

Regarding: S.B. 1: RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS - Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

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

My name is Shylar Young and I am 13 years old. My parents are Tambry and Suzanne Young. My moms have been together for 32 years. But because they weren't granted the same benefits that are given to straight married couples, our family had to pay an extra \$1500 to the government this year. That may not seem like a lot to you, but to me that's a lot of money. And if you multiply that by the 4 years that I've been here with my moms fighting for our rights, that's \$6000!

So how does my family paying more to the government, and my moms living happily as a married couple hurt the people who don't support us? I don't think it hurts them at all but it really hurts me and my moms. So what if their kids will have to learn and accept it in school – families like mine are already in our schools and you know what, we all get along.

My moms love each other regardless. Nothing will stop them from loving one another. How does our family's happiness and love affect those who are against us? This shouldn't even be an argument! Marriage is between two people that love each other. It's not something that should be put to a vote. By allowing my moms to be considered married in Hawaii it will only give them what every other straight married couple has. All we ask is to have all the rights, protections and responsibilities that every other straight, married couple has.

When we were up in Massachusetts recently, no one cared. It didn't affect their lives like how some people are saying it would. We met many people that have congratulated my moms for their marriage. They don't care anymore, it's just part of life for them. In fact, a lot of the people we met thought we had marriage already in Hawaii.

Many of the people against marriage equality believe that I will be weird, but how would they know. They don't know me. What they are doing is a type of bullying. Why are grown men and women bullying a 13 year old girl? They do not know me; they just assume that I will be weird. So tell me how weird is it that I am a member of the National Honor Society, have a 4.0 GPA,

and my first film was in the Hawaii International Film Festival and is being considered for the New York Film Festival. Gee how weird is that?

Singers Macklemore and Ryan Lewis said “we live in a world so hateful some would rather die than be who they are.” What this means is because of those who bully gay people and make them feel it’s bad to be gay when it’s not, they feel so much hurt they kill themselves. And do you know what the Bible says, “thou shall not kill”. Therefore if we are considered evil for just loving one another, I wonder how evil they are for making people feel like they need to kill themselves.

I really don’t understand what’s the big deal! And neither do many of my friends.

So what if a man and a man love each other, it’s none of any of our business. Right now what it seems to be is that the people going against us are just trying to cause drama. That’s it. There’s no reason how having two people of the same sex love each other should be such a big deal. It’s rude, it’s crazy, and it’s just not necessary for those who oppose same-sex marriage to fear it. It’s none of their business how our family lives. But it is the government’s business to ensure our family is treated the same as all other families and that we are provided equal rights under the law as required by the US Constitution.

And so I ask you to support families like mine and vote to pass this marriage equality bill. Thank you.

Joanna A. Chinen
45-402 Koa Kahiko Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-728-7979
joannachinen@gmail.com

October 28, 2013

To: Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

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

I am humbly asking you to please vote NO on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage, specifically SB 1. Not only are the people of Hawaii not being given a fair chance to get educated and vote ourselves on such a significant and consequential issue, but it seems that at its onset, Governor Abercrombie's Marriage Equality bill did not seek to consider the good of our entire state and ALL of Hawaii's families, but was written solely in the interest of one group and at the expense of many others.

I was born and raised in Honolulu, am of native Hawaiian descent, and am now raising my two children in Kaneohe. We love our Hawaii home and all the people who live in and visit our islands. I feel blessed that right now I am able to teach my children in accordance with our faith, which does happen to uphold marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and which does happen to view the homosexual lifestyle as wrong. But it also is a faith that teaches us to love everyone, regardless of differences in opinion and values. My husband and I know and have friends who are homosexuals, and like the rest of our friends, we love them and want the very best for them. We are teaching our children to show them the same kindness and respect that every human being is deserving of.

But what happens when one day, it is not enough for us to agree to disagree? What happens when it becomes not ok to simply think differently and live one's own life differently? What happens when my children choose not to participate in potential gay pride activities in school and are ostracized or even reprimanded for not wanting to compromise their beliefs? When my children become ridiculed and discriminated against for living according to their faith? What happens when our family wants to adopt or foster children, but are not allowed to really raise them as

our own and teach them to uphold the values of our family, while a GLBT family who adopts or fosters is able to raise their children in accordance with their values?

Is this bill really going to protect all of Hawaii's people and ensure that no one will be penalized for merely disagreeing with a certain lifestyle and for living by that conviction? Will it ensure the blessings of liberty for all?

As our legislators, you have been entrusted with a decision that if passed, will forever change the culture and spirit of our beautiful home – the life of which has been perpetuated in righteousness and true aloha for all. Please represent and protect we the people.

Thank you very much for your time and courageous service. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Joanna A. Chinen

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

From: M. Elise Rumpf [<mailto:rumpf@higp.hawaii.edu>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:14 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Support for Marriage Equality: SB1

Support for Marriage Equality: SB1

Committees on Judiciary & Finance

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 Hearing Time: 10am Hearing Place: Capitol Auditorium

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

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

Mahalo for your time.

M. Elise Rumpf, Palolo

--

~~~~~

M. Elise Rumpf, PhD Candidate

Graduate Research Assistant

Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology University of Hawaii at Manoa

1680 East-West Road, POST 512A

Honolulu, HI 96822

808-956-3153

[rumpf@higp.hawaii.edu](mailto:rumpf@higp.hawaii.edu)

**From:** Donna Yoshimori [<mailto:donnay.wellness101@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:37 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Cc:** Donna Yoshimori

**Subject:** In person testimony on Thursday, 31, Oct.

Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Finance

Measure Number: SB 1

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

Testifying in person

-----  
**SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO SB 1: Vote "NO" to the Marriage Equality Bill; put this issue on the ballot; LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE ON MARRIAGE!**

Dear Chair Rhoades, other Judiciary and Finance Committee members, and ALL,

I was informed that a written email/testimony was needed to be submitted by 1000 today in order to testify tomorrow, Thursday, 31 Oct.

I was born and raised in Honolulu.. and I am asking that each one of you search your hearts for TRUTH and INTEGRITY.

I am humbly asking to testify tomorrow, Thursday, 31 Oct 13, in the early afternoon as I have a delivery that needs to come in the a.m.

LIVE PONO.

As it is CLEAR that the VAST MAJORITY of the LOCAL GROWN PEOPLE OF HAWAII are simply asking to **LET US, THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII, DECIDE SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATTER, BY VOTING AS A DEMOCRACY...**

(granted, many opposers are NOT EVEN LOCAL BORN AND RAISED IN THE ISLANDS....Have you thought about that?)

Why don't they go to their own home state to get married, or another state where it's already allowed?

Please confirm..thank you very much.

Very Respectfully,

Donna

--

*Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow; Don't walk behind me, I may not lead; Walk beside me, and just be my friend.*

*Albert Camus*

*We can do no great things, only small things with great love.*

*Mother Theresa*

What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.

*Eleanor Powell*

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

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

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

This clearly violates my right to religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the US Constitution and jeopardizes social fabric of the State of Hawaii.

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 does nothing to protect individual business owners, teachers or other citizens’ right to practice their religious freedom.

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

--

Mahalo,

Amel Chun

[www.facebook.com/amelchun](http://www.facebook.com/amelchun)



**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jeff Esmond         | Individual          | Support                   | Yes                         |

Comments: Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Jeff Esmond. My youngest son turned one five days ago. My older two children are three and a half and very proud of their baby brother. If ever there was a couple who believed in family and wanted children, it was us. We went through 9 in vitro fertility attempts in order to give birth to our 3 children. That's not easy, believe me. Need I tell you how much we wanted children? How much we wanted a family? Families come in many forms. For my children, they have had two parents from the day they were born. Unfortunately, their parents, my Civil Union partner and I, are not able to get married in the State of Hawaii. We are real people and our children are real people too. We represent what so many people seem to be afraid of, a loving family of 2 Daddies with happy children. No one can look at our children and tell me they don't deserve the dignity of having their two parents be married under Hawaii state law. No one can look at me and my partner and say that either. I hope I never have to explain to my children that as a family, we are second class citizens. This is not an 'us vs. them' debate. This is simply an 'us' debate because this affects every single one of us. That's because there are gay people in all of our lives, whether we admit or acknowledge it or not. Whether it is our immediate family members, our co-workers, our friends, our neighbors, the person who helps us at a place of business, or the person we help. We are not some separate minority group that can be isolated and continued to be treated as second class citizens in a secular state, we are a part of all of us. Denying us equal treatment does not mean we don't exist. This has been a more than 20 year discussion. It's time to move forward. Please support SB1 and vote yes so that all couples including couples with children and all children can be treated equally.

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

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

**From:** Donna Lyn Baguio [<mailto:lonnady@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:38 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Strong Opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

**Hearing Date & Time:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10 am

**Hearing Location:** Hawaii State Capitol

**Re:** Strong **Opposition to SB1**, Relating to Equal Rights

From: Donna Lyn Baguio

City, State: Kapolei, Hawaii

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SB1, RELATING TO  
“EQUAL RIGHTS”**

**Also known as the same sex “marriage” bill**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and the proposed bill that IF passed 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 VOTED IN 1998 IN OPPOSITION TO LEGALIZING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND I BELIEVE I HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE ISSUE AGAIN. IT IS NOT FAIR TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF HAWAII TO ALLOW THEM TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE PREVIOUSLY AND THEN TAKE AWAY



THAT RIGHT WHEN THE ISSUE COMES UP TO AGAIN FOR LEGISLATION. THIS LEGISLATION IS BEING MOVED THROUGH THE LEGISLATOR IN SUCH A HASTY FASHION. IT SEEMS LIKE ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE JUST TRYING TO PUSH FOR SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE OTHER STATES ARE DOING IT, TOO. HAWAII SHOULD TAKE IT'S TIME TO RESEARCH HOW SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AFFECTED OTHER STATES. LET'S NOT JUST HASTILY MOVE FORWARD AND IGNORE THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO SHOWED UP AT THE CAPITOL ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 28. LET'S SEE IF PUBLIC SENTIMENT REALLY CHANGED SINCE 1998. HEAR THE REGISTERED VOTERS AND LET US VOTE!

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 the freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill IF passed would 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 reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples **only**. 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, SB1.

--

Donna Lyn Baguio  
Kapolei, Hawaii  
Email: [LonnaDyn@gmail.com](mailto:LonnaDyn@gmail.com)  
Phone: (808) 674-1147

**From:** James and Donna Lyn Baguio [<mailto:jdbaguio@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:41 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Strong Opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

**Hearing Date & Time:** Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10 am

**Hearing Location:** Hawaii State Capitol

**Re:** Strong **Opposition to SB1**, Relating to Equal Rights

From: James Baguio

City, State: Kapolei, Hawaii

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SB1, RELATING TO  
“EQUAL RIGHTS”**

**Also known as the same sex “marriage” bill**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and the proposed bill that IF passed 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 the freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill IF passed would 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 reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples **only**. 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, SB1.

Sincerely,

James M. Baguio

Cellular Phone: (808) 277-5545

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

Re: Testimony in support of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoades and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Finance,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.

I am a Roman Catholic and member of Dignity Honolulu, a ministry to GLBT Catholics. I am in total support of marriage equality because we need and deserve the right to marry our partners. My partner Mike and I have been together 12 years now. We look forward to the day we can officially get married.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1 on marriage equality for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Carlos Hernandez  
540 Iolani Circle, #1  
Honolulu, HI, 96813  
808-227-7479

October 30, 2013

Dear Members of the House,

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding SB1. I do not think it is wise or appropriate to pass such a bill without letting the people of Hawaii vote. Passing a bill in such a quick time frame is unprecedented, let alone one that is so controversial and requires deep thought and consideration. It's not just about "equal rights" as the bill description would say. The impact and implications of passing SB1 without a people's vote, will set in motion a downward trend of taking away our rights to vote, taking away our right to be heard, and changing what our culture and community values as right or wrong.

I have read the impacts of legalized marriage in Canada, ten years after it became legal:

Their society and family structure are weaker than before. Are we prepared to have a greater than 50% divorce rate in our society?

And their people are more confused at their identity, than ever before. Are we prepared to have "unisex" bathrooms and locker rooms for our elementary, middle school and high school students because kids no longer see a distinction between male and female?

And our kids will begin being taught in schools and our society / laws will dictate, that homosexuality is the "new normal" and that anyone who believes differently or speaks out differently, will be considered discrimination and a hate crime. Are we prepared for our government to dictate what people believe in their religion? What happened to preserving the separation of church and state?

I could go on about the negative impacts of this bill passing but for now, I humbly ask you to take a breath, do not rush into this, and let the people decide. Honor your commitments to the people. Please let the people vote and decide.

God bless you,

Desiree Ferguson

Aloha!

I oppose the SB1 bill. Everything has already been said from the religious view and regular views opposing same sex marriage and staying on with traditional marriage between a man & woman. My view is from a christian standpoint. Same testimony about God. God ways are relevant today and His word is current also.

Why do you allow this? Is it to benefit you financially or popularity? Seek God and His ways. Remember when they took prayer away from the schools, crime rose among the youth, and to this day it is skyrocketing. Disrepect and other bad behavior still rising. Sin brings curses, but if God's commandments are obeyed, than blessings follow. This is why God blessed the islands. Majority of the people sought God. God can heal this land and continue to favor us if we follow Him.

1st commandment - love God with all our heart, mind, might, soul, an spirit.

2nd commandment - love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

It may be said, this is beyond the point, but the point is that God created man & woman in His image, in His likeness and he said that it was good.

*Maxine*

**From:** Wayne Shimogawa [<mailto:shimogaww001@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 9:45 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Testimony on SB1

Honorable Members of the House Judicial and Finance Committees

I'm a registered voter born and raised in Hawaii. I have lived all of my life – all 59 years here on Oahu and work for a company that conducts business throughout the State. I have a family that is all residents of this State.

I'm opposed to the special session and the bill to legalize same-sex marriage and humbly ask that you allow the people to decide, as they should, on this very controversial and divisive issue.

During this brief testimony, I wanted to share an analogy. There are times in court where jurors are polled individually to ascertain agreement on an important verdict and to be sure of its accuracy. In fact, it is my understanding that in a criminal trial for example, all parties have an absolute right to request a jury poll.

I submit this issue is bigger than the opinions of our legislative body and I urge you to poll the citizens of this State on this same-sex marriage issue.

I live in a district where my representative, perhaps even senator who has not responded to my personal testimony, is not representing my voice and heart in this matter. What hurts is I have consistently supported him through the years.

I ask that my voice to be heard along with others. Let the people decide and please do what is right before the citizens of this State.

Respectfully,  
Wayne Shimogawa  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Marriage is not an equal rights issue. Marriage is a Divine institution established by The God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob between a male and female committed to one another to create a family. It is an entity with a distinct division of labor.

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

No man can mother a child, and no woman can father a child.

Homosexual behavior is defined as an unrighteous act just as fornication, idolatry, heterosexual adultery, sodomy, thievery, covetousness, drunkenness, reviling, and extortion.

I Corinthians 6:9-10 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

It is in direct conflict with God’s design.

All people have “urges” but we are instructed to control our “urges”. I may have an urge to have sex with every good-looking woman I see. If I were a pedophile who had urges towards children, I might want to sexually molest or abuse a child. If I were angry with you, I might have an urge to slug you in the face. But I am instructed by God [just as we all are] to control myself and not engage in such behavior.

We live in a society, which requires righteous behavior to survive and prosper. Unrighteous behavior leads to the destruction of our society. The government is perverted if it licenses unrighteous behavior, and it encourages its own destruction.

We would not expect the government to license fornication, heterosexual adultery, pedophilia, child abuse, extortion, etc.

The government has no business licensing unrighteous behavior. Homosexual behavior is a sin just like any other sin. There is no justification for the government to stamp its approval on it and force society to pay homage to it. Such approval only encourages the wrath of God to be poured out upon our state.

Romans 1:18-32

□<sup>8</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,<sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the



things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man □ and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

<sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, <sup>[c]</sup> wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, <sup>[d]</sup> unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. □

The consequences of rejecting God leads to minds that become “worthless”. They are unable to think.

When we observe states like California where they can't figure out what bathroom a person should use or what gender to put on the birth certificate. We can see that these people have become lunatics who can't see the obvious. Their minds are worthless.

This is either a well-heeded warning or an indictment against you as lawmakers, this governor, and the people who support you.

It is time for you as legislators to remember and respect the state motto, “The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.”

Testimony in Opposition to SB1  
relating to Equality

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

October 31, 2013

10 am      Auditorium

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

I oppose SB1 because it opposes the Original Design of marriage: a sacred union between one man and one woman.

TRUST GOD. HE is THE CREATOR of all. Do not try to distort or destroy what He has Created!!!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against SB1.

Sincerely,

Theresa Armbruster

Kaneohe, 96744

**For the Senate hearing:** Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

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

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

**I understand that the focal point will be whether same-sex marriage is a civil right.**

Homosexual activists argue that same-sex “marriage” is a civil rights issue similar to the struggle for racial equality in the 1960s.

This is false.

First of all, sexual behavior and race are essentially different realities. A man and a woman wanting to marry may be different in their characteristics: one may be black, the other white; one rich, the other poor; or one tall, the other short. None of these differences are insurmountable obstacles to marriage. The two individuals are still man and woman, and thus the requirements of nature are respected.

Same-sex “marriage” opposes nature. Two individuals of the same sex, regardless of their race, wealth, stature, erudition or fame, will never be able to marry because of an insurmountable biological impossibility.

Secondly, inherited and unchangeable racial traits cannot be compared with non-genetic and changeable behavior. There is simply no analogy between the interracial marriage of a man and a woman and the “marriage” between two individuals of the same sex.

However, it appears that Governor Abercrombie and the majority of the Senate have their own agenda. I do not know what this is, but I do know that there were thousands and thousands of people who are against same sex marriage in Hawaii waving signs near the State Capitol, different areas of Oahu and other neighbor islands. Apparently, our Senate chose to ignore the voice of the majority people in Hawaii. I am extremely disappointed and feel ashamed of our government for the very first time.

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

Sincerely,

Johnny Lau

2033 Nuuanu Avenue, Apt. 17B

Honolulu, HI 96817

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Cussana Mapu | Individual   | Oppose             | Yes                  |

Comments: I oppose Bill SB1. I oppose this special session. I oppose the absence of the democratic process of letting the peoples voice be the deciding factor. You have had a very clear visual laid out showing all of you what the people, your constituents, are imploring you to do. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!! As a former social studies teacher I tried to instill into my students how important the basic democratic process of voting is and how it is their civic duty to participate in this process. Their response, "Yeah right Mrs. Mapu. Those guys don't care. They do what they like." The whole process of this special session sadly affirms these intermediate students responses. Are your special interest groups dollars who support this bill worth compromising your knowledge of this process and the original reasons why you came into this office. To serve and represent the people Based on the, let me be honest, arrogant facial expressions of Senator Clayton Hee and others, it was clear that they didn't care. In the words of my students, They did what they liked. I hope this committee shows otherwise. I oppopse Bill SB1. I oppose this special session. I support the action to let the people decide, so I can go back to my students one day and say, with integrity, They do care. They really do. LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!

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

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

1. Shirley Ashpole
2. House Judiciary and Finance Committees
3. October 31, 2013
4. SB1 – Same-sex Marriage
5. Yes

If the combination of a male and female is exactly the same physically, sexually, and psychologically as the combination of a man and man or that of a woman and woman, then there is equality. If the combination of a father and a mother together parenting a child is exactly the same as that of a father and father parenting a child or that of a mother and mother, then there is equality. Where there is equality, there should be recognition as equals.

However, those combinations are not equal and therefore should not be identified as such. When things are not equal, it is accurate and okay to view and designate them differently.

One of the greatest, time-tested, and widely held understandings of marriage is that it is the best primary context in which a child is born, nurtured, and raised

Marriage between one man and one woman has been proven to be the best environment for children to be conceived and raised. Male and female are inherently different and complementary and children need both a father and a mother's differences. They need a father and mother's fundamental physical, emotional, and relational strengths to give them life, nurture, instruction, and be role models for them.

Advocates for same-sex parenting would need to believe that the differences of male and female do not matter, in fact that the physical, sexual, and psychological complementariness of male and female and their value to children are both irrelevant. <http://www.citizenlink.com/2013/08/12/commentary-what-tennessees-same-sex-marriage-advocates-must-explain/>

The vast majority of public opinion and evidence disagree. Children thrive best when raised with an involved, loving father and mother parenting them. Same-sex marriages, in principle, do not provide both a father and a mother to children.

Government leaders, educators, law enforcement, social workers, medical personnel, and society at large are very aware of the high costs of a child growing up without both a father and mother.

According to "The Fatherless Generation", <http://thefatherlessgeneration.wordpress.com/statistics/>,

Boys and girls from a fatherless home account for:

63% of youth suicides

90% of all homeless and runaway children (32x the average)

85% of all children who show behavior disorders (20x the average ((Center for Disease Control).)

80% of rapists with anger issues (14x the average)

71% of all high school dropouts (9x the average)

75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers

85% of all youths in prison (20x the average)

Further, girls raised without a father are:

53% more likely to marry as teenagers

71% more likely to have children as teenagers

164% more likely to have a pre-marital birth

92% more likely to get divorced

These statistics show the vital need for children to have an involved father as a parent. Between them, lesbian parents cannot provide a father. Nor, between them, can gay parents provide a mother.

“In a historic study of children raised by homosexual parents, sociologist Mark Regnerus of the University of Texas at Austin has overturned the conventional academic wisdom that such children suffer no disadvantages when compared to children raised by their married mother and father. Just published in the journal *Social Science Research*,[1] the most careful, rigorous, and methodologically sound study ever conducted on this issue found numerous and significant differences between these groups--with the outcomes for children of homosexuals rated “suboptimal” (*Regnerus’ word*) in almost every category.”

“While all the findings in the study are important, these are the strongest possible ones--virtually irrefutable. Compared with children raised by their married biological parents . . . children of homosexual parents:

- Are *much* more likely to have received welfare (IBF 17%; Lesbian Mothers 69%; Gay Fathers 57%)
- Have lower educational attainment
- Have been arrested more often”

“Children of lesbian mothers:

- Are almost 4 times more likely to be currently on public assistance
- Are an astonishing *10 times more likely to have been “touched sexually by a parent or other adult caregiver.”*
- Are nearly 4 times as likely to have been “physically forced” to have sex against their will”

“Sexuality Differences:

At one time, defenders of homosexual parents not only argued that their children do fine on psychological and developmental measures, but they also said that children of homosexuals "are no more likely to be gay" than children of heterosexuals. That claim



will be impossible to maintain in light of this study. It found that children of homosexual fathers are nearly 3 times as likely, and children of lesbian mothers are nearly 4 times as likely, to identify as something other than entirely heterosexual. Children of lesbian mothers are 75% more likely, and children of homosexual fathers are 3 times more likely, to be currently in a same-sex romantic relationship.”

“The same holds true with the number of sexual partners. Both males and females who were raised by both lesbian mothers and homosexual fathers have more *opposite-sex (heterosexual)* partners than children of married biological parents (daughters of homosexual fathers had twice as many). But the differences in *homosexual* conduct are even greater. The daughters of lesbians have *4 times as many female (that is, same-sex) sexual partners* than the daughters of married biological parents, and the daughters of homosexual fathers have *6 times as many*. Meanwhile, the sons of both lesbian mothers and homosexual fathers have *7 times as many male (same-sex) sexual partners* as sons of married biological parents.”

- <http://www.frc.org/issuebrief/new-study-on-homosexual-parents-tops-all-previous-research>
- [1] Mark Regnerus, “How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study,” *Social Science Research* Vol 41, Issue 4 (July 2012), pp. 752-770; online at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0049089X12000610>

In today’s discussion over the issue of same-sex marriage, anyone in support of traditional marriage as between one man and one woman may be called a bigot, hater, prejudiced, irrational, homophobic, or even a religious nut.

However, in the event that same-sex marriage is established, ramifications to citizens in society who are guided by tradition, conviction, morality, faith, or who simply do not agree with it, will face much more serious consequences than name calling. In fact, they are already happening where same-sex marriage has been made law.

The Catholic Charities adoption services has been driven out of the state of Massachusetts for their unwillingness to go against their beliefs that a marriage with a father and a mother is best for a child and instead approve adoptions to same-sex couples. Experienced foster parents have been disqualified from caring for any foster children simply because they were not willing to accept and teach homosexual and alternate sexual orientations to the children who would be in their care.

<http://www.firstthings.com/article/2011/05/religion-reason-and-same-sex-marriage>

For the sake of children, their futures, and the future of our society that has been founded and constructed on its practice, preserve traditional marriage as between one man and one woman.



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Chair Karl Rhoads, House Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Sylvia Luke, House Committee on Finance  
RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights

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

My name is Maria Gellatly. As a voter, who has been raised to both respect and participate in the democracy of the country that I live in, I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights. I was born after the civil rights movement, and having grown up in a country that has taught me that, “all men are created equal,” I have always wondered how citizens of America ever conceivably lived with, or tolerated the inequality of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and “separate but equal”.

I respect the diversity of opinions on the same-sex marriage issue, and the freedom to express them; however, I also strongly believe that any idea that creates a class of people with unequal citizenship is unacceptable. This bill proposes to allow two people of the same sex, who are in love to have the same federal benefits and protections as do other married couples, thereby protecting their extended families, children, and loved ones. As we learned from the civil rights movement, separate is not equal. Equality cannot be rationed – shared by some, but not by others. Justice is not served by protecting only those who agree with you, or look like you, or vote your way. Tolerance has no meaning if it is only extended to people you like or agree with. That’s not the America I grew up respecting. In a world of fear, hate, and uncertainty, I cannot fathom upholding any law, or societal norm that discriminates against love of any kind.

Our country, this State, and even this room is made up of people who hold countless different belief systems, practice many different faiths, and pursue a variety of ways of life. Like many people of my generation, I believe that one's sexuality is as intrinsic a part of one's identity as gender or skin color. If the civil rights movement (and the suffragettes before them) taught us anything, it’s that discrimination against some of us threatens the rights of all of us.

Each one of us is unique. That is the strength of our nation. It is even the basis of our society. It is the basis of our relationship to society. This bill's change is right; this change is necessary; and its time is now.

Thank you all for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Maria Gellatly  
3207 Pacific Hts. Rd.

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Heaven-Lee Asato    | Individual          | Oppose                    | Yes                         |

Comments: Let the people decide!

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

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

**From:** William Bannister [<mailto:bbannister@firstaog.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 3:25 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees: I am against this bill... I. we came from our father and mother which is between a man and a woman which produces children(life), hope and future to continue the next generation... this bill(same sex marriage-man and man, women and women) does not produce children(life) and future to the next generation- there will be no hope? II. I believe that this bill (SB1) does not protect the democratic and constitutional rights of Churches, Individual, Parents, Teachers, and Children... this bill (SB1) only takes away the rights of the people which not "for the people". This bill (SB1) only promotes the anger perverted, lustful, wicked, sinful lifestyle of an unhappy group that wants to live like that? III. Hawaii is a Tourist vacation hotspot for families to come and enjoy. Tourism is our #1 economy and we need families from all over the world to come here. What will happen if this bill is passed? I believe families will go somewhere else for vacation because they do not want their kids to be exposed by some bad imaged. It is a bad image for our paradise Hawaii, and it will be a bad economy – lost of jobs?? IV. This bill (SB1) is instigated by a small group of people that most of them do not even live in Hawaii? They are trying to bring fear to the leaders of Hawaii, trying to shout aloud because they are angry within themselves and society. They are only using marriage equality as a deception to promote their agenda. In conclusion, vote NO,NO, NO to this bill (SB1) because it does not produce life and future to the next generation, it does not promotes a healthy family lifestyles, it does not create jobs for our state, and it does speak for the majority of the people of Hawaii... thank you for your consideration, conviction, and wisdom.

**From:** Patrick Kishaba [<mailto:patrickkishaba@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 3:28 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

To: Chair Karl Rhoads (House Judiciary Committee), Chair Sylvia Luke (House Finances Committee), and Representatives

From: Patrick Kishaba  
1450 Young St. #503  
Hon. Hi 96814)

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

Governor Abercrombie called the Legislature back into Session, set for October 28, 2013 to consider the Marriage Equity Bill. During the Special Session, we the ordinary citizens of Hawaii will be allowed to express our views on the proposed language. Supporters and opponents will get opportunities to testify on Same-Sex Marriage. Yet, I feel shortchanged. WHY? Please Reflect on the Reasons:

1.Hawaii's government is becoming a "Nominal Democracy." The long domination of one political party in elections has moved to a disturbing direction of a lack of accountability to the Public, to us ordinary citizens of Hawaii. Governor Abercrombie and the Legislators serve their Party foremost rather than the Public Interest.

2.The Marriage Equality Bill's Legislative Process **Strategy Of Governor Abercrombie is UNFAIR** because WE, the Citizens of Hawaii, cannot Directly Participate in the Democratic Process and Vote on it, **AND BECAUSE THE POLITICIANS IN OUR LEGISLATURE ARE UNWILLING to pass a Constitutional Amendment to put it on the ballot for us to vote on it.**

The 1998 Constitutional Amendment gave the Legislature the option to define Marriage without running afoul of the State's Equal Protection Clause. The Legislature felt it was within its Constitutional authority in 1994 when it amended Hawaii's Marriage statute to limit eligible Marriage licenses to opposite sex couples in Act 217 (1994). The language adopted by the Voters clarified for the Hawaii Supreme Court that such power belonged to the Legislature and NOT to the Courts.

The law affords Married couples a certain status that it does not extend to other legal relationships. Currently, the Legislature defines Marriage as between a man and a woman. **No matter what our sexual attraction may be, we are all equal as persons.** However, a man and a woman has different anatomical organs. A man's sex organ produces sperm containing 23 chromosomes and a woman's sex organ produces egg containing 23 chromosomes. **The chromosomal pairings can only procreate a human being.** It is essential that a man and a woman **complement** each other in order to propagate the human species, preferably through marriages. To introduce a man and a woman in the definition of Marriage is **discriminatory as to distinguishing a man from a woman, but it is NOT unfair discrimination** because you need both to continue the human race and to have a family and communities in societies.

**The Marriage Equity Bill does not CLEARLY protect our First Amendment Constitutional RIGHTS.** The Special Session Bill does give Limited Protection by introducing EXEMPTIONS for

Religious Organizations and Facilities in connection with the State Accommodation Law. **The Marriage Equity Bill Does Not Focus Primarily on Protecting our Religious Freedom.** Therefore, costly and time consuming lawsuits can arise to those who go through litigation to protect their First Amendment Rights. Once the Marriage Equity Bill is passed, I will have **only myself** to defend my First Amendment Constitutional Right.....because this Bill does not clearly protect it. As citizens, our religious freedom, is NOT confined to four walls in a church. We, the people, do not **only** practice our faith in church. It is to be lived out in daily living. Our State Legislators have an obligation and duty to **Protect our First Amendment Right to practice one's religion free from government coercion.**

To expand Hawaii's Marriage Law to include Same-Sex Marriages, the Legislature must change the current definition and meaning of Marriage because sexual discrimination in its wording does exist in its current definition of Marriage. **The State Legislature is still dealing with the secular and statutory structure of what the State recognizes as "Marriage."** The term "Marriage is one of the difficult areas when you have to leave out the words "a man and a woman" in the definition of Marriage. The Legislature must "craft language" for our legal statute governing "Marriage" that can address changes to the historic, religious, and moral understanding and Meaning of "Marriage." **It Still Has Not Done So, because it is difficult to include same-sex couple and yet not discriminate by excluding other human relationships from being recognized as Marriages.**

The Hawaii Legislature, in 1998, defined Marriage as between a man and a woman AFTER our Hawaii citizens Voted on the ballot to NOT Recognize Same-Sex Marriage in Hawaii. Now, in the year 2013, WHY do we not follow this same process and find out the WILL of the people? WE, THE CITIZENS OF HAWAII CANNOT DIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS because Governor Abercrombie believes he has enough votes in the Legislature who has the authority to pass it. This is NOT fair to us ordinary citizens of Hawaii.

The Marriage Equity Bill is a Community Issue. This is NOT an issue that should be decided by 76 legislators, a governor, and political parties. **This is a deeply personal issue for us ordinary citizens of Hawaii.** It is NOT fair that our state Legislators deliberately DISREGARD the WILL of the People and Decide the Vote Among Themselves. We are a Republic, that follows the Rule of Law, AND a Democracy, whereby the ordinary citizens of Hawaii Participate in the Democratic Process. On this particular Issue, Let the People Decide. Our Legislators need to pass a Constitutional Amendment to put it on the ballot for us to vote on it. This Is the Right Thing to Do. **Governor Abercrombie and the so called "politicians" and the Legislative Process Strategy is UNFAIR to us ordinary citizens of Hawaii.**

IF the Marriage Equity Bill is NOT approved in this upcoming Special Session, placing a Constitutional Amendment question on the ballot could be an Option in the Regular Session that starts in January 2014. **WHY** are you, individually and together, UNWILLING to pass a Constitutional Amendment in Regular Session in January 2014 in both the Senate and the House of Representatives? It is the right thing to do. **Please RECONSIDER and vote NO to Same-Sex Marriage in Hawaii.**

**You and other Legislators can make a difference, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, with your courage and integrity to restore a FAIR Legislative Process on this particular issue. I appeal to your individual consciences and to your religious beliefs, to your moral convictions, that this is the right thing to do for us ordinary citizens of Hawaii. I do understand you have a great responsibility as a state Legislator, and as a Public Servant of the people of Hawaii. Take Care and Care for Us.**

Sincerely

Patrick Kishaba

I WILL BE PRESENT AT THE 10/31/13 JOINT-COMMITTEE HEARING TO PROVIDE VERBAL TESTIMONY.





From: Raymond Rivera [<mailto:54rriverajr@clearwire.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 5:54 PM  
To: Judiciary Special Session  
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

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

I plead and encourage you to please pass Bill SB1, we're half way there to show the Country and the World that Hawai'i is truly the land of Aloha for all of it's people. This shouldn't even be a fight between us but a glorious reunion of compassion for everyone. My partner and I have just celebrated our 40th year together and we're ready to get it legalized, locked and sealed. When you love someone and know it's for always, it doesn't matter if you're gay or straight because love is love and that's what God's all about.....Mahalo legislature for all your hard work. Mahalo a nui loa kakou. Luv, hug's & honi's.....

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raymond Rivera  
1125 Young St. Apt. 505  
Apt. 505  
Honolulu, HI 96814

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 AM

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 of Hawaii 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 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 be properly vetted and examined as all other Bills. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a No vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Roy Noda

Honolulu, Hawaii

Joanne Ebesu  
94-1120 Nawele St.  
Waipahu, HI 96797

October 30, 2013

Dear Hawaii State Senators:

As a voting Hawaii resident, I would like to respectfully request that you vote "NO" on SB1, which would legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii. This is such an important social issue that it should be presented to the voters of Hawaii to decide on, and not voted on during a special session that limits the opportunity of citizens to provide input into the legislative process. If the majority of Hawaii's population truly wants to legalize same-sex marriage as pollers and supporters of this bill claim, then they should not be afraid to let the people vote on this issue which will change Hawaii's society forever. If SB1 passes, it will be an important step in allowing the radical policy agenda of the LGBT movement to strengthen in Hawaii, and the will of the few will be imposed on that of the many, ignoring the rights of the majority to defend their beliefs and privacy.

Although the draft bill contains provisions to protect the rights of churches and leaders who perform marriage ceremonies, if passed, this law will still infringe on the rights and religious beliefs of private citizens and private businesses, and more importantly, upon the rights of parents to choose to educate their children as they see fit. In many states that have passed similar laws legalizing same-sex, business people such as photographers who choose not to photograph same-sex weddings have been prosecuted for discrimination. Also in these states, public schools have begun teaching even elementary school children about same-sex marriage, and also same-sex education. A parent in MA who objected to homosexuality being taught to his kindergartner in school, was even arrested and told that he had no basis for his complaint since same sex marriage is now legal. Starting in Jan. 2014, parents and children in CA cannot even object to children/teenagers of the opposite sex using the same bathrooms and showers if they claim they are "transgender." What about the right to privacy for the non-LGBT citizens and children, who are the majority of the population? The passage of HB1109 in Hawaii will only lead to discrimination of people who do not believe in same-sex marriage and sexual issues.

The 1998 amendment that voters passed reads, "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." This granted the legislature the power to ban same-sex marriage, which it subsequently did. The voters did NOT grant the legislature the power to DESTROY traditional marriage. By voting for SB1, you will willfully ignore the law and the voice of the majority of the people you have been elected to represent. We voters should have the right to vote on this critically important issue; the reason we did and could not in 1998 was because of the unfair wording of the amendment that was the only choice given to us.

Please consider the ramifications of the passage of HB1109 to our state and children. Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono.

Thank you for your attention and public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joanne Ebesu".

Joanne Ebesu

**From:** jodi [<mailto:jnahinu002@hawaii.rr.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 5:56 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

For the House and Joint Hearing: 10/31/13

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I am writing on behalf of my family and I, who are in opposition of SB 1. I believe that equality or civil rights are not the issue that you must chair but the very principle and value of marriage. You and I, nor those who founded this country, had anything to do with the creation of marriage. God created marriage to be between a man and a woman. This bill defies all that marriage was ordained to be and God help us all should you pass it out of committee.

Again, we oppose SB 1 and pray that you would too!

Pastor Jodi Nahinu

Vanessa Ito  
2489-B Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

October 30, 2013

State of Hawaii House of Representatives, Committees on Judiciary and Finance  
415 South Beretania  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Support of Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Honorable Chairs Rep. Karl Rhoads & Rep. Sylvia Luke:

My name is Vanessa Ito and I am a lifetime resident of Honolulu and a licensed Social Worker in the State of Hawaii. On behalf of my husband and my family I write in strong support of Senate Bill 1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

As faithful Christians, our family believes very strongly that the Christ-like love and acceptance that we are expected to show to others is not limited or conditional. A favorite family scripture is Micah 6:8 - "What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." As our extended family sat around to watch some of the day one testimony from many local Christians citing sin and other judgmental comments, it deeply saddened us and feeling helpless we wanted to ensure that other Christian voices would also be heard as our views could not be more bifurcated from theirs.

As a child, I was fortunate to have deeply supportive parents who always reminded me that their love for me was completely unconditional and in turn taught me about respecting ALL people. This is an intuitive lesson and I witnessed through their actions that this was an important truth. It is the same truth that I hope to share with my young son and I believe that teaching him to value differences and diversity, encouraging inclusion and being mindful of how his actions make people feel are some of the greatest gifts I will be able to teach him so that he will grow to be a loving, tolerant, understanding man.

For much of my professional life I have worked with and have supported college students who live with a range of disabilities. In much of the work that I do, I work to encourage students that there are a hundred other more appropriate characteristics to describe them before their disability condition. Some of them are so used to only or first being viewed as Deaf, bipolar, dyslexic, blind, with quadriplegia, etc. These are hurtful labels and many of them have been marginalized and reminded of all of their limitations. Instead, we like to remind students of their potential, their passions, their gifts...their profound abilities. Many of them are incredible writers, leaders, speakers, athletes, artists, entrepreneurs, designers and researchers. They will eventually become our exceptional journalists, politicians, small business owners, engineers and biologists. Understandably, no one is just one characteristic and should never be viewed as such.

Yet in this emotional debate, I see opposers of this bill cleaving to the idea that there are some people who are not worthy, who are not deserving enough, and essentially are not respected enough to have equal access to a right afforded to others because they are one characteristic - because they are gay.

In opposing this bill, I see us reinforcing the message to our keiki that acknowledging diversity has its limits, that it is okay to judge and exclude depending on the population, and making people feel second-rate is deserved for those who are gay. This is not okay with our family - it is not pono, it is not the aloha we say we exemplify. It is not respect.

I absolutely understand that we can agree to disagree that no one has to accept this lifestyle as their own, or like it, or even understand it. Your vote does not speak to this. But you must acknowledge that they are first-rate citizens who may be phenomenal businessmen, nurturing teachers, brilliant scientists, caring fathers, heroic firemen, and hard-working, contributing, positive members of our community.

We are all deserving, if simply willing, to sign up for the joys and challenges of marriage, and to be afforded that mountain-top opportunity.

I believe the passage of Senate Bill 1 is, more than anything, a statement of respect and equity. I urge you to consider the strength of your voices and your votes in a time where this marginalized group needs to feel respected by their state, government and community to have an equal opportunity to such a joyful life event.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Ito, LSW'. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Vanessa Ito, LSW



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

From: Jaylene English [<mailto:jle2627@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 4:12 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jaylene English  
3123 Castle street  
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: John Heidel [<mailto:jheidel@hawaii.rr.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 6:21 PM  
To: Judiciary Special Session  
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a Christian minister in the islands for over 50 years and as the former president of The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, I've observed that there is considerable support for marriage equality from religious leaders and lay-people from many faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu. We aren't as organized or vocal as religious people who oppose this bill but we are there in the thousands.

My personal understanding of a loving compassionate God supports the basic right of all loving couples to have the full benefits of marriage.

This freedom is guaranteed by the U. S. constitution and is consistent with religious teachings. The first amendment clearly states that government shall not deny religious freedom and that religion shall not manipulate government. SB1 has language that is congruent with the constitution. Every person can follow his or her personal religious beliefs without coercion.

Regarding the argument that same-sex marriage would destroy or harm the family or society, it can easily be documented that the serious dangers to family life, marriage and our social fabric are found in the areas of conflicting values, money management and violence - to mention a few. This is where we should be working together.

Therefore I urge you to pass this bill to the full House for a vote. Thank you for hearing this testimony and for your consideration of this bill.

Rev. Dr. John R. Heidel  
Minister, United Church of Christ  
Former Chaplain, Punahou School  
Former President, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii Member, Christ Church Uniting in Kailua

John Heidel  
1341 Manu Mele St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

John Heidel  
1341 Manu Mele St.  
Kailua, HI 96734