

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

As a Maui resident for over 23 years and a graduate of Maui Community College, I strongly urge your support of marriage equality in Hawai'i.

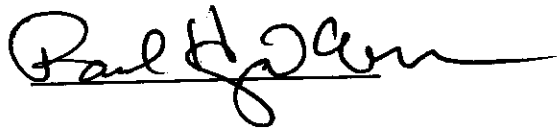
My partner and I have been together for over 24 years and deserve the recognition of marriage in lieu of introducing each other as "partners," "boyfriends," etc.

We have been working for engaging the community in marriage equality for years.

Our history with marriage includes being married in California in 2004 when having it annulled by the Governor against our wishes. It was very hurtful and demeaning to have something important taken away.

Please pass marriage equality to afford us access to FEDERAL rights only allowed by marriage

Respectfully,



Name (print): Paul Harper-O'Connor

Street: 576 Kuikahi Dr

City: Wailuku, HI 96793

Email address: pharperocconnorhi@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My husband and I have been together for sixteen years and married for five years. We were not allowed to live together in the U.S. because DOMA Section 3 defined marriage for Federal purposes as only valid between a man and a woman, and I am a UK citizen. The Supreme Court struck down DOMA #3 on 6/26/2013 and within three months I was able to get a Green Card - the first for a same-sex spouse in Hawaii.

Civil Partners cannot sponsor foreign same-sex spouses and Hawaiians cannot drive to another State to marry. Please support this Bill to keep our families together

Respectfully,

Powell

Name (print): PETER JOHN HOWELL  
Street: 585 IAO VALLEY RD  
City: WAILUKU, HI 96793  
Email address: JOHN@THEJOHNZ.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My partner and I have lived and worked in Hawaii for 20 plus years. We became reciprocal beneficiaries when that recognition became legally available. We seek marriage as a means to both protect and honor our commitment to each other. In total we have been together 34 years and yet we still feel vulnerable for our rights concerning inheritance, retirement, and health decisions. We strongly support marriage equality in Hawaii. Thanks for reading my letter.

Respectfully,

Steve A. Leeper

Name (print): Steve A. Leeper

Street: 173 Kuli Pua Street

City: Kihiki HI 96753

Email address: leepers001@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My name is Michael. My partner + I have lived in Hawaii for just under a year. I use the word "partner" with a bit of sadness. After 12 years together, and spending many years fighting the fight in Washington state, we were married there in front of our friends + family this Spring. Upon moving to Hawaii, when we went to obtain our Hawaii driver license, we were reminded at the DMV that we were not married here. We feel like our move here to this beautiful state has taken our lives a great social step backwards.

Thank you for your help in making this vote to take Hawaii forward on this journey

Respectfully,

Michael Looney

Name (print): Michael Looney

Street: 480 Konoio Rd 22-205

City: Kilauea HI 96753

Email address: SeattleLooney@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

We need to focus on our keiki, they are our future.  
We remind our children that they are wonderful, beautiful,  
and that we accept them for who they are. How is this  
possible when a standard is set for who they are allowed  
to marry? This movement will help set an example,  
That you are who you are, you marry who you love, and  
not who fits the social standard. We are an accepting  
'Ohana of Hawai'i Nei.

Respectfully,



Name (print): Radha Om

Street: 989 Lanui St.

City: Hahaione

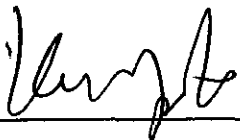
Email address: hawanangap1@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. As a resident of Maui, I'm seeking your support on passing this bill. I've been in a 13 year committed relationship, and would appreciate one day having the opportunity of marrying my partner and gaining the full rights and recognition as <sup>my</sup> straight allies.

Respectfully,



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Name (print): Kevin Yates  
Street: 50 Wai'ohuli St. Unit C  
City: Kahie, HI 96753  
Email address: ~~ke~~ kyates@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My partner & I need the protections & benefits of marriage here in Hawaii in order to secure federal benefits under the new law. Our civil union is not enough - Hawaii needs to catch up with the rest of the country & the world.

Respectfully,

Rob Harper O'Connor

Name (print): ROBERT JOHN HARPER-O'Connor

Street: 576 Kukahi Drive

City: Wailuku, Hi. 96793

Email address: r0connorchi@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My family and I support marriage equality in Hawai'i. My partner and I are both Hawaiian and feel that Hawai'i embraces our beliefs and cultures. We are proud to be Hawaiian and are hopeful that Hawai'i takes this opportunity to support marriage equality. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Sarah K. Begley

Name (print): Sarah Begley

Street: P.O. Box 2428

City: Wailuku, HI 96793

Email address:



I STRONGLY SUPPORT MARRIAGE EQUALITY...!!!

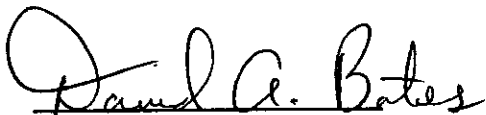
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

THANKS FOR CONSIDERING THIS BILL. PLEASE VOTE "YES"  
AND TAKE A STEP FORWARD FOR EQUALITY IN HAWAII.  
SAME SEX COUPLES ENDURE MORE HASSLES FOR BASICALLY  
NO REASON BUT NOT BEING LEGALLY MARRIED.  
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

Respectfully,



Name (print): DAVID A. BATES

Street: 3476 KALIHI ST APT B

City: HONOLULU HI 96819

Email address: BATESALANDAVID@YAHOO.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

It is time.

It is American Liberty.

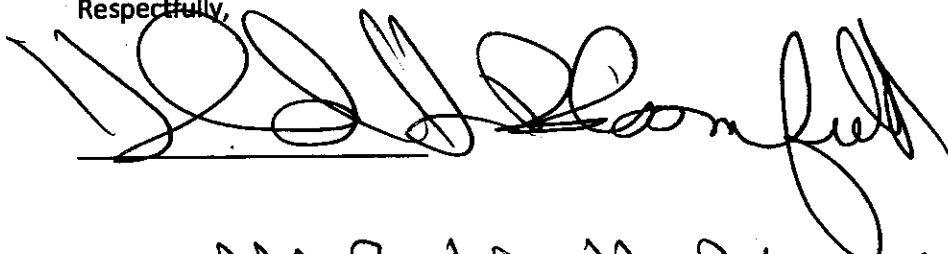
It is the Aloha Spirit.

It is good for Hawaii

Economy.

Please pass marriage  
equality bill.

Respectfully,



Name (print):

Street:

City:

Email address:

HAROLD H. BLOOMFIELD, MD

28 KULANI PLACE

PAHA, HI. 96779

haroldbloomfieldmd@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Hello Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

As a mental health professional, I am familiar with the stress that can come to a person who is denied the choice to marry the person they love. The stigma of being viewed as less-than socially can lead to problems of low self esteem and depression.

On a personal level, I am a lesbian in a committed relationship. My domestic partner and I are engaged to be married, and plan to do so before the year is out. If marriage equality does not pass here in Hawaii we will have to travel to California at great expense in order to do so, effectively losing the supportive presence of most of our friends and family at this important event.

Please support our right to marry here in Hawaii as so many other states and the Federal government have already done. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Laura Acevedo MA LMHC  
27-212 Road C  
Papaikou, Hawaii  
laurawarmheart@yahoo.com

Testimony in SUPPORT of marriage equality  
Darin Padula  
391 Kaumakani St. Honolulu, HI 96825

Aloha Members of the Committee on Judiciary,  
I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of marriage equality for Hawai'i. As I know you are aware, this has become the civil rights struggle of our era. Building on the work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is heartening to know that you are taking the steps towards equality on that long arc toward justice. Thank you for your tackling this important issue, that so often has been mischaracterized by the opponents of love, fairness, and equality.

As a member of the LGBT community, an ordained clergy person authorized to perform weddings in the State of Hawai'i, and a licensed member of the Hawai'i business community, I find myself supporting marriage equality on every level of my personal and professional being. Long overdue in coming, the day is at hand where we can all unite for the common good of our island home. In terms of economic growth, measured in hundreds of millions, Hawai'i will at long last be claiming their rightful place as the most beautiful place to marry for all people of the world. In terms of spiritual growth, the people of Hawai'i will be returning to the open and welcoming, ancient practice of Aloha that for centuries has made it a special place of love, acceptance and tolerance of all types of humanity, even amongst the Polynesian societies.

Mahalo,  
Darin Padula  
Hawai'i Kai, Honolulu, HI 96825

My name is Ernestine Belaski and I am in support of Marriage Equality.

I was a single parent of two working three jobs to support my two children. That's when I met my partner, Maricor Roman. We were both working at Ross and started a friendship that turned into a special relationship. She allowed me to quit two of my jobs and continue my education while supporting both of my children. In 2009, just a year and a half after we met, my son was ill and was in ICU for 8 weeks. She stood by us even when she could have run the other way. We got through it and wanted to take our relationship to the next level but couldn't.

On June 5, 2013 my children's father passed away and left behind three children ages 5, 7 and 12. Without hesitation, we took them in and are now raising them on our own. See, they lost their mom three years before their dad and was never close to any other family but us.

They have been through a lot and don't have a lot of trust but if we were able to get married then that would help them to understand that we love each other so much that we would always be together to take care of them as a couple.

Please pass marriage equality so families like us have equal rights for our children.

Thank you for your support

Ernestine L. Belaski-41

Maricor Roman-36

Jamal-Shamon Outlaw-20

Asia-Zhane Outlaw-19

Je'sha-Ariana Outlaw-Pila-12

Chad-Alexander Pila-7

Passion-Ayana Outlaw-Pila-5

Aloha House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express **STRONG SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR HAWAII**.  
**This is one of the most important issues that we need to pass.**

I am very proud to be a resident of Hawai'i, and I do many things to serve this beautiful state.

**Marriage Equality will help increase social freedom for residents of our state.** I am an ordained minister & chaplain, & as a person of faith I live by a philosophy of lovingkindness & charity. I believe in Marriage Equality because it will allow people to love & marry each other regardless of gender. All committed couples deserve the same basic rights & responsibilities. It will also allow individuals who are committed to each other to visit each other in the hospital when sick without restriction & give them other rights related to ownership, inheritance, & so on.

**Marriage Equality will help gay/lesbian people to have improved mental health.** I know so many gay/lesbian people here, & I have seen them suffer unnecessarily as a result of the current state of inequality. As a mental health professional, every day I witness the psychological harm that is done via reduced human rights as well as from bullying and harassment that results from a community that does not view gay/lesbian people as equal. As a result of being discriminated against, many gay/lesbian people suffer from more depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety than the average population. I have witness teenagers and adults commit suicide due to being discriminated against for being gay or lesbian. It is a tragedy that is totally unnecessary and preventable. **Marriage equality would help reduce bullying against glbt people over time.**

**Marriage Equality will bring economic benefits and increased revenue to our state.** Other states who have passed marriage equality have seen increased spending by gay/lesbian families & friends on wedding parties, events & services. People love to get married in Hawaii, & this will allow couples from all over the world to come here & get married.

**Marriage Equality will teach our keiki about equality and to treat others with respect and not based on discrimination.**

**Marriage Equality will prove another landmark in civil rights and equality for our state and it will place us nationwide among the states who are now choosing equal rights for committed couples.** We would be VERY PROUD of this.

**Marriage Equality in Hawaii would not reduce or negatively affect religious communities' right to deny couples access to weddings or other events in their facilities, if they do not support this.** Churches practices would not be negatively affected in any way.

**Mahalo nui loa** for considering passing marriage equality for all couples of our beautiful land,  
Rev. Heather Havey  
Honolulu, HI

In 42 years of life together, John and I have never been held as equal; never had legal security; never able to file joint taxes; are denied nearly 1,400 financial & social benefits of marriage. At the end of life, we have no guarantees we will be able to take care of the one we love, without the state or long-lost relatives taking everything we have built together.

We are the target of a religious ad in the Maui News saying that we are only second class citizens. "*YOU are not good enough...that YOU do not deserve the same rights as all other Hawaii residents.*" It is nothing new -- we see hate constantly. It hurts deeply -- especially to see it from fellow Mauians.

10 years ago, the Massachusetts legalized marriage in that state. None of the bigots' dire predictions turned out to be true. Now a whopping 85% of voters say *it's either had a positive or no any impact on their lives.* Even among Republicans 66% say it hasn't negatively affected them.

And remember how it was supposed to destroy straight marriages? *Massachusetts has the lowest divorce rate in the country.* "The family" hasn't fallen apart or been destroyed in the least. Incest and polygamy have not been legalized. Marriage equality is a resounding success.

Why is it acceptable to attack and deny your neighbors, members of your own congregations? Why deny equality to members of your family: your sisters & brothers, mothers & fathers, sons & daughters, grandchildren, nieces & nephews?

We are your friends, your coworkers, business owners, run resorts, are civic leaders, teachers, doctors, lawyers. You have known most of us for many years and we have prospered together to make Maui the #1 paradise it is. We are part of Maui's creative soul - the *aina* of Maui: artists, designers, architects, singers in your church choirs; we are actors, theater & filmmakers, writers, producers. We take care of you, your children, your aunties & uncles. We care for Maui & Hawaii -- the *aina* -- deeply as we strive together make our home truly the *Aloha State*.

To deny marriage equality now will continue to make us second-class. It is not fair. It is not just. *The Supreme Court has said at least 19 times that to treat any minority group as not equal, is **unconstitutional**.* This is a civil issue. The Court described the right to marriage as "*one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men;*" a "*basic civil right;*" a "*component of the constitutional rights to liberty, privacy, association, and intimate choice;* an "*expression of emotional support and public commitment;* the "*exercise of spiritual unity;* and a "*fulfillment of one's self.*"

In short, in the words of the highest court in the land, *marriage is "the most important relation in life," and "of fundamental importance for all individuals."*

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.

Hawaii doesn't turn our backs on ohana. No member of anyone's ohana should face shame because of who they are and who they love. Marriage says ohana in a way that nothing else can. Only marriage provides families the protections they desperately need. There is nothing else like marriage: it is uniquely singular and special. Nothing else like compares: legally, financially, romantically, spiritually. Marriage defines ohana in a way that civil unions simply do not.

We seek marriage for these and for 42 years worth of reasons that make it the culmination of our lives.

Please pass Marriage Equality now. We proudly stand with those who are on the side of equal rights for all. We are counting on you and you can count on us.

Gerald Ashton Westerberg

264 Ea Street

Wailuku HI 96793

[Drigerald@me.com](mailto:Drigerald@me.com)

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Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

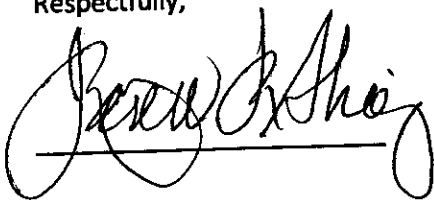
Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My name is Karen Shioji and I live at  
1228 Honua Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720.

I am a retired probation officer in  
support of marriage equality for gay and  
lesbian couples. I believe that all  
couples in Hawaii should be able to  
marry the person they love. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Name (print): KAREN R. SHIOJI

Street: 1228 HONUA ST.

City: HILO, HI 96720

Email address:

bkshioji@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

AS A GAY MAN, I FEEL THAT MARRIAGE EQUALITY  
WILL BE VERY VALUABLE ALSO IN WAYS OF  
GIVING GAY PEOPLE A WAY OF BUILDING GREATER  
SELF ESTEEM AND MAY LESSON EVENTUALLY  
THE BULLYING THAT DOES GO ON IN OUR SOCIETY.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS  
IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.

Respectfully,

Arthur W. Smith

Name (print): ARTHUR W SMITH

Street: P.O. BOX 935

City: KEA'AU, HI 96749

Email address: ARTS2143@GMAIL.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

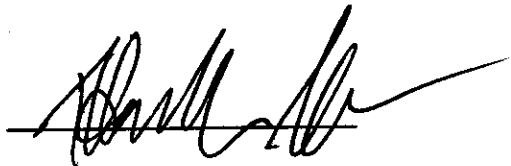
I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Hello,

I am a faculty staff member at UH-Hilo  
It is hard to get Domestic Partner Benefits  
and after a long road of questioning &  
discrimination I finally got the rights I  
deserve.

Faculty / staff. There are not many "OUT" LGBTQ  
who openly identifies as queer at UH Hilo. Please  
vote Yes on LGBTQ Marriage  
Same Sex

Respectfully,



Name (print): Hannah Wu  
Street: 76A Akaka Rd  
City: Hilo, HI 96720  
Email address:

hannahwu@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I was born & raised in Hanalei, Kauai, & my partner/spouse & I have been together for seventeen years. We were recently married in California & ask you to respect our civil rights by supporting marriage equality for Hawaii. As residents of Hawaii, my partner/spouse & I would like to be married in Hawaii.

Mahalo nui for your support.

Respectfully,

Matthew Hamabata

Name (print): MATTHEWS M. HAMABATA

Street: 73-1193 LOLOA DRIVE

City: KAILUA-KONA, HI 96740

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I HAVE BUILT A WONDERFUL AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARTNER OF 17 YEARS. WE ARE HARD WORKING, TAX PAYING CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND DESERVE EQUAL TREATMENT IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES. PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT BILL.

Respectfully,

KEVIN M. CAWLEY

Name (print): KEVIN M. CAWLEY

Street: 73-1193 LOLOA DRIVE

City: KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

Email address: KEVINCAWLEY@HAWAII.TR.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

The love of my life, my partner of 25 years, died 2 weeks before we will give the right to marry in California.

I was blessed to meet + become partner with another accomplished gracious woman. We have been together for 10 years, moved permanently here a year ago + hope we will be allowed to choose happiness here in Hawaii + marry. If Iowa can do it, for God's sake, Hawaii can. Please give us your support -  
Makal

Respectfully,



Name (print): SANDRA J. SPRINKLES

Street: P.O. Box 190647, SS-3478 Hono Pule Hwy

City: Hono, Hawaii 96719

Email address:

lesspairings@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I have known I was gay since age 5 yrs! My parents made it very clear to me that if I expected to be a doctor, I could not be "different" but I quickly learned that there is so much more damners than difference! I also realized that living an incongruent life was very unhealthy! To the point! The time has come for equality for all Americans. Please remember that slavery used to be a "tradition" - and note that divorce is more common in "red" states than in blue. Please - let all of us share our joy, love and commitment. Please ignore the lies + hate. Grant us marriage equality - it will only strengthen all families!

Respectfully,

Shay Bintliff

Name (print): SHAY BINTLIFF, MD

Street: PO Box 6450

City: Kamehaha, HI 96743

Email address: surfdoc@aloha.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Our state government must be allowed to grant a license to marry to people who love each other and are willing to commit to care and support each other for a lifetime.

Marriage provides a strong safety net and government benefits that single persons, or even civil unions do not enjoy. The benefits of marriage helps to prevent poverty and to reduce the need for government welfare services.

Please support marriage equality!

Respectfully,

*Barbara L. Franklin*

Name (print): Barbara L. Franklin

Street: 45-3438 Mamane St.

City: HonoKaa, HI 96727

Email address: barbara@island-law.com



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I have never been married, nor do I ever anticipate being married. However, I, along with every other individual, should be able to marry whomsoever they wish regardless of gender, race, religion, etc. As a graduate of law school and a licensed attorney, I firmly believe that both the U.S. and Hawaii constitutions should and must treat all persons equally. Please vote Yes.

Respectfully,

Betsy A. Sanderson

Name (print):

Betsy A Sanderson

Street:

64-604 Mana Road (PO Box 437297)

City:

Kemuelo HI 96743

Email address:

BAS1001@aol.com

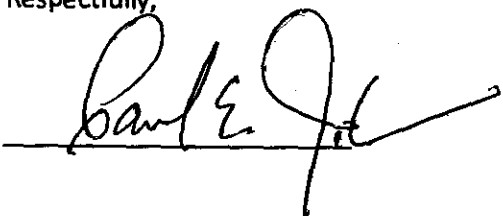
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

It is clear that this is the civil Rights issue of the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Gay and lesbian people are entitled to the same rights and protections as opposite-gender couples. Please vote courageously for marriage equality and commit Hawaii to stand with other states that have passed similar legislation - because this is the future, and because it is the right and just thing to do!

Respectfully,



Name (print): PAUL E. JOHNSTON, M.D.

Street: 64-604 MAHA RD. (PO BOX 437297)

City: KAMUELA HI 96743

Email address: pej1000@aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

It is time for Hawai'i to support it's LGBT citizens + children as much as every other person in this beautiful state. It is not about religious beliefs. It is ~~absolutely~~ absolutely about equality + fairness.

Respectfully,



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Name (print): Frankie Pang  
Street: P O Box 2408  
City: Kamuela, HI 96743  
Email address: fyhp@hawaiian tel. net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Please vote in favor of gay marriage. It's time to end this discrimination against a segment of our community. It is the right thing to do, and it's time to do it now!

Respectfully,

K. Rawle

Name (print): Kathryn Rawle

Street: Wikeoni St.

City: Kaneohe

Email address: krawle@hawaii-rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

A good understanding of the meaning of marriage from a spiritual point of view needs to be expressed and supported. The marriage forms a balance of two people. In the past, from a procreation point of view, the marriage was meant to legalize sexual union. A deeper meaning is to form a bond where two people can grow spiritually by befriending and support each other. May the laws make this so.

Respectfully,

*Ronald L. Thiel*

Name (print): RONALD L. THIEL

Street: 45-3438 Mamane St.

City: Honokaa, HI 96727

Email address: wills.roads@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

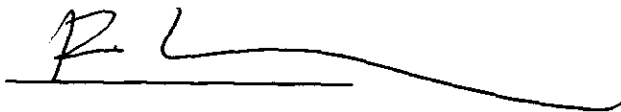
IT IS IN THE HAWAIIAN TRADITION TO ACCEPT DIFFERENCES OF PEOPLE; TO CELEBRATE THEM.

MARRIAGE AMONG COMMITTED PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF SEX, IS FAIR.

OF THE 13 STATES WHERE MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS LAW, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT HAS HURT THE INSTITUTION OR HAS CAUSED ILL.

HAWAII SHOULD LEAD THE WAY WITH FAIRNESS

Respectfully,



Name (print):

RODNEY LEE

Street:

P.O. BOX 2080

City:

KAHULA

Email address:

vr1@aloha.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I believe that all loving & committed couples should be treated with the same dignity & respect. And I believe that anyone & everyone should have a right to marry the one that they love, regardless of sexuality. Supporting marriage equality is important to me because I not only have family & friends who are gay/lesbian, but I am also a teacher. As a 22-year-old teacher, I can clearly see how school itself has changed. The youth today are more than supportive of allowing

Respectfully,

Maya L. Chong

love to live. It is this aloha spirit that shows me that our state is & has been evolving on this matter. Hawai'i is ready now!

Name (print): Maya L. Chong

Street: 651349 Kawaihae Rd.

City: Kamuela, HI 96743

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

As a young representative, I support marriage equality, I will be voting next year. Coming from a Bi-curious perspective, it does not make sense ~~that~~ to me that if I turn out to be bisexual, I will not have the same rights as my parents have. When I look at both homosexual, and heterosexual marriages, I see people in love. If marriage is about long term love between two people, and no matter what gender loves what gender, they all want long term love with another. Thus they should all have marriage rights.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Perbes III

Name (print): Larry Perbes III

Street:

City: Kamuela

Email address:



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i. As a physician I understand that all of us - everybody - deserves our respect. This should extend to all areas of the law. Our current system, however, creates differences based on sexual preferences. The current bill before you addresses this in a way that is supported by the majority of Hawai'i residents. The time is now to address the issue. The way we treat marginalized segments of our society will define our generation. In years to come, you will be proud that you have supported this bill.

Respectfully,



Name (print): LAWRENCE J. DERBES JR. MD, FACC

Street:

City: Kamuela,

Email address: drderbes@islandheartandvascular.com


Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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



Respectfully,

John Roth + David McCollough  


Name (print):

Street: PO Box 1743

City: Kamuela

Email address: jroth@hawaii-ep.com

10/20/13

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

I, Maile Dupoleon (Kahu) support marriage equality here in Hawaii, Island wide, we are all one.  
Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Yes, please add me to the list of marriage equality, for all concerned, for I believe that everyone of us are equal & in a place to decide. That whoever wants to be married will all the rights - that others have - so as a minister for 22 years, here in the Islands of Oahu & now Hawaii & Colorado - I highly feel that "we", "they", "us" are & should be given our Human Rights & treated as so - I have relatives that are looking for marriage equality - ~~that~~ & the peace of mind of being treated as so - Respectfully, Rev. Maile Spencer Dupoleon

Respectfully,

Maile Spencer Dupoleon  
65-1282 Lindsey Rd.

Name (print):

Street:

City:

Email address:

Kamuela, Hi. 96743

maile@hawaii-r.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I BELIEVE THAT TWO PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER  
SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MARRY REGARDLESS OF THEIR  
SEX!

Respectfully,

Earl Dresser

Name (print): EARL DRESSER

Street: 69-1647 AWAHO BEACH DR. #103

City: KAMUEA, HI: 96743

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am in favor of & strongly support the  
marriage equality for Hawaii. We  
are all equal & should be all equal  
in every area.

Respectfully,

Anne Dressel

Name (print):

Anne Dressel

Street:

69-1644 Puako Beach Drive Condo #103

City:

Kamuela HI 96743

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I was born and raised on the Big Island, and could not be more proud of the community in which I grew up. As I've gotten older, I've realized that in some ways, we are leaders on a national level. We in Hawaii are very concerned about issues like conservation and environmentalism, and I would love to see us become leaders in civil rights issues as well. This particular issue is very important to me because of my many friends and family members who will be affected by your decision on this bill. My cousin who lives in Honolulu is one of my best friends. She is also a lesbian, and currently lives with her kind, thoughtful girlfriend, who has moved to Oahu from Nevada to be with my cousin. If and when they decide to commit their lives to one another, I want for that to be their legal right. And if it is not, I fear that we will lose them (and countless other bright, young gay people) to states with more egalitarian laws. If this happens, we as a state will develop a poor reputation in a nation that is ever progressing toward equality, and I urge you not to allow this.

Respectfully,

Sachi Ainge

Name (print): Sachi Ainge

Street: 62-2209 Ouli St.

City: Kamuela, HI 96743

Email address: sachiainge@~~at~~gmail.com

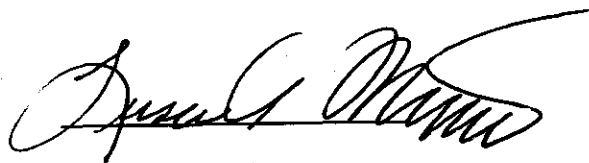
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am a healthcare provider here in Waimea on the Big Island. I see a direct correlation of overall health in the community with happiness. Happiness that comes from every dynamic of life. One particularly important dynamic is marriage. I feel strongly that one should be able to choose whomever will make them happiest as a spouse, regardless of gender. Let's ensure a happy and ~~healthy~~ healthy community / society.

Respectfully,



Name (print): LEENA G. MIYASATO DDS

Street: 62-2209 OULI ST

City: KAMUELA

Email address: lomiyasato@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Long ago, in a place called  
Pueblo, Colorado, I began my  
life as a lesbian. I worked  
at the time in a mental hospital.  
At the same time I realized  
I was a lesbian, a person was  
sorrowfully admitted to the mental  
hospital - only diagnosis - Homosexual.  
Now, 50 years later I have a lovely  
partner, and with your help we will be  
married. Thank you all for  
your vote.

Respectfully,

Berna Mings

Name (print):

Berna Mings

Street:

P. O. Box 812

City:

Nanakehu, Hawaii

Email address:

walkingon sunshine now@hotmail.com



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

We are all equal. We do not need an election ballot item next year deciding whether we should be equal or not. Equality starts right now. Pass the marriage equality bill.

Respectfully,

K. Veriato

Name (print): Karen Veriato

Street: P.O. Box 812

City: Naalehu, HI 96772

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am writing in support of same sex marriage  
You should be able to marry the one you love  
I would not deny any one of this

Respectfully,

David W Honson

Name (print): David W Honson

Street: 311 Lehua Pl A

City: Hilo Hi 96720

Email address:

clavidear111@aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I live in Hakalau, Hawaii and I am a retired Army Colonel. I am so proud that the military has recognized gay marriage. So that now my gay partner can now have my military benefits, if Hawaii will recognize gay marriage. It is very important to us to receive these benefits, but he cannot unless Hawaii recognizes same sex marriage. I served in Vietnam and have served as chief of Mineral Resources Division for California State funds. It is time that I get recognized as equal to any heterosexual and receive the benefits that my fellow soldiers receive.

Respectfully,

Paul B Mount

Name (print): Paul B. Mount II  
Street: 31-148 Hawaii Belt Rd, PO BOX 382  
City: HAKALAU, HI 96710  
Email address: hipaul2@YAHOO.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

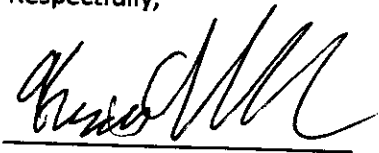
Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am Kris Millner, a transgender student at UH Hilo who feels that now is the time to stand on the right side of history. The LGBT\* community and their issues and struggles remain unpronounced in mainstreams Hawaiian culture, and I refuse to stand-by silently during this time of change. I would greatly appreciate your support on this momentous moment for marriage equality, as would UH Hilo as a whole and the rest of the Hawaii island community.

Mahalo!

Respectfully,



Name (print): Kris Millner

Street: 50 Maile St

City: Hilo, HI

Email address: kmillner@hawaii.edu

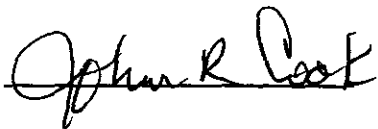
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am a retired ROV and my partner of 15 yrs  
is a retired Engineer. We are Domestic Partners  
in California but wish to marry in Hawai'i  
Please know that a "yes" vote will prove another  
landmark in civil rights & equality, and will send  
a message that Hawai'i embraces & welcomes all people  
including gay & lesbian brothers & sisters  
We ask for your support of marriage equality.  
Thank you!

Respectfully,



Name (print): John R. Cook

Street: P.O. Box 382

City: HAKALAUI HI 96711

Email address: johncc51@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

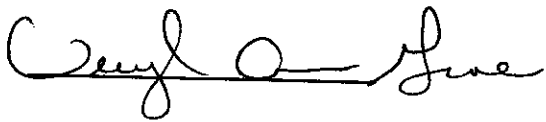
Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am a straight woman who will be celebrating fifty years of marriage with the same man next June. It hurts me that my gay and lesbian friends are currently denied the opportunity to reach this kind of life milestone. Because of my marriage, I am granted certain civil and tax rights that gay + lesbian couples do not have. These rights should be universal. It is not appropriate for citizens to be discriminated against because of who they are.

I therefore ask that you consider what is right for the people of our state and for the children who will grow up in this state and vote in favor of passage of the marriage equality bill.

Respectfully,



Name (print): VERYL Ann GRACE

Street: P.O. Box 1330

City: Keaau HI 96749

Email address: veryl-a-grace@gmail.com

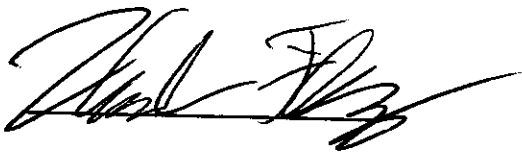
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am a UH Hilo college student and the president of student organization ~~PRIDE~~ Hilo. I identify within the LGBT community and while I am not ready to get married, it would mean a lot to me to have that right and ~~that~~ show that Hilo is accepting of me and that Hawaii is on the right side of history.

Respectfully,



Name (print): Hannah Flanary

Street: 50 mile street

City: Hilo

Email address: hflanary@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

*IF IOWA CAN DO IT, WE CAN TOO!*

Respectfully,

*Yoshiko Takabayashi*

Name (print): *YOSHIKO TAKABAYASHI*

Street: *188 HALE ST.*

City: *HILO, HI*

Email address:



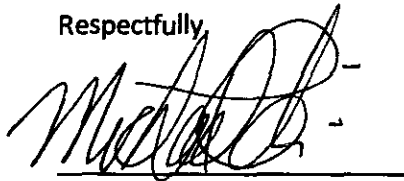
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I believe I should be able to Marry the person I love & wish to spend the rest of my life with. As I would not deny others, I feel I should not ~~be~~ denied this basic Human Right.

Respectfully,



Name (print):

Michael Carlin

Street:

311 Lehua PUA

City:

Hilo

Email address:

ispelunk@yahoo.com

RE: Testimony in support of marriage equality


To whom it may concern of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this testimony in strong support of marriage equality. This issue impacts my life directly. Being born and raised in Hawaii and being a proud Hawaii resident I was saddened that I would have to leave my home to be married, but at that time the option to being legally married was not given. So my partner and I along with my family went to California to be wed. I went into this marriage knowing that my certificate would not be recognized as a married couple at home but hoping one day it would. That time is now.

My partner changed jobs recently and would be without health care, I thought that it would be an easy transition to getting her onto my EUTF account. It was not. I presented my wedding certificate from California as legal proof that she was my spouse and therefore entitled to being covered under my health benefits. My department's human resource office incorrectly told me that the certificate that I submitted was not recognized so she would not qualify. Again after doing a web search the information that I was told was incorrect but I could see how confusing it was for them to interpret. If it was a heterosexual marriage there would have been no question about the license legitimacy of proving spousal rank. It is situations like this that brings home the fact that marriage equality is the right thing to do and that all marriages are held on equal ground.

I am proud to be from Hawaii... I just wish Hawaii was as proud of me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna White  
809 Maluniu Ave  
Kailua, HI 96734

# House Clerk

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

July 4, 1776:

We hold these truths to be self-evident,  
that all men are created equal, that they are  
endowed by their creator with certain unalienable  
rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the  
pursuit of happiness. Equality is the state of being  
equal in rank, value or ability.

Respectfully,

Garry Loo

Name (print):

Garry Loo

Street:

4132 Papu Aiele

City:

Honolulu, Hawaii

Email address:

garry-loo@hotmail.com

Amen.

the time is now  
Do what's right

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,  
I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

*Now is your chance to do  
"the right thing" for so many  
people!*

Respectfully,

*Rosalie Wiesenthal*

Name (print): ROSALIE WIESENTHAL  
Street: 481 OPIHIKAO PL.  
City: HONOLULU, HI 96825  
Email address: ROSWIES@AOL.COM

RECEIVED

2013 OCT 24 A 10:52

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

October 23, 2013

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Senate and House of Representatives:

I am a citizen of the State of Hawaii and a voting constituent of House District 3 and Senate District 1, and I care about the future of our society in this island State, both for economic and social reasons. The Big Island has been subject to so many challenges. With the newest discussion that the Legislature is now bringing forth as SB 1, or a version related to it, I am compelled to state my opposition to the matter of Marital Equity as being proposed by all legislative bodies.

In other states, this type of matter needs to be brought for public vote, thus allowing people of Hawaii to think this very serious matter through. The issue is not simply an issue of sexuality, and perceived civil rights, but a matter of social concern for the wellbeing of the people. Our society has become more complex over time about many things, and rushing these matters through without the time for people to process the entire issue at hand would be a great disservice to the people.

The other matter is the concern over the religious exemption that should occur as the Federal Laws has determined that should occur, in particular, the choice of and the recognition of the protections of religious freedoms. If the position of the legislative body who do not recognize that there are a significant group of the islands' citizenry who have, and follow, some type of religious belief system that does not support same-sex marriage, then they are infringing on those freedoms that have already been legally recognized. Again, the matter needs to be further thought through with more than 1 week's worth of serious discussion, and with input from the public (i.e., a broad spectrum of public input is needed).

As a person who now believes that there is a God, and who believes that marriage between a male and female (both as biologically defined) needs to remain as currently expressed in the marital laws that are recognized by this State and a majority of the states within the United States of America. The Supreme Court's recent decision on the United States v. Windsor (12-307) indicated to me that the Supreme Court is not firmly convinced of the argument for the decision regarding this matter, and that a split vote is what prevailed. A 5-4 margin is not conclusive in what could be reasonably considered as an overriding majority.

The horrific situations that have come up, from my research, has to do with the lack of respect of parties who have had a long standing relationship, and their rights to property or benefits upon death. Perhaps, what could be changed instead is how our society views such matters and not have such issues tied in with marriage, but have it legally associated with the creation of binding documents that recognize the relationship of and between parties, whether it is parties who live together without marriage, and/or who have proof of evidence of shared communal financial obligations and commitments in real estate or other forms of personal property. I think we are looking at marital equity as the only solution, and that Hawaii needs to look at other ways to define a legally binding relationship and equality between partners when it comes to the court of the law.

Therefore, I would kindly ask that this matter should be afforded the opportunity for public input via ballot measure during the next election, and that a deferment in action be made until the people of Hawaii have expressed their opinion on this matter with their vote.

Thank you for your consideration of my written testimony,

Sincerely,



Susan Shirachi

PO Box 10826

Hilo, Hawaii 96721

October 24, 2013

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee

Renee Iwamura  
1212 Nuuanu Avenue Suite 3804  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Position: Opposed Special Session Same Sex  
Marriage

My Testimony is as follows:

I am really concerned about the special session on same sex marriage because I feel it does not respect the Democratic process. There seems to be undue pressure on this bill to make it into law without public hearings that take into account social, cultural, and traditional impacts that can create dramatic and detrimental outcomes to the people and to the keikis of Hawaii for generations to come.

The most important issue of our times have not been heard by a new generation of people and it is being coerced thru with out public hearings where the language of the bill can be adequately reviewed and testified on. This strips us of our basic rights to be heard and our rights to speak which becomes

unconstitutional in many respects. The legislature has taken on a disposable attitude of short cuts and outcomes that is not what Democracy is about. Is this the model of decision making we can expect in the future? It casts a shadow of doubt and breaks down bridges of trust and transparency that you represent the people of Hawaii well.

My hope is that this special session will be terminated and be ushered to regular session where the Democratic process can take place for the people of Hawaii.



I am writing to let you know I oppose the homosexual marriage bill . It is not marriage equality if one group, advocates for homosexual marriage get preference and receive their tax breaks while another group feels violated by desecrating their sacred institution of holy matrimony (Traditional Marriage.)

#### THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION TO HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES

Discrimination is alive and well in our laws. We make drinking lawful for adults but not for minors. We have rated R-movies that adults may attend but not anyone under 17. We do not allow brother and sister to marry. We do not allow smoking, stealing, driving above speed limits, murder, polygamy, pedophilia,, chicken fights, dog fights , gambling , etc, etc.... The law discriminates against people who like to do these things. In fact every law you pass has a nature of discrimination in it, but why no special sessions to outlaw these discriminatory laws? Because it is lawful to discriminate against groups of people for the betterment of society and government. However in the gay fight for the right to marry has our legislature disregarded everyone in our community and paid special attention to only the gay community? Is this not reverse discrimination in its finest form?

But funny thing there is absolutely no discrimination on the gay community in any present laws, because by definition discrimination means one group can do what another cannot. Both homosexual men and heterosexual men may marry any women on this planet. But the homosexual man may CHOOSE NOT TO. Both groups are EQUALLY bound by the law. You may say for the heterosexual it is more convenient to obey the law where the homosexual willfully must break the law for their happiness. Isn't this the same for the Criminals, homeless, pedophiles, polygamists, chicken fighters, dog fighters gamblers and thieves? They all want to be happy however there is disobedience to the law. That is why I applaud the brilliant spin that the gay community has spun on all. Not using the discrimination argument, which has no merit, but saying their pursuit of happiness has been thwarted.

#### TAX BENEFITS TO HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES ARE TAX INCENTIVES TO PROCREATE

There is a huge purpose to include the two complimentary and uniquely qualified genders, man and a woman, in a marriage union for the creation of children in a family. Society cannot survive without newborn replacing all who die. With every death there is one less tax payer to foot the bill. In fact procreation and the family unit could be called the greatest purpose in all nature and society. Society cannot survive without a man and a woman procreating ideally in a family environment. Every persons existence is owed to a man and a women, every homosexual being would be not if it was not for the institution of a man and a women together procreating. In Contrast Society can obviously survive without Homosexual Marriage. This is the only valid argument to allow tax benefits to Heterosexual couples because the probability of bringing forth offspring and a new tax payer obviously is much higher than a homosexual marriage. Families with children help build Societies.

It is already unlawful to discriminate against homosexual couples. However, the Supreme Court has ruled it is lawful for the State of Hawaii to deny this group the tax benefits of traditional marriage. It is fiscally irresponsible of our legislature to allow them to pay less in taxes when the Federal and Hawaii State government has no funds to pay their own government workers. How will you balance the shortfall by giving away tax breaks to a group who want to pay less, but earn far more than the average traditional married couple. (wouldn't you have more without children?) Also, the federal tax breaks were given to heterosexual married couples. They were never given to homosexual couples. Shouldn't the gay community be fighting to change the Federal tax law instead of finding loop holes in the law by changing marriage at the state level to then gain Federal tax benefits piggy backing on traditional marriage? That is a totally unethical approach.

Hawaii and its legislature, with Aloha have given the Gay community their marriage in the form of Civil Unions, even with State tax benefits, but It seems that they are not happy until they ignorantly desecrate the institution of marriage which many believe is a sacred ordinance instituted by God, only between a man and a women for the creation of children in a family. Marriage equality will never happen if another group is harmed in trying to make things equally fair. Where is the Aloha from the gay community? The bottom line and truth is that TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE as we know and HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE are not the same and NEVER will be. So please do not make the two entities the same.

It seems Governor Abercrombie and Joe Souki have no religious Christian background and have disregarded the very sacred and sensitive nature of what Marriage is to the religious heterosexual community. Whether you truly believe in the gay cause or need to keep your position that Joe Souki is holding ransom on. Or whether you are gay yourself and embrace Homosexual marriage To go forward without consideration of the heterosexual community's stand on Marriage will never make this about MARRIAGE EQUALITY. Your vote should be what your people you represent want. In fact the ethical and moral thing to do is step aside, let Democracy rule, and let the people vote on this very sensitive issue.

If you still want To allow the Federal tax benefits to Gay couples all one has to do is rename civil unions to Civil Marriage. I do not think you want to disrespectfully desecrate the Traditional institution of marriage.

In Governor Abercrombie's zealous crusade to be fair and right he wants to pass his bill without the public having time to examine and debate all the issues. To hold a special session shows obvious signs of rushing to get it done rather than spending the time in getting the job done right. That is why this Bill is not right and needs further work, it is filled with negative consequences. Please vote NO.

You need to work with both groups, Heterosexual and homosexual and come up with a solution that is fair to both and all. May I add my input, Call them both Marriage but DO NOT GROUP THEM TOGETHER!

1. REWORD THE CIVIL UNION TO CIVIL MARRIAGE-any gender (performed by Government)
2. CHANGE "MARRIAGE" to "TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE"-defined as between man and woman.(performed by churches)

In doing this one critical change you SEPARATE THE POWERS OF CHURCH AND STATE WHICH THE PRESENT BILL FAILS TO DO. That is why Abercrombie's bill is not RIGHT, but WRONG for the State of Hawaii.

This is the solution to the problem and it satisfies both parties. The homosexuals get their civil unions renamed to MARRIAGE allowing them to get federal tax breaks, but most importantly all those that have a sacred traditional view of marriage will be satisfied that their notion of marriage is not mixed with the homosexual secular world. Then and only then can we truly call this MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

Aloha,

Linda Masuda  
955 Akepa Ln  
Hon. HI 96817

Gina Ahuna  
2344 Tantalus Dr.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 29, 2013

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My Honey and I are pretty low-key Hawaiian women. We mind our own business and live our lives as most locals do. We operate a non-profit organization that benefits many children in our community. Much of our hours in our non-profit is volunteer, so we also have full-time jobs to support our family. Together we raise a 6 year old that attends Punahou and a 3 year old that just began preschool at Kamehameha. We go on Costco runs, play at the beach, attend school functions, go on family vacations, etc. All the things the average local family does.

We have never been rainbow flag waving people. We are not ashamed of who we are, nor do we flash it to the public. I've never felt the need to speak out until now.

Over the past three weeks I pass the "Save Traditional Marriage" sign wavers everyday as I take our children to school. My 6 year old finally asked, "Mommy, what are they doing?" Please, how do you tell your baby that these people think that her family is less than theirs?

We teach our children to love EVERYONE. When someone is mean to you, love him or her anyway. Send them love through a little prayer. Perhaps they may fill with love and have more to give. It upsets me that while we teach our children to love all other children, other children are being taught that our child's family is wrong. I find it so ironic hearing testimony from people claiming that they need to protect their children from people like us.

So I asked her, "How would your life be different if you had a mom and dad, instead of two mom's". She says, "He might be bald."

I must admit, we were a bit frustrated expecting a serious answer. A few hours later, we realized, that was her serious answer.

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

Sincerely,

Gina Ahuna

Aloha nō kākou,

I humbly write to you in opposition of SB1. I firmly believe that the family is the single most important unit in society and it must be protected at all costs. Marriage is a religious union of a man and a woman, and allows the two to be joined under God in order to bring children into this world, as God has commanded.

In no way does my opposition of SB1 intend to discriminate against those who choose to be in same-sex relationships. Rather, I oppose SB1 with sincere respect to those individuals, couples, and families of same-sex relationships. It is, however, important to understand the vital role that both a man and a woman play in the family, as mother and father to their children. Therefore, the union of marriage should indeed be reserved for unions between a man and a woman.

Below is a proclamation given to the world regarding the family, by God through His holy prophets in 1995.

*“WE, THE FIRST PRESIDENCY and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children.*

*ALL HUMAN BEINGS—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose.*

*IN THE PREMORTAL REALM, spirit sons and daughters knew and worshipped God as their Eternal Father and accepted His plan by which His children could obtain a physical body and gain earthly experience to progress toward perfection and ultimately realize their divine destiny as heirs of eternal life. The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.*

*THE FIRST COMMANDMENT that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God’s commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.*

*WE DECLARE the means by which mortal life is created to be divinely appointed. We affirm the sanctity of life and of its importance in God’s eternal plan.*

*HUSBAND AND WIFE have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. “Children are an heritage of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations.*

*THE FAMILY is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities. By divine design, fathers are to preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers are obligated*

*to help one another as equal partners. Disability, death, or other circumstances may necessitate individual adaptation. Extended families should lend support when needed.*

*WE WARN that individuals who violate covenants of chastity, who abuse spouse or offspring, or who fail to fulfill family responsibilities will one day stand accountable before God. Further, we warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.*

*WE CALL UPON responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society.”*

As a Native Hawaiian and a lawful citizen of this ʻāina, I humbly ask that you allow more time for important matters pertaining to the family to be discussed before making a decision on SB1. I also ask that you allow us as the people of this ʻāina to vote on the matter, as it directly affects our lives, our children’s lives, and the lives of generations to come.

Me ke aloha haʻaheʻa,  
Fara-Mone K K Akhay  
85 California Avenue  
Wahiawā, Hawaiʻi 96786



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:48 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** akoib@polynesia.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Robert Akoii        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: We have always had the people VOTE on critical issues that deal with our people and children. I do not want SB-1 to pass. The people of Hawaii should make the decision and not the selected few. I do not want this bill to pass. I will remember your vote on this bill and I will vote on November 4, 2014!!!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:19 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** akawaauhau@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Alberta      | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: I oppose House Bill SB1 because I believe in traditional marriage and follow biblical teachings about marriage. Please allow the people to vote!!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:12 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** mleialoha808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mabellynn Amock | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: I am concerned for my family and oppose Bill SB1. Please allow more time for us to study this bill and have our voices be heard by putting in on the ballot. Mahalo and thank you for listening.

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# JAY ARMSTRONG

Monday, October 28, 2013

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

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

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

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting this testimony against the Governor's special session and the proposed 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 oppose this bill because it redefines marriage promotes government intervention in family life. The process the Governor has chosen has forced on this issue on the legislature when they did not handle it his way in regular session and forces this on the citizens. Is this pono? No.

The so-called religious exemption clauses are immediately abrogated by later language in the bill. Priests, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances with full anticipation that these very circumstances would be negated in later court cases. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, in fact, there is a deliberate effort to redefine these organizaitons as "public accomodations" thereby bypassing the "protective" language in this bill. In addition there are no exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

The citizes voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage "between opposite sex couples". It appears this governor and legislature wishes to strike have of that specific language to suit their own individual purposes and to bypass the only legitimate way to change this namely by letting the people, decide.

Please do the right thing, the pono thing and do not ignore the legislative process. Surely this is one step toward anarchy!

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

*Jay B Armstrong*



**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony Senate Bill 1 on Marriage (Written Only)

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

**From:** Larry Averill [<mailto:claverill58@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:40 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Testimony Senate Bill 1 on Marriage

Hi,  
Why must you insist on redefining an institution that is older than any single civilization? Is it because you take too much money from our citizens and then comfort a sector to ease your conscious? The solution is to reduce spending and then reduce taxes. Once the benefit issue is gone, there will be no fight for redefining marriage. Civil unions or whatever else the GBLT team wants to call it will be just fine in the benefits lost world. It is terrible to us that you created this issue by taxing us to highest rates in decades. It is easy to see this when all you talk about is giving benefits to loving people. It comes down to being all about the money, as explained by the Governor on the reason to rush this through. Come on, for tax benefits, are you serious? This is a reason to recall the governor and all the senators that go along with this criteria.

Marriage is sacred, between a man and a woman. You take that word away, you will force the creation of another word to take its place. Change words, change definitions, it is all a very sad game you are playing. You are also going down in history on this. Do not think that this will be positive in the long run. Your legacy is in your hands.

Thank you,  
Concerned voting citizen of Hawaii  
Larry Averill

Sent from my iPad



---

**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:44 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: SB1 (Written Only)

**From:** Rachael Azcueta [<mailto:nanea324@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:37 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Re: SB1

I support SB1

On Oct 29, 2013 8:34 AM, "Rachael Azcueta" <[nanea324@gmail.com](mailto:nanea324@gmail.com)> wrote:



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:01 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** thebalints1@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Stephanie Balint | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Stephanie Balint

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Oct 31, 10:00a

House Judiciary and Finance Committee

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only 1/2 % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

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

forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

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

I will not be testifying in person.

Sincerely,

Allysyn Bezilla  
222 Pua Avenue  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Oct 31, 10:00a

House Judiciary and Finance Committee

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only 1/2 % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

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

forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

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

I will not be testifying in person.

Sincerely,  
*George A. Bezilla*  
*222 Pua Avenue*  
*Hilo, Hawaii 96720*





**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:59 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** rachel.biesinger@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By             | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rachel Bushman Biesinger | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Rachel Bushman Biesinger

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:35 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** robertboyack@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Robert Boyack       | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I have been with my partner for 13 years and we continue to struggle for rights that taken for granted by married couples. We fortunate to be able to afford a lawyer to draw up legal documents that would assist us with such basic fundamental rights such as visitation my husband in intensive care, making medical decisions and preparing our wills, things that my parents and family members take for granted. I can empathize with the Church and the religious groups view of marriage, they have all the right to have the belief but this isn't about religion and until the Church begins paying taxes they really should not have any say on how the government is run. If argument that it is to protect the sanity of marriage, consider this, all of my siblings marriages ended up with a divorce, ironic isn't.

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

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

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

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

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

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



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:42 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** jerandmona@sbcglobal.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jerry Burrell       | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                          |

Comments: I was outraged at the attitude of Senator Hee during the testimony yesterday his arrogance and body language. Sen. Hee always after being questioned made sure to get a last word or demeaning question in to ridicule whoever had given him a question he could not answer himself. Mahalo Jerry Burrell

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October 28, 2013

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair of the Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street,  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: S.B. No.1, Hearing on October 31, 2013 Testimony in Support.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Representative Sylvia Luke, and the Committees on Judiciary and Finance.

Aloha, my name is Steve Canales, and I strongly support S.B. 1, Relating To Equal Rights.

The Labor Caucus believes every individual must have the same equal rights. We support marriage equality and benefits to all same sex couples. Just remember when we say the Pledge Of Allegiance; the Last few words say "One Nation under god, indivisible, with liberty and justice FOR ALL", (including equality).

We the Labor Caucus **strongly support** S.B. 1. I would like to thank, the Committee on Judiciary and Finance for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Steve Canales  
Labor Caucus Chair  
Democratic Party of Hawaii  
404 Ward Ave. Suite 200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814



**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:42 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: PLEASE Listen To The People Concerning SB1 (Written Only)

---

**From:** John and Carlina McCue [<mailto:johnandcarlina@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:50 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** PLEASE Listen To The People Concerning SB1

Committee On Judiciary  
Committee on Finance  
Thursday, 10-31-2013  
10 am  
Concerning SB1

Hello, My name is Carlina McCue.  
I live in Waipio Gentry. I am asking that you, Please vote NO on SB1.  
I will not be testifying in person.

- ~ There is no reason to vote on such a volatile issue in this special session.
- ~ The democratic process is being circumvented. Let it be vetted properly in regular session.
- ~ Religious freedoms and First Amendment rights are being placed in jeopardy by this bill and the public accommodations section will absolutely NOT protect churches.
- ~ **Civil Unions already protect same gender couples.**
- ~ SCOTUS ruled in 2007 that marriage is NOT a civil right!
- ~ Let the people decide in a constitutional amendment to be voted on in 2014.
- ~ Again, PLEASE vote NO on SB1. Let The People Decide!

Mahalo

Aloha,  
Carlina

House Judiciary Committee – Testimony

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

My name is Thelma Siders and I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thelma Siders



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:58 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** csoria25@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Christina           | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I think that everyone should have the same rights as another. Just as women deserve same rights as a man, and different races deserve the same rights as another. People of the same sex should be allowed to marry each other. Who are we to judge who it is right or wrong to love. Vote yes for this bill! Let America actually start showing what it is that we represent, and that is freedom.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:22 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** al@worldclassproductionz.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>         | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Albert Cloutier     | World Class Productions LLC | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: Dear Representatives, As a small business owner and long time resident of Hawaii I support marriage equality. Please pass this important piece of legislation. Discrimination against one's sexual orientation should have no place in the Aloha State. Best regards, Albert Cloutier

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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:33 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Same Sex Marriage (Written Only)

---

**From:** Emmons Connell [<mailto:econnell1@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:22 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Same Sex Marriage

Dear Legislators,

God is love. God wants ALL people to come to Him in faith and believe that His Son Jesus Christ is the Savior of all the world. Once God's Holy Spirit works in your heart to repent and believe this, you become one of his children. Out of thankfulness you do what God, who is a just God, wants you to do, as in, follow His rules joyfully. God's rules become your rules.

The bill as read condones homosexual acts in direct opposition to God's rules!

How can I go against my God?

Please vote NO on Same Sex Marriage.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Emmons and Mary Connell  
208 Hooahale Place  
Kihei HI 96753  
875-1267



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:10 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** cwcook78@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Charles Cook        | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I stand in strong support of SB1 and urge members of the committee to pass the bill.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:47 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** mcruz@kauaistcatherine.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Michael Cruz        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Aloha Committe Members, My name is Michael Cruz from District 14 on the island of Kauai. Because of the distance and time, I am unable to testify against this bill. There are many reason why I am strongly against Bill SB1. I am not against homosexuals and rights and benefits they deserve, though I am against the law that this body want to put forward in re-defining marriage. It has been the most testimonies and presences of people for and against the bill at the State Capitol Legislature Building as I watch it streamlined on air for us who cannot be there. This shows that many people in the State of Hawaii are passionate and concern about this moral issues that the law makers brings before the people of Hawaii. Therefore, putting this in special session is unreasonable. Many people where not able to personally testify and were turned away because of unneccessary and unfair time constraints. This shows that the people of Hawaii needs more time to participate than allowing this special session. The people spoke about this in 1998. Let the people decide on it because it is a moral issue that will affect the lives of the majority of Hawaii. On the other hand, I will like to share about a private matter that the Executive branch and now this body want to make public. I want to share what William Newton, a professor from Franciscan University of Steubenville Austrian Program. "As G.K. Chesterton pointed out in The Superstition of Divorce, it is no coincidence that totalitarian regimes typically seek to weaken both the Church and marriage. The reason is precisely because both of these institutions claim to be independent societies with their own constitutions. Since they exist within the same territory as the state, from the perspective of a tyrant, they obstruct the extension of his own absolute authority. Now, if the family built upon marriage is the building block out of which the state is formed, the family is antecedent to the state. This means that the state can have no power over the constitution of marriage any more than the European Union has power over the constitution of its member states, as if the EU had the power to change Britain from a constitutional monarchy into a republic! But the legislation currently going through the British Parliament that seeks to redefine marriage denies this very fact: The state is proposing to change the constitution of that society — the family — out of which it is itself constructed and from which its own existence flows. The Nature of Law The scope of civil law cannot be determined by what the majority of people want as laws. There is no such freedom in the making of laws, and this can be shown in two ways. First, human nature makes civil society; civil society does not make human nature. By this I mean that the root cause of civil society is the inclination to live in society, an inclination that is integral to human nature. Hence, first comes human nature, then comes civil society. Therefore, first comes the natural law and then comes civil law. The consequence of this order of things is that civil law cannot permit what is contrary to the natural law and still retain the character of law. The corollary is that — when considering the legalization of same-sex marriage —

the first question to be decided upon is whether or not homosexual sex is contrary to the natural law. Since this article is about political philosophy and not ethics, I will leave this question to one side. However, I want to note the perplexing absence of this substantive question in the parliamentary debate. It is a decisive question and it is ignored. This indicates an almost complete loss of the belief, deeply ingrained in a classical notion of politics, that the aim of government is to help people become more virtuous and not merely to act as a referee in disputes between citizens. Second, the idea that the state possesses unrestrained power to enact laws flows from an inadequate theory of the origin of political power. The contract theory of society holds that civil authority is derived from individuals who have given up their autonomy so as to buy into the benefits of a community. This theory suggests that the origin of civil authority is the people, and so what the people want should be law. Leaving aside the fact that this is a recipe for mob rule, there is an insurmountable theoretical difficulty with this position. In any contract, if there is a dispute over whether one party has contravened the rules, or whether the contract is binding in this or that matter, a judgment is made by a higher authority. For example, when a dispute arises in business contracts, the case is taken to the courts, which act as representatives of the state. But what happens if someone disputes the contract on which the state is supposedly founded? This must be possible, because the validity of any contract can be challenged. This possibility forces us to say that there must be some ultimate power that is not itself the result of a contract. And this, in turn, forces us to say either that the origin of civil power is from above — from God — or that it does not exist at all. But if it comes from above, no civil law can have the character of law if it opposes the law of God known either in the natural law or by revelation. There is, then, a fundamental constraint on the extent of civil law. During the debate that is now raging over the question of same-sex marriage, both sides can be heard appealing to the idea of “freedom of conscience.” Those who support same-sex marriage claim a freedom of conscience to marry, and those opposed worry that their own freedom of conscience will be compromised if the proposed legislation were to become law. The first thing to note is that the question of same-sex marriage is not a religious question any more than are the questions of abortion, slavery, or global warming. Rather, same-sex marriage is a human question, able to be debated and understood without faith or revelation. Certainly, religious people tend to hold more strongly to one side of the debate, but that is because they have two motives to hold to it: reason and revelation. The more important question for us, however, pertains to the obligation of the state and of civil power to protect freedom of conscience. It seems to me that this obligation only exists in indifferent matters, in matters of opinion. In all other matters, freedom of conscience is a kind of modern myth. A moment of reflection makes this clear. No one in his right mind thinks that the owner of a bus company can segregate white passengers from black passengers, even if in conscience the owner believes this to be an upright and wholesome thing to do, as many have in the not-so-distant past. This man might even be invincibly ignorant with regard to this question, but still his conscience errs and the law coerces. Likewise, either same-sex marriage is right or it is wrong: Arguments about freedom of conscience dodge the issue. If same-sex marriage is wrong, then no one has a right to it any more than the bus-company owner has a right to localized apartheid. If same-sex marriage is right, then no one has a right to an exception clause in the way in which they relate to it. The point is that civil authorities must make laws on substantive issues and not on the basis of freedom of conscience because freedom of conscience only exists in matters of opinion, like whether a state-funded or private-funded healthcare system would be best. Freedom-of-conscience clauses — like those present in some countries’ abortion laws — are an implicit admission that the law might be unjust, and if a law might be unjust, it ought not to be passed at all. There is no doubt that many people view the modern state as the guardian of human rights. This view has a lot to commend it as long as we are clear as to what is meant by a human right. A right is a moral power to fulfill a duty. By calling it amoral power, we are pointing to the fact that my right coerces your intellect and your will to respect it. So, for example, my right to life coerces your intellect to assent to the existence of this prerogative of mine and coerces your will not to interfere with it and, perhaps, in certain circumstances, to do something to uphold it. What is even more important to note about the definition just given, however, is that a right is a moral

power to fulfill a duty. This means that all rights are founded upon a correlative duty. Hence, the right to life is built upon the duty to protect one's life, the right to religious freedom upon the duty to seek the truth, and the right of parents to choose the education of their children upon the duty to educate them, and so on. This also means that, where there is no duty, there is no right. Hence, since there is no duty to die, there is no right to die. In fact, to legalize euthanasia would imply that some elderly or sick people do have a duty to end their lives. Without tying rights to duties in this manner, there is no way to distinguish authentic rights from counterfeit ones. The uncoupling of rights from duties is the primary cause of the rights explosion in modern Western countries. Rights are invented and established simply because enough people insist for long enough that they have such a right: The question of duty is utterly lost. Of course, the import of all this is that the right to marry is founded on the duty of the human race to perpetuate and develop itself through the begetting of children. Since homosexual intercourse is of its nature incapable of contributing to this, there is no duty to which a right to same-sex marriage might correspond. Hence, we can concur with those who argue that one of the chief tasks of the modern state is to safeguard human rights, but we would have to disagree that this could ever include a right to same-sex marriage. Should the state be interested in matters of private morality? For example, should the state prosecute adults for fornicating or lying? Both of these are morally reprehensible, but should they fall under civil law? The general answer given to this is no because this is an excessive involvement of public authority in private matters. The scope of moral law is wider than the scope of civil law, and the civil law should be interested in morals when the moral actions under scrutiny are of public interest. Put another way: The whole purpose of civil authority is to seek the public or common good. So, with regard to same-sex marriage, the question is whether the relationships of homosexual persons are something of public interest that warrant the attention of the public authorities. Now, the reason why marriage has, until now, warranted public interest and civil legislation — its protection and promotion — is because, based on a long track record, the family built upon marriage has been judged to be the ideal place for raising children, who are the future citizens of every society. Therefore, it is clearly something of public interest and worthy of public support. Has this same public benefit been proved in the case of other couplings, such as cohabitation, civil partnerships, and same-sex unions? At the very best there is a lack of evidence. But until it is evident that they do contribute to the common good, it would be better for the state to leave same-sex unions (and other forms of cohabitation) at the level of private preference. There is a real danger in the state legislating for purely ideological reasons on what is otherwise a private matter. It sets a precedent for the state to take an interest where it ought not. Making public what is private only goes to bolster the totalitarian tendencies of the state: It leads away from big society directly toward Big Brother. This is rather ironic given that the sexual revolution is supposedly built upon the premise that sexual mores are a private matter. Finally, what might be said to someone who objects and says that same-sex marriage is of public interest because it is a question of justice? I would certainly agree that the question of justice is at stake here, but not quite as some imagine. It is evident that justice demands that we treat equally that which is the same. It is less evident, but not less true, that justice also demands that we treat unequally that which is different. I must treat all my children more or less equally (in terms of food, education, affection, and so on), but I ought not to treat my child and my hamster the same. This would be unjust to the child. Similarly, since political authority is set up for the public good, it must ask itself whether marriage and same-sex unions have an equal track record of contributing to the common good. Since they do not, treating them the same is unjust. In a word, justice demands discrimination." Please consider this and not vote on this bill. Thank you for your time, consideration and service to the people in the State of Hawaii. Sincerely, Michael Cruz

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October 29, 2013

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair House Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair House Committee on Finance  
Rep. Aarob Ling Johanson, Vice Chair House Committee on Finance

House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

**RE: SB No. 1 – Relating to Equal Rights**

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

**Time: 10:00am**

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

I'm writing in support of SB No. 1 – Relating to Equal Rights. I appreciate this opportunity to share my written testimony with you. I will not be testifying in person.

It is my personal belief that we, as citizens of the United States of America, should uphold the inalienable rights, mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, given to each of us on the day of our birth to pursue Life, Liberty and Happiness. Much of the testimonies heard in opposition of this bill are examples of these rights being compromised. As law makers, I implore you to keep this in mind. History has shown us that opinions change over time. By allowing this bill to pass, each of you is saying yes to the pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness to members of the gay community and their families.

As a person of Native Hawaiian descent, I would like to bring forth the Native Hawaiian practices of Aikane, the lesser known Aiwahine, Mahukane and Mahuwahine. Acceptance of homosexuality has long since been practiced in Hawaii. In fact, it was practiced by some of Hawaii's most prestigious Allii. The passage of this bill will, in a modern way, support aspects of Native Hawaii cultural practices.

In closing, I would like to remind each of the committee members, that one does not simply wake-up in the morning and make the conscious decision to be heterosexual or homosexual. This is not a life choice. Being a in a loving, committed relationship with a partner is. No citizen should be denied State benefits of marriage based on the gender of his or her partner.

Thank you,

Vicky DeMercer – Kaneohe resident  
v.d.mercer@gmail.com





---

**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:15 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Please block the same sex marriage. We the people..... (Written Only)

---

**From:** Keith & Lily Baggett [<mailto:baggett@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 11:34 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Please block the same sex marriage. We the people.....

Majority people on Hawaii are against SSM.  
SSM is bad for Hawaii and America.  
SSM is not biblical and not Godly.  
SSM corrupt people's mind especially children.  
SSM will create disharmony to our schools.  
SSM will generate more domestic violence.  
SSM and Christianity clashes. Christian faith is growing strong on this island. People detest SSM.  
Please do not allow Hawaii to pass this law.  
We the people should decide the peace and harmonious world to live in, not chaos and strife.  
Majority should rule, it is the law and order.  
GOD IS WATCHING DOWN AT US.  
Bless this land and people with common sense and wisdom.

Thank you God...Laus Deo.....



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:20 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose SB1 (Written Only)

---

**From:** Doris and Mario Domingo [<mailto:Malahunadd@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:57 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Oppose SB1

**To Whom it May Concern:**

I strongly **oppose** your endorsement and passage of SB1 "Same Sex Marriage Bill". It is neither the Legislature's nor the Governor's job – let alone their authority – to favor one group and trample on the feelings of others! **PUT THIS ON NEXT YEAR'S BALLOT AND LET THE HAWAII PEOPLE DECIDE!!**

Respectfully,

Doris L. Domingo  
Kapolei



---

**From:** [REDACTED] Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:58 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Against homosexual marriage (Written Only)

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

From: Edith Don [<mailto:done001@hawaii.rr.com>]  
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 10:00 PM  
To: Judiciary Special Session  
Subject: Against homosexual marriage

I favor CIVIL UNIONS so homosexuals can receive their benefits as other individuals, but I AM AGAINST HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE.

Edith W. Don  
[done001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:done001@hawaii.rr.com)



---

**From:** [REDACTED] Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:42 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Same Sex Marriage (Written Only)

**From:** Sandra Dyel [<mailto:sdyel1990@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 7:36 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Same Sex Marriage

I am against same sex marraige, please vote no to this bill.

--

Sandy Dyel



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:18 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** katie.ersbak@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Katie Ersbak        | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I am in strong support of equal rights for all of Hawaii's ohana. Please vote in favor of SB1. Thank you.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:41 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** kurt112192@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| kurt Fonoimoana     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Please on behalf of people that voted for u and ur ancestry that gave u life, I'm sure that u would not exist if not for ur parents, I'm sure that u want to make sure ur legacy will continue with ur grand kids, having said that u have a chance to make history either way. I always thought my kids at the end of our life money can't take the place of legacy. I'm humbly ask u to give some thought, time, and consideration to this matter.

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To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

**I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.**

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

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

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions.

**Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TJaye Forsythe

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

**I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.**

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

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

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions.

**Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dawnelle Forsythe





**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:19 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** jocelyn.fujii@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Jocelyn Fujii | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: Aloha, The people who testified yesterday against SB1 do not, as many of them claim, represent Hawai'i. They certainly do not represent me, or any of the justice-minded gay and straight people, religious or not, young and old, who stand for marriage equality. Many of those against SB1 claimed that theirs was the word of God, that they spoke for the people of Hawai'i and the keiki. They are free to represent their world and their religion, but not to claim they represent Hawai'i, an inclusive state defined by tolerance, diversity and the aloha spirit. Additionally, some surveys have put support for marriage equality at 59 percent, and there are countless Christians, Buddhists, Jews, heterosexual and other supporters who want this bill passed simply because it's the moral and legal choice, and because it elevates our humanity. We are now given one more opportunity to prove that Hawai'i is a state of inclusion and diversity. I believe that our right to marry the person of our choice is absolute, beyond the purview of government and religion, and that society's duty is to encourage, rather than deny, loving relationships whether straight or gay. I'm thankful that gays and lesbians want the right to enter into such a flawed institution as marriage. To give them the freedom to marry would remove one more barrier for them and would enhance our society beyond measure. I think that all equality-loving people who believe in justice and humanity, all of us, would be elevated by the passage of this bill simply because it elevates our humanity. I also believe that legalizing same-sex marriage would save lives. How many of us know of suicides that have shattered families, suicides that could have been prevented if only the closeted teenager had felt acceptance instead of fear, love instead of shame, a sense of belonging instead of alienation? Marriage equality would be one less barrier for them, one concrete sign that they are included and valued, and that the right to happiness belongs to everyone, not just to those who fit the biblical definition of traditional marriage. Every gay and lesbian person I know who is raising children is an exceptional parent, having had to prove themselves by higher, stricter-than-usual standards and screening in the areas of emotional, socio-economic and financial stability. Their children are growing up in stable and loving families. As a heterosexual married woman who is childless by choice, I have nothing but admiration for those who, facing greater barriers than I, place so much value on the freedom I have sometimes taken for granted. And, ultimately, it comes down to this: Why would anyone oppose someone else's marriage when it has nothing to do with them? I testified in favor of marriage equality 20 years ago. I never thought I would have to do it again, that the pursuit of justice for such a fundamental right would take so long. I saw how organized religion poured money into Hawai'i to deny a part of our community a basic right. Please don't let it happen again. For these and many other reasons, I strongly support SB1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Kind regards, Jocelyn Fujii

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:45 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** managago1@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Helamana Gago       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I am a resident of Hawaii, raise here. I was born in Am-Samoa and my family moved to Hawaii for a better life. Right and I have been a voter ever since I was abled to vote. I strongly oppose the SB1 because it will destroy was the bible teaches us, where it said that marriage should be between a man and a woman. If you believe in the bible, then why are you trying to pass this bill, for money, remember the people vote all of you in and the people can vote all of you out of office, and vote those that will uphold our belief. Just a concern voter

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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:18 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY (Written Only)

**From:** Jenn Chappee [<mailto:jennifer.chappee@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:04 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

My name is Jennifer Gale, and I live at 98-1002 Kaonohi Street, Aiea, HI. 96701.  
I wanted to write you to let you know that I am in full support of this bill. This bill applies to me because I am a 24 year old transgender individual in a loving, healthy, 8 year old relationship. It is unfair that heteronormative straight couples are able to get married while lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have their relationships ignored, neglected, and consistently dehumanized by their lack of a right to marriage. Love and marriage means as much to LGBT individuals as it does to straight people. This is not an issue of religion, as the bill protects the religious rights of those opposing marriage equality.

Thank you for your time.



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:09 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: AGAINST SENATE BILL 1 OR SB1 (Written Only)

---

**From:** Vill Galiza [<mailto:alohapastorvill@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:16 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** AGAINST SENATE BILL 1 OR SB1

Aloha,

Please vote no to Same Sex Marriage. I have seen and heard the negative effects that has taken place in Massachusetts and now in Canada. After reading those, it so grips my heart and we cannot allow this to happen to our beautiful State. We must uphold our state Motto, The Life of the Land is perpetuated in Righteousness, anything contrary is just not righteousness, and not according to scriptures.

Lawmakers, I do believe in equal rights but let one that is right and truth to prove it. Equal rights with black, yes, equal rights with Interracial Marriage, yes and because both is a normal way of accepting of not being prejudice of any Race or Gender.

But to have equal rights with Same Sex Marriage, like a Man marrying a Man and Woman marrying a Woman is just not Normal or Natural. It is Abnormal or Unnatural, it just doesn't look right how God created Man and Woman to be born and most especially to pro-create.

We must say No to this, it will affect us now and the Next Generation, and of course the other Generations to follow.

House Judiciary and Lawmakers please Vote No, and Yes to Traditional Marriage

## Pastor Vill Galiza

2232 Makaa St  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Ph: 808.645.0909  
Email: [alohapastorvill@yahoo.com](mailto:alohapastorvill@yahoo.com)



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:54 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** gatiuanohana@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Cherylynn Gatiuan | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: I believe that marriage is correctly defined as between a man and woman. I do not support the redefining of marriage and humbly ask that you vote in opposition to this measure. Also, I ask that you allow the people to decide on this issue. Furthermore, I do not see how the purposed draft to protect religious rights in this matter provides adequate protection. I humbly ask and pray that you vote against this measure.

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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:30 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** estherjoeysmom@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Esther Gefroh | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. The people have spoken. The tens of thousand of people who showed up for the rally, demand to be heard. Let the people decide! I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. It is very troubling that statutory rape is being supported in the proposed bill and at the same time, the rights of parents are being taken away and given to a judge. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions...from the beginning of civilization! Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely yours, Mrs. Esther C. Gefroh Honolulu, HI

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## Kokua Council

### Board of Directors

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Kokua Council  
Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

SB1  
JUD  
Thursday, October 31, 2013  
10:00 a.m.  
Auditorium

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

October 29, 2013

Re: SB1      Relating to Equal Rights

In Support

The Board of Directors of Kokua Council wishes to support SB1, which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Larry Geller

President, Kokua Council





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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:13 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony to State House Committees on SB1 (Hawaii's homosexual 'marriage' bill) (Written Only)

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**From:** Greg Gerard [<mailto:gmg@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 10:53 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Testimony to State House Committees on SB1 (Hawaii's homosexual 'marriage' bill)

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The people of this state have in the recent past made their views on this issue very clear by their vote. I'm sick and tired of legislators thinking that they know best in spite of the people. Leave it up to the people of this state, the voters and the tax payers, who by the way employ you at their discretion.

How you can have the audacity to take it upon yourselves in this manner to reengineer society in spite of the people's wishes and documented desire, is well beyond me.

I have respect and aloha for all people, I have friends that are gay, but I strongly believe that marriage should remain between a man and a woman.

Thank you for considering my views and I hope you consider very carefully your modest position and responsibility to all the people in this matter.

Aloha, Greg

GREG GERARD  
Captain Cook Hawaii

Kate Bryant-Greenwood  
847 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
October 29, 2013

House Judiciary Committee and House Finance Committee

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to support SB 1.

Recognizing marriage between same sex couples is an equality and human rights issue. The time for equal recognition is now. Supporting the rights of gay and lesbian couples does not detract from the rights of others.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kate Bryant-Greenwood



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:00 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** rgmvcc12@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pastor Rob Gross    | Mountain View Community Church | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Dear Mr. Chairman and other House representatives. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to give my testimony. As a pastor of a congregation in the Kaneohe-Kailua area I oppose SB1. This bill, if passed, will have serious and long lasting repercussions for our children and their children. It will open Pandora's box and bring greater confusion, heartache and disillusionment to our community at large and to future generations. Please allow God to 'father' our precious aina and its' people. His heart is to prosper Hawaii. Please do not, I beg of you, pass this bill!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:13 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** puac2003@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pua Guiteras        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill! God's Word is Truth and our country was built on HIS WORD! I do not oppose this bill out of hatred, but we need to stand for the values that our country was built on! The Bible clearly states that marriage is between a man and woman. Let the people of Hawaii decide because this bill will greatly affect generations to come!

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Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I was born & raised in Hanalei, Kauai, & my partner/spouse & I have been together for seventeen years. We were recently married in California & ask you to respect our civil rights by supporting marriage equality for Hawaii. As residents of Hawaii, my partner/spouse & I would like to be married in Hawaii.

Mahalo nui for your support.

Respectfully,

Matthew Hamabata

Name (print): MATTHEWS M. HAMABATA

Street: 73-1193 LOLOA DRIVE

City: KAILUA-KONA, HI 96740

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I HAVE BUILT A WONDERFUL AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARTNER OF 17 YEARS. WE ARE HARD WORKING, TAX PAYING CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND DESERVE EQUAL TREATMENT IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES. PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT BILL.

Respectfully,

KEVIN M. CAWLEY

Name (print): KEVIN M. CAWLEY

Street: 73-1193 LOLOA DRIVE

City: KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

Email address: KEVINCAWLEY@HAWAII.TR.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

The love of my life, my partner of 25 years, died 2 weeks before we will give the right to marry in California.

I was blessed to meet + become partner with another accomplished gracious woman. We have been together for 10 years, moved permanently here a year ago + hope we will be allowed to choose happiness here in Hawaii + marry. If Iowa can do it, for God's sake, Hawaii can. Please give us your support -  
Makal

Respectfully,

Sandra J. Sprink

Name (print): SANDRA J. SPRINK  
Street: P.O. Box 190647, SS-3478 Hono Pule Hwy  
City: Hono, Hawaii 96719  
Email address: lesspairings@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I have known I was gay since age 5 yrs! My parents made it very clear to me that if I expected to be a doctor, I could not be "different". But I quickly learned that there is so much more damners than difference! I also realized that living an incongruent life was very unhealthy! To the point! The time has come for equality for all Americans. Please remember that slavery used to be a "tradition" - and note that divorce is more common in "red" states than in blue. Please - let all of us share our joy, love and commitment. Please ignore the lies + hate. Grant us marriage equality - it will only strengthen all families!

Respectfully,

Shay Bintliff

Name (print): SHAY BINTLIFF, MD

Street: PO Box 6450

City: Kaneohe, HI 96743

Email address: surfdoc@aloha.net



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Our state government must be allowed to grant a license to marry to people who love each other and are willing to commit to care and support each other for a lifetime.

Marriage provides a strong safety net and government benefits that single persons, or even civil unions do not enjoy. The benefits of marriage helps to prevent poverty and to reduce the need for government welfare services.

Please support marriage equality!

Respectfully,

*Barbara L. Franklin*

Name (print): Barbara L. Franklin  
Street: 45-3438 Mamane St.  
City: HonoKaa, HI 96727  
Email address: barbara@island-law.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I have never been married, nor do I ever anticipate being married. However, I, along with every other individual, should be able to marry whomsoever they wish regardless of gender, race, religion, etc. As a graduate of law school and a licensed attorney, I firmly believe that both the U.S. and Hawaii constitutions should and must treat all persons equally. Please vote Yes.

Respectfully,

Betsy A. Sanderson

Name (print):

Betsy A Sanderson

Street:

64-604 mana Road (PO Box 437297)

City:

Kemuelo HI 96743

Email address:

BAS1001@aol.com

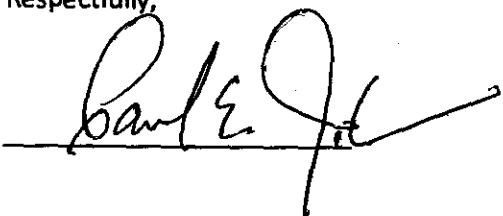
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

It is clear that this is the civil Rights issue of the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Gay and lesbian people are entitled to the same rights and protections as opposite-gender couples. Please vote courageously for marriage equality and commit Hawaii to stand with other states that have passed similar legislation - because this is the future, and because it is the right and just thing to do!

Respectfully,



Name (print): PAUL E. JOHNSTON, M.D.

Street: 64-604 MAHA RD. (PO BOX 437297)

City: KAMUELA HI 96743

Email address: pej1000@aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

It is time for Hawai'i to support it's LGBT citizens + children as much as every other person in this beautiful state. It is not about religious beliefs. It is ~~absolutely~~ absolutely about equality + fairness.

Respectfully,



---

Name (print): Frankie Pang  
Street: P O Box 2408  
City: Kamuela, HI 96743  
Email address: fyhp@hawaiian tel. net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Please vote in favor of gay marriage. It's time to end this discrimination against a segment of our community. It is the right thing to do, and it's time to do it now!

Respectfully,

K. Rawle

Name (print): Kathryn Rawle

Street: Wikeoni St.

City: Kaneohe

Email address: krawle@hawaii-rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

A good understanding of the meaning of marriage from a spiritual point of view needs to be expressed and supported. The marriage forms a balance of two people. In the past, from a procreation point of view, the marriage was meant to legalize sexual union. A deeper meaning is to form a bond where two people can grow spiritually by befriending and support each other. May the laws make this so.

Respectfully,

*Ronald L. Thiel*

Name (print): RONALD L. THIEL

Street: 45-3438 Mamane St.

City: Honokaa, HI 96727

Email address: wills.roads@hawaiiantel.net

DATE: October 29, 2013  
TO: House Committee on Judiciary  
FROM: Claudia Beth Haynes  
RE: Testimony in opposition to measure SB1 at the Oct. 31, 2013, 10 a.m. hearing

I am testifying in opposition to SB1 and am doing so through written comment because I am unable to attend the October 31, 10 a.m. hearing in person. My inability to testify in person is due to the fact that I am a professor of economics at a university within Hawaii and must teach classes on Oct. 31. I oppose SB1 for the following reasons:

- 1) Religious freedom is significantly reduced under the proposed bill. The bill passed by the state senate provides grossly inadequate protection for the religious freedoms of the citizens of Hawaii as well as the churches and religiously-affiliated organizations within the state. The reduction of religious freedom would be significant in degree, infringing on a right protected in the U.S. constitution.
- 2) Given that the civil union law already provides the rights and protections associated with marriage to same sex unions, little to no additional legal benefit to the unions would be gained through the bill. The bill reduces rights of Hawaii citizens rather than expands them because a reduction in religious freedom is being coupled with no real gain in rights and protections in marriage that are not already available to all under the civil union law.

Some claim that travel to the mainland to wed in a state allowing same-sex marriage is an onerous burden for those wishing the title of “marriage” rather than “civil union..” It is a cost, but a cost to be voluntarily undertaken for the sake of title, not for the acquisition of additional rights or protections that are already available in Hawaii under the civil union statute. I believe the social cost of implementing SB1 will be far more onerous burden for society.

- 3) The main impact of SB1 would be in:
  - A. forcing individuals to act against their religious and moral beliefs regarding families.
  - B. forcing religiously-affiliated institutions to support activities in direct opposition to the values and beliefs of the sponsoring religion.
  - C. fundamentally changing the foundational unit of society which has prevailed for millennia.
  - D. forcing business owners to act against their religious beliefs.
- 4) I do not believe sufficient time has been given to consideration of the full impact of the bill and how it would be implemented.
  - A. For example, would passage of the bill impact public school curriculum? Would parents be able to opt their children out of curriculum that is offensive to their religious values? Will the legalization of same-sex marriage mean that it is actively promoted as an optimal lifestyle or simply that it exists in society as one of many alternative legal lifestyles?
  - B. Will the free speech rights of those who continue to promote traditional marriage between one man and one woman be preserved? Will the free speech rights of those who continue to express concern over same-sex marriage be preserved?
  - C. Proponents of the bill say it will increase tourism to Hawaii due to increased wedding tourism. As an Ph.D. economist, I am not convinced that tourism will increase, but rather can see multiple reasons why tourism may drop. While same-sex couples may be drawn to Hawaii for a destination wedding, there may be a drop in tourism by those who support traditional marriage

and family values such as heterosexual couples seeking Hawaii as destination for a wedding and family vacations. They have many alternative wedding and vacation venues.

5) I believe that the bill has been written in haste and is being passed in haste. The text of the bill is not refined through sufficient review process. If passed in its current state, it will embroil the state in years of costly law suits that could have been avoided with a more thorough vetting process through which all voices felt adequately heard and through which the text of the bill is refined repeatedly. Railroading the bill through a special session is not the way to address the many serious and widespread concerns regarding this issue and this bill. The bill changes definition of the most fundamental unit of society. A family consisting of husband and wife, usually with children, has been the core unit of society throughout history. Is it wise to change this with a bill written in haste and railroaded through a fast-paced special session? I think not. This, of all issues, deserves careful and thorough consideration regarding impact and implementation.

6) My observations of the behavior and demeanor of those on the two sides of this issue has been that a spirit of greater civility has been exhibited by those in opposition to the bill. I have seen a far greater spirit of tolerance on the side of those in opposition to the bill than those in support of the bill. I worry about bullying and in-your-face behaviors designed to push the law beyond its intent, rather than peaceful co-existence in the aftermath if this bill is passed.

These are just a few of my concerns with SB1. I urge you to stop this bill now and reconsider the issue.





**Saint Mark Lutheran Church & School**  
K a n e o h e, H a w a i i

---

*Matthew Hilpert, Pastor*

*R. David Gaudi Jr., Principal*

---

Rev. Matthew Hilpert  
Saint Mark Lutheran Church & School  
45-725 Kamehameha Highway  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

October 29, 2013  
To the Hawaii State Legislature,

As a voting constituent of the state of Hawaii and the island of Oahu, I ask that you vote NO on SB-1. We the citizens of Hawaii have given the legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, and that constitutionally marriage is defined as being between one-man and one woman. If our legislators do not want exercise that power any longer, then please give it back to the voter's, but don't assume authority that has not been granted and is opposed to our state constitution. Civil Unions may have been within your authority, but not the redefinition of the state of marriage. I respectfully, yet strongly, urge you to vote against such a bill and to represent the voters of whom you serve. Mahalo nui loa for your kokua.

Aloha ke Akua,

Rev. Matthew Hilpert



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:31 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** trialsbiker9@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Steve Hoag   | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: Aloha Committee Members. I am writing on behalf of my family of six in opposition to SB 1, relating to same-sex marriage, and in support of adequate exemptions for churches and clergy in legislation to enact same-sex marriage in Hawaii. While we are not in favor of redefining marriage -- and oppose such -- if such legislation is passed we ask that religious organizations and officials not be required to support or perform same-sex marriages, or to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities as public accommodations. Especially where clergy or the church is not receiving payment for services. As a former bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have performed marriages for both members and non-members of our faith without payment, as required by our church. The reason our bishops sometimes perform marriages for those not of our faith is so that their marital status with their partner will not disqualify them to be baptized into the faith. Thus, even marriages performed for non-church members are often for religious purposes as an exercise of First Amendment freedom of religion rights. These rights should likewise be protected under state law in any new marriage legislation. Further, this bill should be given due process and heard during a regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined over the course of several weeks, as with all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever alter thousand of years of culture, custom and society. The decision to make a change of this magnitude should not be rushed. \*We therefore oppose this bill and urge you to defer it. However, if you decide to move this bill forward we respectfully request that it be amended to include stronger religious exemptions.\* Thank you, Steve & Heather Hoag P.O. Box 25 Laie, Hawaii 96762

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Aloha,

I am extremely concerned about the bill up for review attempting to redefine marriage in Hawai'i. In an effort to bring marital rights to parties, this bill is completely inadequate to maintain religious freedom here in Hawai'i. You cannot successfully support equality by promoting the rights of one group (gays) and cutting off the rights of another (religious institutions).

Please, vote NO on this piece of legislation! Please, at the least, re-word the bill to protect religious freedom. It is not fair to require all religious leaders and buildings to be available to perform same-sex marriages with impending fines accompanying dis-action. That will force hundreds of residents to act against their personal beliefs, affecting their spirituality and their relationships with God and the community.

We should ALL be able to participate in and uphold marriage in the ways that we see fit. Religious institutions should be able to perform marriages by their own leaders in their own buildings for their followers in the manner that they see proper and correct. No one else, regardless of religious affiliation or sexual orientation or political stance, should be allowed to infringe upon the constitutional right of religious freedom, which was one of the major proponents of the establishment of the American country. EVERYONE deserves to live peaceful lives where they are protected and respected.

Please, consider the lives and rights of ALL of your state's residents before approving a bill which, in its current wording, will severely affect and damage the lives of many people in Hawai'i.

The definition of marriage is essential to the beliefs of many religions and people of faith. If marriage is legally redefined to include same-sex couples, enormous legal and social pressure will mount against churches and religious people who believe in the traditional definition of marriage. I am one of these people. I have had a variety of gay friends throughout my life. Although I don't agree with their lifestyle, I still respect them and love them. And they have shown me the same courtesy. We are able to form relationships beyond our societal opinions. We both are entitled to our opinions and have the right to believe and live in ways that we see fit. I expect that same courtesy from my government! Bill SB1 is not by or for the people! It will restrict and change my lifestyle as a religious person because it is not written to protect MY rights or the rights and my church and its properties on the Hawaiian Islands!

Schools will teach children the new definition of marriage and correct or ostracize children who openly disagree based on their family's religious beliefs. Lawsuits will be brought against individuals, small businesses, marriage counselors, and churches and their related organizations (including educational and charitable institutions) that refuse to support same-sex marriages on religious conscience grounds. Religious groups that provide family-related services, such as adoption, will be stripped of their State licenses for being unwilling to treat same-sex marriages as equal to traditional marriages. Society will increasingly view and treat those who support traditional marriage for religious reasons as bigoted or ignorant.

This is wrong! We should be moving forward in ways that provide God-given rights to all people! Everyone deserves the opportunity to hold their own opinions and to practice their religious beliefs. Who cares if some people disagree with each other? Who cares if a church doesn't want homosexual couples to be married in its buildings or do give orphans to same-sex parents? Other organizations will allow that. The homosexuals can use those facilities, and religious people can use theirs. That doesn't have to be discriminatory. It's just people living the lifestyle they choose where it is available. That doesn't mean that homosexuals and religious individuals can't still associate or be friends. Even religious people will choose to go to specific churches to be married in specific ways. That's not discriminatory either. I can only imagine a homosexual couple wanting to be married by a religious leader who does not share their beliefs in order to "shove it in their face". If you do not protect the rights of all people, rifts will stay in society in an altered form. Religious individuals and their beliefs will be attacked just as homosexuals have been in the past. Either way, it's wrong! It doesn't matter who is being attacked and restricted, it is wrong!

Society is made up of a collection of various types of people—that's the beauty of it! We are all different. But we all deserve to have our rights protected and to be respected.

Please, protect me as you strive to protect my homosexual brothers and sisters. We ALL deserve it!

-Erin Hoff



---

**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:37 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY (Written Only)

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**From:** Marge's & Geoff's E-mail [<mailto:gjhorvath1@hawaiiantel.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:59 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session; JDLEvidence  
**Cc:** JDLEvidence; Marge's & Geoff's E-mail  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Representative Rhoads and Senator Hee,

I will be in meetings all day Thursday, so will not be able to give my testimony in person.

I'm opposed to Senate Bill 1. As a young child, I was molested twice, once by a male pedophile, once by a homosexual male. Almost 69 years later, I still suffer with this memory. My childhood was robbed from me, I lost my innocence. I felt and still feel violated and ashamed of what happened to me. I hold no animosity or hatred against the two men that did this to me. Should this Bill be passed and homosexual curricula introduced to our school our children we will be robbed of their innocence, and if in a same sex home, could be subject to sexual abuse. I wouldn't want something like this to happen to our children. For that reason, beseech you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

My hope is that someone will read this for me during the hearings on Thursday, October 31.

Thank you for representing us and allowing me this opportunity.

Aloha Ke Akua.

Me ka `oia`i`o,  
Geoffrey J. Horvath  
95-100 Lohi Street  
Mililani, HI 96789  
(808) 625-6799

Testimony of Patricia Hanson Hubner

Submitted on Oct 29, 2013

RE: Opposition to using a special session of the legislature for the proposed Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13

Dear Legislators,

I believe that a special session is not the forum for the people of Hawai'i to fairly discuss and consider the far reaching effects of the proposed Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13.

Multiple red flags are going off as to why the governor wants to bypass the normal legislative process and rush this bill through a special session of the legislature. The people of Hawai'i and their children and generations to come will be affected by the proposed Marriage Equality Bill and we deserve to have this issue be treated fairly and with full consideration from all points of view and this cannot be done in a 5-day special session.

Assumptions that same sex marriage (not a civil union but a marriage) is supported by the majority of the people of Hawai'i is an assumption and deserves to be put straight forwardly to the people by letting the people vote on it. Let the people of Hawai'i be heard and do not make a mockery of our democratic system of government by rushing this bill through a special session.

I also believe that the governor's bill erodes our First Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion by not protecting church facilities. Churches are an integral part of any community and therefore are a "place of public accommodation." The cherished privilege of all Americans to be protected to worship as they wish is not protected in the governor's bill.

I plead with our legislators to cancel the special session, especially since now there are other topics (Kaua'i health care, etc) that the governor is tacking onto to the work of this special session! Use the legislative process that is already in place! Use the regular legislative session to discuss this issue or put the issue of Marriage Equality to the vote of the people of Hawai'i!

Mahalo nui loa,

Patricia H Hubner

18-2052 Ohia Nani Rd, Mt View, HI 96771



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:18 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: SB1 (Written Only)

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**From:** Ryan Husted [<mailto:ryhusted@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:55 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** SB1

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to passing the SB1 bill. I don't believe that this bill is serving our community in a positive way. I don't believe that individuals who are attracted to the same sex are lesser human beings or should be denied human rights, however the sanctity of marriage should be as God intended – and that is between one man and one woman.

Thank you,

Ryan Husted  
712 S Alu Rd  
Wailuku, HI



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:33 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** jekyll421@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Audrey Hyde         | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I am Audrey Hyde. I represent my family and traditional marriage. I am testifying in regards to the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013, and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill. I am opposed to the Act. As a mother of 6 children, I firmly believe that the traditional definition of marriage gives our children the best chance to grow up in a stable environment and become productive members of society. I am also opposed to the Act from a religious standpoint, as I believe that marriage between a man and a woman is an institution defined and ordained by God. I do not believe that this law will be beneficial to our State, and respectfully ask that you vote against it, or strengthen the religious exemptions in the law. I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which is in opposition to the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013. Thank You, Audrey Hyde Laie, Hawaii

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:32 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** glennida@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Glenn Ida           | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: Equal Rights for All. Thank you.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:00 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** elizabeth.kekaouha@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Elizabeth Johnson | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: It is my concern to voice how I feel about the freedom of USA citizens. More particularly at this time, I am addressing my concerns for the citizens, including myself, living in Hawaii. I feel that we all would agree that an individual should never be forced to marry another individual without consent on both sides. In respect to those who hold authoritative keys to properly marry a couple, I feel that we all would agree that they should also not be forced to do something against their will or consent. I am adding my testimony to fight for the protection of individuals' freedoms and rights. In addition, I am asking that you allow the voice of the citizens to vote as these laws and rights pertain to us and what we believe and agree upon--leaders act as the voice of what the citizens have agreed upon. A leader doesn't act for himself and his desires. I know so strongly that it is wrong to force someone against their will and creating a law that permits such enforcement would make many laws and rights of the USA citizens corrupt. Please consider my testimony. Mahalo. Elizabeth Johnson.

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Hello, my name is Justin Johnston. I am writing in support of SB1. Hawaii is my home. Hawaii is where I would like to start my family. The reason is because of the importance of family values that are so present here in Hawaii. If this bill is not passed, I will be unable to achieve my goals and dreams of a happier and brighter future. I feel it is unfair to hold these rights from me based on other's religious beliefs, bigotry and intolerance.

It is important for all to be treated equally. Full equality is the only answer. I am happy that the state has offered civil unions as a temporary solution to this issue that has been debated for over two decades. It is not enough. Women voters were not given  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a voice when allowed to vote. Blacks were not given  $\frac{3}{4}$  rights as equal citizens when segregation ended. It is unacceptable for same sex couples to only be allowed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the rights and privileges as other humans in this society.

I thank you for your time and concern in this matter. I know it's a tedious task to listen to and read so many testimonies. I truly appreciate the jobs you perform. Mahalo!

Justin Johnston



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:28 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** ejow@hei.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Elaine Jow          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Firmly believe marriage is between a man and a woman. Thank you.

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Honorable House of Representative Chair, Constituents:

I, oppose Bill SB1 reference same-sex marriage.

With deep regard and concern to reconsider SB1-Bill as documented and illegal. This bill is incomprehensibly unjust. I cannot come to understand a law such as this format be allowed. To truly live and abide in a mixed culture lifestyles with respect to immoral behaviors. However, human rights deserves the liberty to live their life testimony, in this case for this particular bill. But, I believe we need to incorporate beyond that agenda, do it righteously.

SB1-Bill needs to be amended. In respect to, freedom and protection of religion laws within synagogues/churches; traditional marriage; and including educational system within our state of Hawaii. Mixed-emotions are at high for all citizens at this very time that is repeatedly changing historically. I've never dreamt that this can be happening in my life time.

I have supported and appreciate each and every one of the legislative constituents to continue with the best decision in favor with voting people choice. May, Our God, Lord and Jesus Christ enlighten you with grace and give you a sound mind. E ko makou makua i loko o ka lani.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Elaine Kaanapu  
10-29-13

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB-1

Thursday October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Manoa Kahalepuna

I am against SB-1. Please vote no for my future. I do not want to be forced to learn about the sexual choice to lie with someone of the same sex. It is against nature, it is against what God wants, and it is against all that I am and all that I believe. I come from a loving home with 1 mom and 1 dad. I have the greatest support system with my complete family. Nothing can compensate for failure in the home. A person cannot be completely whole if he or she does not have both a male and a female figure to raise them and teach them both sides, both view points. Can you imagine being raised only one sided by an all feminist view, or an all masculine view. Balance is missing. You will not be complete or whole. We will be raising a future generation of lost and incomplete individuals. Please represent the people who are in your district and vote no on SB-1.

Mahalo,

Manoa Kahalepuna

48-463 Haupoa St

Kaneohe, HI 96744

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB-1

Thursday October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**My name is Napalikhonu Kahalepuna Jr.**

**I am against SB-1. Please vote no for my future. I come from a loving home with 1 mom and 1 dad. I have the greatest support system with my complete family. You know that the majority of people in your districts do not want this to pass. The very people who you are supposed to speak for and represent. Don't turn your backs on the people who elected you and trust you to do the right thing and vote how they want you to vote. Please rightfully represent the people who are in your districts and vote no on SB-1.**

**Mahalo,**

**Napalikhonua Kahalepuna Jr.**

**48-463 Haupoa St**

**Kaneohe, HI 96744**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB-1

Thursday October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**My name is Napalikhonu Kahalepuna Jr.**

**I am against SB-1. Please vote no for my future. I come from a loving home with 1 mom and 1 dad. I have the greatest support system with my complete family. You know that the majority of people in your districts do not want this to pass. The very people who you are supposed to speak for and represent. Don't turn your backs on the people who elected you and trust you to do the right thing and vote how they want you to vote. Please rightfully represent the people who are in your districts and vote no on SB-1.**

**Mahalo,**

**Napalikhonua Kahalepuna Jr.**



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB-1

Thursday October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**My name is Manoa Kahalepuna**

**I am against SB-1. Please vote no for my future. I do not want to be forced to learn about the sexual choice to lie with someone of the same sex. It is against nature, it is against what God wants, and it is against all that I am and all that I believe. I come from a loving home with 1 mom and 1 dad. I have the greatest support system with my complete family. Nothing can compensate for failure in the home. A person cannot be completely whole if he or she does not have both a male and a female figure to raise them and teach them both sides, both view points. Can you imagine being raised only one sided by an all feminist view, or an all masculine view. Balance is missing. You will not be complete or whole. We will be raising a future generation of lost and incomplete individuals. Please represent the people who are in your district and vote no on SB-1.**



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:13 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** ekahumoku@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By        | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Emmajean O Kahumoku | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: Over the past decades our constitutional rights has been constantly challenged. Today, our rights are once again in the spotlight. We the people here in Hawaii are not given the right to vote on measure SB1, which violates our constitutional rights. I as an individual would like to go to the polls and vote on my stand and beliefs concerning this magnitude of an issue. If Hawaii is the Aloha state as stated by our legislators, allow us that same aloha to vote on this issue measure SB1. Thank you

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:15 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** leighton.kaonohi@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b>      | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Leighton K<br>Kaonohi Sr | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I wish to oppose the same sex marriage measure.

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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:14 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: non religious case against gay marriage (Written Only)

**From:** Tony Kawaguchi [mailto:[alohatony@gmail.com](mailto:alohatony@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:52 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** non religious case against gay marriage

### The Secular Case Against Gay Marriage

The debate over whether the state ought to recognize gay marriages has thus far focused on the issue as one of civil rights. Such a treatment is erroneous because state recognition of marriage is not a universal right. States regulate marriage in many ways besides denying men the right to marry men, and women the right to marry women. Roughly half of all states prohibit first cousins from marrying, and all prohibit marriage of closer blood relatives, even if the individuals being married are sterile. In all states, it is illegal to attempt to marry more than one person, or even to pass off more than one person as one's spouse. Some states restrict the marriage of people suffering from syphilis or other venereal diseases. Homosexuals, therefore, are not the only people to be denied the right to marry the person of their choosing.

I do not claim that all of these other types of couples restricted from marrying are equivalent to homosexual couples. I only bring them up to illustrate that marriage is heavily regulated, and for good reason. When a state recognizes a marriage, it bestows upon the couple certain benefits which are costly to both the state and other individuals. Collecting a deceased spouse's social security, claiming an extra tax exemption for a spouse, and having the right to be covered under a spouse's health insurance policy are just a few examples of the costly benefits associated with marriage. In a sense, a married couple receives a subsidy. Why? Because a marriage between two unrelated heterosexuals is likely to result in a family with children, and propagation of society is a compelling state interest. For this reason, states have, in varying degrees, restricted from marriage couples unlikely to produce children.

Homosexual relationships do nothing to serve the state interest of propagating society, so there is no reason for the state to grant them the costly benefits of marriage, unless they serve some other state interest. The burden of proof, therefore, is on the advocates of gay marriage to show what state interest these marriages serve. Thus far, this burden has not been met.

One may argue that lesbians are capable of procreating via artificial insemination, so the state does have an interest in recognizing lesbian marriages, but a lesbian's sexual relationship, committed or not, has no bearing on her ability to reproduce. Perhaps it may serve a state interest to recognize gay marriages to make it easier for gay couples to adopt. However, there is ample evidence (see, for example, David Popenoe's *Life Without Father*) that children need both a male and female parent for proper development. Unfortunately, small sample sizes and other methodological problems make it impossible to draw conclusions from studies that directly examine the effects of gay parenting. However, the empirically verified common wisdom about the importance of a mother and father in a child's development should give advocates of gay adoption pause. The differences between men and women extend beyond anatomy, so it is essential for a child to be nurtured by parents of both sexes if a child is to learn to function in a society made up of both sexes. Is it wise to have a social policy that encourages family arrangements that deny children such essentials? Gays are not necessarily bad parents, nor will they necessarily make their children gay, but they cannot provide a set of parents that includes both a male and a female.

Some have compared the prohibition of homosexual marriage to the prohibition of interracial marriage. This analogy fails because fertility does not depend on race, making race irrelevant to the state's interest in marriage. By contrast, homosexuality is highly relevant because it precludes procreation.

Some argue that homosexual marriages serve a state interest because they enable gays to live in committed relationships. However, there is nothing stopping homosexuals from living in such relationships today. Advocates of gay marriage claim gay couples need marriage in order to have hospital visitation and inheritance rights, but they can easily obtain these rights by writing a living will and having each partner designate the other as trustee and heir. There is nothing stopping gay couples from signing a joint lease or owning a house jointly, as many single straight people do with roommates. The only benefits of marriage from which homosexual couples are restricted are those that are costly to the state and society.

Some argue that the link between marriage and procreation is not as strong as it once was, and they are correct. Until recently, the primary purpose of marriage, in every society around the world, has been procreation. In the 20th century, Western societies have downplayed the procreative aspect of marriage, much to our detriment. As a result, the happiness of the parties to the marriage, rather than the good of the children or the social order, has become its primary end, with disastrous consequences. When married persons care more about themselves than their responsibilities to their children and society, they become more willing to abandon these responsibilities, leading to broken homes, a plummeting birthrate, and countless other social pathologies that have become rampant over the last 40 years. Homosexual marriage is not the cause for any of these pathologies, but it will exacerbate them, as the granting of marital benefits to a category of sexual relationships that are necessarily sterile can only widen the separation between marriage and procreation.

The biggest danger homosexual civil marriage presents is the enshrining into law the notion that sexual love, regardless of its fecundity, is the sole criterion for marriage. If the state must recognize a marriage of two men simply because they love one another, upon what basis can it deny marital recognition to a group of two men and three women, for example, or a sterile brother and sister who claim to love each other? Homosexual activists protest that they only want all couples treated equally. But why is sexual love between two people more worthy of state sanction than love between three, or five? When the purpose of marriage is procreation,

the answer is obvious. If sexual love becomes the primary purpose, the restriction of marriage to couples loses its logical basis, leading to marital chaos.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:09 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** cukekuna@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Curt P. Kekuna      | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I am opposed to the Same Sex Marriage Bill to redefine marriage in Hawaii. I am exhorting our law makers to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on such a divisive issue.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:42 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** williamk005@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By         | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| William Kissenberger | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: I would first like to thank you for your service to our State and taking the time to read my written testimony. In my humble opinion and one who is not a lawyer I am somewhat perplexed on the following issues: I feel that S.B.1 may contain Unconstitutional Provisions. S.B.1 redefines marriage as not a religious belief or opinion, but a Practice of a Legal Entity for Monetary Support that is afforded to all, except Same-Sex Partners. The Free Exercise Clause states "Laws are made for the government of actions, and while they cannot interfere with mere religious beliefs and opinions, they may [interfere] with practices." S.B.1 prevents Same-Sex Couples to use or file any administrative proceeding against a non-profit church or facility (§572-F). Since the redefinition of marriage has set aside God's Law, then the only alternative is that Marriage is a Civil Practice and not a Religious Belief. Therefore, S.B.1 is AMBIGUOUS under the Federal Free Exercise Clause. If this bill goes before the U.S. Supreme Court, Christian Churches could be forced to perform a Same-Sex Marriage, when a Same-Sex Couple views their marriage either as their Belief or a Practice under the current language of the S.B.1. Chairman Senator Hee implied this point in his line of questioning during the 10/28/13 hearings - "There are Christians and even Buddhist who are in favor of redefining marriage". What is confusing in S.B.1, is that Same-Sex Partners are prohibited from from taking legal action against any church that refuses to perform their marriage as a Religious "Practice". JUSTICE O'CONNOR wrote a Supreme Court decision that "the Framers may not have asked precisely the questions about religious liberty that we do today, the historical record indicates that they believed that the Constitution affirmatively protects religious free exercise and that it limits the government's ability to intrude on religious PRACTICE...The Religion Clauses of the Constitution represent a profound commitment to religious liberty. Our Nation's Founders conceived of a Republic receptive to voluntary religious expression, not of a secular society in which religious expression is tolerated only when it does not conflict with a generally applicable law. As the historical sources discussed above show, the Free Exercise Clause is properly understood as an affirmative guarantee of the right to participate in religious activities without impermissible governmental interference, even where a believer's conduct is in tension with a law of general application. Certainly, it is in no way anomalous to accord heightened protection to a right identified in the text of the First Amendment". Therefore, S.B.1 cannot prohibit a Same-Sex Partner from taking legal action against a church because the bill has performed impermissible governmental interference. I would like to regress on the Chairman's comments regarding other Christian views in favor of S.B.1. We are all sinners and by free will, at times cause a separation between ourselves and God. It is not our sins that are in question hear. We are against the redefining of God's Law. Thank you, God Bless America and God



Bless the State of Hawaii. You all will be forever in my prayers, not because this issue should be decided by the people, but because you have greater issues ahead of you.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:51 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** nancy-kitchen@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| nancy kitchen | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Re: Bill #SB1 Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 I am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013. The Senate Bill that is about to be passed does not adequately protect religious liberty as the constitution states. They are trying to take away the freedom of several groups of people in the supposed attempt to give more freedom to another group. This will cause major problems for many, many people and is unnecessary. Without adequate safeguards for religious liberty the recognition of same sex marriage will lead to conflicts between many people and lead to a very destructive path. What is needed is a balanced middle ground to provide freedom to All people in the United States, as many states in the U.S. have already done. Please reconsider your path to protect All citizens For this reason, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSITION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 Sincerely, Nancy Kitchen Pahoa, HI

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Attention: Hawaii State Legislator

I would like to share my concerns regarding the upcoming special legislative session to move forward on a bill for marriage equality in Hawaii. I oppose this bill. I strongly feel that if this bill passes individuals who strongly believe in traditional marriage, their religious freedoms taken away. Three reasons why I oppose this bill

1. This bill is contrary to the fundamental religious beliefs that I have...
  - a. I strongly believe marriage is between a man and a woman.
2. This bill redefines marriage and harmful to children, families and society.
  - a. Marriage unites a man and a woman into a partnership strengthened by both the attributes of both genders.
  - b. Throughout society, the purpose of marriage has always been to help ensure children have a mother and father.
    - i. Numerous studies over decades establish children develop best when raised by a father and mother in a stable marriage relationship.
    - ii. With this not in place, communities experience increases in every category of child-development problems, such as depression, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, school dropout rates and crime and is a huge social cost.
  - c. Redefining marriage to include same-sex couples will change the focus of marriage from ensuring children is cared for by his father and mother to accommodating relationships. When the focus of marriage is no longer on children, rather on adults, the protections of children erodes and society will suffer. This is already happening with the increase of divorce rates and will worsen further with same-sex marriage. Let's protect the children; they are our future leaders, workers, and community members of our tomorrow for our country.
3. Redefining marriage reduces religious freedom and redefining to include same-sex couples, enormous legal and social pressure will be against churches and religious people who believe in traditional marriages. Problems will arise such as;
  - a. Schools will teach a new definition to marriage and children who believe in traditional marriages face situations of correction, their comments or ostracized.
  - b. Lawsuits have in other states and brought against individuals, small business, marriage counselors, churches, and their related organizations that refuse to support same-sex marriages on religious grounds.
    - i. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal<sup>1</sup> lists several situations where business that's religious belief is on the traditional marriage were not being supported by our Constitutions right to religious freedom. These businesses had law suits against them for denying service for same-sex marriages either with flowers, photos taken or for performing marriages.
    - ii. Religious groups providing family related services, such as adaption will be loose their State licenses for not providing the same service to same-sex couples as they would for couple in traditional marriages
    - iii. With all of this, society will view and treat those who support traditional marriages for religious reasons as ignorant or bigoted.

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<sup>1</sup> Hemingway, Mollie Ziegler. "Gay Marriages Collides With Religious Liberty" *The Wall Street Journal* 1 pg A-13. 09/20/2013

It is not right and constitutional that same-sex couples can strip me and other individuals who strongly believe in a traditional marriage for our religious beliefs. Our Founding Fathers established in the United States Constitution enabling United States Citizens the ability to have religious freedom.

According to the United States Constitution, The First Amendment (Amendment 1) (1791) states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”<sup>2</sup>

- The First Amendment: the Establishment Clause (1791) states:  
At minimum, the Establishment Clause prevents Congress from establishing a national religion or a national church. The Clause is also invoked to prevent government from endorsing a religion, from helping or hurting a particular religion, or from becoming excessively entangled with religion.”<sup>3</sup>
- First Amendment: Free Exercise Clause (1791) states:  
“This clause protects an absolute freedom of belief. The Founders saw religious liberty as a natural right, and so the First Amendment ensures that all people have an equality of rights to practice their faith. While originally written to apply to actions of the federal government, it was incorporated into state governments through the Fourteenth Amendment by the Supreme Court in the case *Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940).”<sup>4</sup>
- The Fourteenth Amendment XIV Section 1 (1868) states:  
“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”<sup>5</sup>

The above Amendments provide citizens of the State of Hawaii with our rights and freedoms to practice our religious beliefs. Each individual has his or her own standards and beliefs. This bill will compromise individual’s religious beliefs, standards, values, and freedoms.

This bill should never take away religious rights of any individual. Individuals have the right to deny services and or products to others based on individual’s religious beliefs and standards. I strongly urge you to consider all that I shared with you. I ask you to consider what I have stated. I urge you to oppose this bill!

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/americanpedia/americanpedia-bill-of-rights/first-amendment/establishment-clause/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/americanpedia/americanpedia-bill-of-rights/first-amendment/free-exercise-clause/>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_amendments\\_11-27.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG  
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

October 29, 2013

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
AND  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

For Hearing on Thursday, October 31, 2013  
10:00 a.m., Auditorium, State Capitol

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG  
DIRECTOR

**Senate Bill No. 1  
Relating to Equal Rights**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TO CHAIRPERSONS KARL RHOADS, SYLVIA LUKE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

The purpose of S.B. 1 is to permit same-sex couples to marry in the State of Hawai'i. The measure would also recognize marriages between individuals of the same-sex performed in other jurisdictions as a marriage in the State of Hawai'i.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) administers certain employee benefit programs for State employees. DHRD supports S.B. 1 because it would provide the ability for State employees with same-sex partners to enjoy equal rights to benefits eligibility.

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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Dale Faulkner

City, State: Mililani, Hawaii

Subject:

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

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

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

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

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

Signature: 

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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Linda Bragaado

City, State: Mililani HI

Subject:

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

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

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

Signature: Linda Bragaado

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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Colleen Anderson

City, State: Maipaku Hawaii

Subject:

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

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

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

Signature: Colleen Anderson



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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Lynne Kasaoka

City, State: Mililani Hawaii

Subject:

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

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

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

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

Signature: Lynne Kasaoka

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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: MARY KAY DE LOS SANTOS MARCOS

City, State: MILWAUKEE, WI

Subject:

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

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

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

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

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

Signature: Mary Kay De Los Santos Marcos

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

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

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

From: Kingsley Kalohelani

City, State: Milliani, Hawaii

Subject:

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

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

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

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

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

Signature: Kingsley Kalohelani

For example, the State offers wage and salary reduction benefit programs that provide the ability for employees to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain benefits (e.g. medical expenses, dependent or child care, health insurance premiums). These benefit programs must be administered in strict compliance with certain rules and regulations, including the Internal Revenue Code provisions governing cafeteria plans. As a result, employees are eligible to apply these benefits to expenses for their spouse and/or spouse's dependents or children, but not for a non-spousal partner and his/her dependents or children.

As another example, married couples enjoy greater rights than civil union or domestic partners with respect to deferred compensation retirement benefits. Spouses have default beneficiary designation rights and more favorable distribution terms than non-spousal partners. In addition, an employee is eligible for hardship withdrawals to pay for a spouse's medical expenses, but not for the medical expenses of a non-spousal partner.

Married employees also enjoy greater leave rights than employees with non-spousal partners. Under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, an employee may take protected leave to care for a seriously ill spouse or child of the spouse. These leave rights are only available to same-gender couples who are married under the law of the State in which they reside.

The passing of this measure would standardize the application of benefits for couples in a marriage independent of gender. The State, as an employer, should provide equal benefits to all employees. We strongly support S.B. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

I strongly support Marriage Equality.

I never thought I would have the opportunity to refer to Gerald (my love of 42 years) as my 'husband'. It is such a remarkable term. It speaks of longevity, trust, attraction and the social & intellectual pairing of human beings.

There have been so many times during the last 42 years, where being able to marry and use the term 'husband' to explicitly convey our relationship, would have been both appropriate and better for me and to whomever I was speaking. Those missed opportunities began early in our lives.

First, we grew up as teenagers in the Sixties, where the subject of homosexuality was never discussed. We never had any grownup icons to tell us our gay feelings were natural and okay. There was no internet. Any information about being gay was almost non-existent. It was only spoken about in the negative.

We met in the Seventies, where homosexuality had not progressed much from our adolescent years. Gerald and I clung together with the strength of our personal pairing commitment. We were "in the closet" socially.

In the Eighties, being gay became a national news story. We participated in the first Pride parade in West Hollywood. I will never forget the feelings Gerald and I had while holding hands (which we never had done in public) and beginning our walk toward the event while passing a mounted policeman with him greeting us and smiling welcomingly. We had never had such a better self-esteem building day. It still affects us today and still leaves us wanting that feeling again.

In the Nineties, we decided to improve our quality of life, so we came to Hawaii, specifically, Maui. We were pleased with overall community acceptance of our pairing, but I still could not call Gerald my 'husband'.

In the Two Thousands, we had a glimmer of hope for marriage equality in Hawaii. But that got sabotaged. We were very hurt by Hawaii's retreat on Marriage Equality. We had been waiting a long time.

In the Twenty Tens, We had a civil partnership ceremony on our 40 anniversary. We have never enjoyed the benefits of what a marriage brings. And still now, I cannot call Gerald my 'husband'.

I urge you to allow Marriage Equality. It's only fair. I want to say 'husband'.

John Ashton Westerberg  
264 Ea Street  
Wailuku HI 96793  
drijohn@me.com

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG  
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

October 29, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
AND  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

For Hearing on Thursday, October 31, 2013  
10:00 a.m., Auditorium, State Capitol

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG  
DIRECTOR

**Senate Bill No. 1**  
**Relating to Equal Rights**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TO CHAIRPERSONS KARL RHOADS, SYLVIA LUKE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

The purpose of S.B. 1 is to permit same-sex couples to marry in the State of Hawai'i. The measure would also recognize marriages between individuals of the same-sex performed in other jurisdictions as a marriage in the State of Hawai'i.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) administers certain employee benefit programs for State employees. DHRD supports S.B. 1 because it would provide the ability for State employees with same-sex partners to enjoy equal rights to benefits eligibility.

For example, the State offers wage and salary reduction benefit programs that provide the ability for employees to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain benefits (e.g. medical expenses, dependent or child care, health insurance premiums). These benefit programs must be administered in strict compliance with certain rules and regulations, including the Internal Revenue Code provisions governing cafeteria plans. As a result, employees are eligible to apply these benefits to expenses for their spouse and/or spouse's dependents or children, but not for a non-spousal partner and his/her dependents or children.

As another example, married couples enjoy greater rights than civil union or domestic partners with respect to deferred compensation retirement benefits. Spouses have default beneficiary designation rights and more favorable distribution terms than non-spousal partners. In addition, an employee is eligible for hardship withdrawals to pay for a spouse's medical expenses, but not for the medical expenses of a non-spousal partner.

Married employees also enjoy greater leave rights than employees with non-spousal partners. Under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, an employee may take protected leave to care for a seriously ill spouse or child of the spouse. These leave rights are only available to same-gender couples who are married under the law of the State in which they reside.

The passing of this measure would standardize the application of benefits for couples in a marriage independent of gender. The State, as an employer, should provide equal benefits to all employees. We strongly support S.B. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:15 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** jankuester1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Janet Kuester | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013. It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But LET THE PEOPLE VOTE! If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the Bible teaches that gay and lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the Bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the Bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights. I request that if the law should pass, PLEASE put specific language in the bill that will protect churches and clergy from having to perform or allow homosexual marriages to occur on the church property. As well, please put in specific language that having the public come onto the property on a casual or regular basis to participate in community education/service events, Scouting meetings, etc. does not encumber the church/clergy to perform or allow homosexual marriages on the church property. For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSITION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Sincerely, Janet Kuester Keaau, HI

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or



directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY  
25 October 2013

Aloha:

As a 30+ year resident of Hawaii and community influencer, I am deeply concerned about the unintended outcomes that have historically followed such legislation in other states. I am sure that those who have proposed this legislation have done so with the best of intentions, but in an attempt to provide a remedy for a minuscule percentage of people in Hawaii they are potentially imposing massive burdens upon the overwhelming majority of us.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1 for the following reasons:

(1) Any legal and/or financial inequities remaining since the passing of the Civil Unions bill can easily be addressed by amendments to that law WITHOUT redefining marriage.

(2) This is a divisive issue that should be decided by a plebiscite, not by political maneuvering.

(3) In attempting to provide some measure of protection for religious groups who have moral and theological objections to same-gender marriage the State of Hawaii is overstepping its Constitutional authority — the alleged protections for churches state that. **“unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration.”** That wording puts the State in the untenable position of defining who/what constitutes a church, and is based upon endorsement of a single understanding of church that does not reflect the latest scholarship and 21st Century church models.

I am both a Pastor and Presiding Bishop for my church denomination in Hawaii and the Republic of Kiribati. I earned a Masters degree in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary, and my definition of church includes both the **“church assembled”** (the weekly gatherings of believers we typically call *going to church*, in which citizens sing and pray together, encourage one another and learn about their faith), which leads to the **‘church dispersed’** — the individual members of the church living out their faith in their political decisions, business ethics and personal relationships in their everyday lives. The **CHURCH DISPERSED** is individual, personal and every bit as much the church as the church assembled, yet the proposed law provides NO protection for the church dispersed, and little protection for the church assembled.

A local florist, baker, photographer or other service provider who is a devout believer is, in fact, the **CHURCH DISPERSED** and is provided NO legal

protection from being forced to violate their deeply held moral and theological stand against same-gender marriage, and they will be forced into situations that will clearly be a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the federal government from making a law “respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”. The Hawaii State Constitution mirrors that: **No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...** Any State law *prohibiting the free exercise of a person’s faith* as part of the church dispersed is inherently unconstitutional.

The state clearly has no understanding of contemporary missional church models and bases their understanding only upon models like the Roman Catholic Church, a highly hierarchal, institutional church.

Respectfully,

Gary R. Langley  
Presiding Bishop  
Church of God of Prophecy  
Hawai’i and the Republic of Kiribati

45-416 Kamehameha Highway  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Committee,

My name is Arlene K Larrua.

I am a registered voter in District 7 Waikoloa, Hawaii.

I am of Hawaiian Ancestry and Native Cherokee Indian.

I am testifying in writing today that I am strongly **OPPOSED to the SB1Marriage Equality Bill.**

As the leader of Hawaii Women of Purpose a network of 15,000 women of all ages represented across the islands whose mission and purpose is to inspire, educate, connect, honor and act to end domestic violence against women, I submit the following testimony.

The reasons I am OPPOSED are as follows:

- This Bill should have been presented in the regular session of the House/Senate. It is a waste of our taxpayer's money to hold this special session.
- What is the rush? Again I say, "What is the rush?" In all of history throughout the nation, it has taken a minimum of 2 years of legislation to hear, allow testimony, allow all committees to hold testimony, and then a decision was reached. Why in Hawaii do we want to allow the Governor to change thousands of years of culture, Ohana, and standards of living for all in five (5) days or at the most ten (10) days.  
**The process is wrong, and absolutely ridiculous.**
- The bill encroaches upon the religious freedom also allowed in the first amendment.  
**There is not enough language to protect, churches, clergy and the religious freedoms provided to its, people.**
- Legislators have NOT discussed this bill. This bill was not heard last year.. The last time Same Sex Marriage was discussed was in 1998.
- Most current legislators were NOT in office when the Legislature discussed Same Sex Marriage.
- Committee Chairs WILL limit testimony.
- Members will not have the same opportunities to ask questions if the bill is referred to a single joint committee. JUD/FIN vs, JUD, FIN as with the Civil Union Bill.
- Senate President Donna Kim DID NOT agree to a special session.
- Speaker Joseph Souki also DID NOT agree.
- If the Special Session is only 5 days long the bill CANNOT BE AMENDED.
- The committee requires at least ONE (1) public hearing in the HOUSE and ONE (1) in the Senate. But this bill really should have more.
- Hawaii's Legislature will be the first elected body in the WORLD to enact Same-Sex Marriage "overnight" and forever obliterate thousands of years of culture, customs and traditions.
- Hawaii's indigenous values of: Laulima, Lokahi and Ahonui means we are NOT the Mainland.
- Same sex couples can already gain Federal Benefits by traveling to another State that

has legalized SSM and bring back those benefits to Hawaii.

- By Rushing Same Sex Marriage through in this Special Session the STATE WILL OPEN PANDORA'S BOX.
- When the Supreme Court struck down the biblical definition of marriage in June (DOMA) the minority opinion in the case, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, said **the decision in effect deemed those not in favor of gay marriage as "enemies of mankind"**. This act/bill/law would bring more division, conflict, hostility and chaotic behavior rather than peaceful co-existence.
- Historically, Rep. Gohmert said there have been dire consequences for nations with rampant homosexuality. He specifically mentioned that happening in the military of ancient Greece before that country's fall. **"It's one of the mile markers that great civilizations or great empires pass on the way to the dustbin of history."**
- **This bill does not protect the right of parents or children who will be influenced in schools as to the GLBT influence** that will be introduced through guise of "safety" to infiltrating of this lifestyle as normal and acceptable.
- It outright contradicts our First amendment right which says,

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

In closing, may I bring to your attention the plight of motherhood? A mother's joys and dreams are birthed with each child brings into the world. She dreams of that child fulfilling their purpose and destiny. When told by this child that he/she chooses an alternative lifestyle, she does not immediately jump up and down, shout for joy or celebrate the decision by her child that she knows will harm them physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. At best Same Sex Marriages are only a copy-cat solution to the Creator's plan.

However, after processing the feelings of disappointment, and hurt through time and much thought, she chooses to love that same child, in their own choices. Accepting them in their choice as the new normal for the sake of the relationship. Take a minute and think about it.

☐ Sincerely,

Arlene K. Larrua ☐  
Waikoloa, Hawaii



**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:12 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: TESTIMONY SB1 (Written Only)

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

**From:** Sheldon Lacsina [<mailto:slacsina@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:33 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY SB1

Dear Honorable Chair and House committee:

My name is Sheldon Lacsina, I was born and raised here on Oahu in Waimanalo and am currently the lead pastor of New Hope Hilo Hawaii on the Big Island representing a congregation of 1500 people.

I oppose SB1

Marriage has three basic components, two people joined together, solemnization, and procreation. This bill will give the first two, but will never be able to fulfill the third. So it is not marriage equality at all. You can redefine the definition of our moon and call it a sun, it may orbit like the sun, have the same shape as the sun, but it will never be able to shine like the sun. Therefore changing the definition does not make it equal. Keeping the definition of marriage does not judge gays at all or make them 2nd class citizens.

Slaves in our country were freed, but the definition of slavery was not changed. Women now have the right to vote, but the definition of woman remains the same.

We as a people may have evolved and changed, so redefine Civil Unions, not marriage, that is true equality. Tell me, with such smart and gifted people in our government, we cannot do better in offering same sex couples the same rights, benefits, medical fairness and equality without changing the definition of marriage.

I too believe that everyone should be treated fairly, so let's look at alternative laws or amendments like HB-5 rather than changing the definition of a word that has caused you lack of rest, headaches,

marital debate and does not bring equality to our keiki who will suffer the consequences of this proven dismantling of culture in the states and nations that have passed this law.

Yes, as religious leaders and clergy, we do have a choice to not marry same sex couples, so do other clergy in other states, but they have paid the price of a lawsuit to go with their choice due to the law.

What makes this a great state are not the laws, it's the culture of our people. But that all changes once you put this into law because it will change our culture. I ask each of you as legislators, to search your soul, not political strategy, or pressure, but dig deep into your legacy and what you will be remembered for. Twenty years from now, your colleagues will not be by your side, nor will the governor, but your children and grandchildren will be. I want you to picture yourself on your death bed, and those who are by your side, I guarantee you, not one of your colleagues today will be there supporting you and your family, and neither will the governor. Don't make your decision based on what a small majority of the states are doing, just to go with the flow, rivers do that only to end up going down the waterfall. If you vote yes on this bill, you will regret that decision the moment you do if in your heart you wish to vote no. Many of your children will see you as heroes when they find out you went against the grain of pressure and turned from a yes to this bill, to a no because you thought of them and their families.

Thank you to Reps. Onishi and Tsuji for your support. Thank you.

-Sheldon Lacsina

[www.newhopehilo.org](http://www.newhopehilo.org)



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:36 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** macy@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)\*

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Macy Lee            | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:56 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** darnellemann@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Darnelle Liugalua   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I strongly oppose to the SB1. As a mother to 3 boys I don't want my children to be required to learn about same sex and that it's ok. The videos of what is being taught in Canada is very disturbing to me as an adult that i can't imagine what it how it will affect my children and the children of Hawaii. I have relatives whom are gay/lesbians that I love dearly. They have ready did the Civil Union because of benefits and I totally understand where they are coming from. This SB1 is a totally different story. This will affect our religion, education system and small businesses. Please let the people decide. Thank you!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** leoliugalua@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b>     | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Liugalua R.<br>Liugalua | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: My name is Liugalua Liugalua and I'm a registered voter and I stand opposed to SB1. I believe that marriage is between a man and woman and that right should be held sacred. Let the decision be made by the voters not just by elected officials.

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Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Chair Luke and Members of the Judiciary & Finance Committee,

I am opposed to SB 1. My desire to express this is not out of hatred or condemnation for the homosexual community. While personally I do not support the homosexual lifestyle, I believe that “we are all sinners and fallen short of the Glory of God.” It is not my place to judge the choices made by others – that is God’s job. However, I am deeply disturbed the ambiguity in the language of the bill regarding the exemption for churches and religious organizations. The exemptions expressed in the bill as the language stands are narrow and specific. Most churches as well as Christian organizations have open door policies. Thus, most of these are “not-for-profit” organizations. However, many of them do supplement their operational income by renting out their facilities for weddings and celebrations to the public. To force any organization to do something which goes against their fundamental core values is simply wrong! Whether Christian or otherwise, our US Constitution provides that as long as exercise of our religious freedom does not harm or infringe on the rights of others, it should not be “Entangled” by the government. Forcing churches, religious schools, religious organizations, and private individual businesses whose core belief that homosexuality is wrong to accept homosexual couples would be an Entanglement at the highest level. Homosexual couples are free to seek out and even create their own organizations which discriminate wholly against those who do not support homosexual couples. This is a fundamental right which is extended to all people and deserves the strictest scrutiny by our government. There are other opportunities available to homosexual couples which do not infringe on the rights of any others.

Please DO NOT pass this bill as it stands!

Mahalo,

Lori Stibb  
Kailua, HI



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:43 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** lowej@byuh.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| JoAnn Lowe          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I am opposed to SB1. As politicians you all need to LISTEN to the pleas of the people you SERVE, and let the people vote on the issue of same sex marriage in Hawaii. Are you afraid you will lose?

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October 29, 2013

Re: Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

I am writing to ask for your serious consideration on the proposed legislation that would redefine the relationship and nature of marriage in Hawaii. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, this is an important issue to me.

**I strongly oppose SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, the Act known as Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, and ask for your support.**

President Gordon B. Hinckley stated, "The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife. The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan."

**Please also carefully consider to include in any legislation relating to Equal Rights a strong exemption for people and organizations of faith. The exemption should:**

- Protect religious organizations and officials from being required to support or perform same-sex marriage or from having to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities; and
- Protect individuals and small businesses from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same-sex marriages.

The Church's opposition to same-sex marriage neither constitutes nor condones any kind of hostility toward gays and lesbians. Even more, the Church does not object to rights for same-sex couples regarding hospitalization and medical care, fair housing and employment rights, or probate rights, so long as these do not infringe on the integrity of the traditional family or the constitutional rights of churches.

**Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION of SB1.**

*Sandra N. Mactagone*

Sandra Mactagone  
2671 Anuu Place, Apt. O  
Honolulu, HI 96819



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:31 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** madayagm002@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)  
**Attachments:** image.jpg

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Marcelino Madayag   | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Let the people vote on SB1, Sex & marriage is design by God; between a man and a woman because it is sacred act and you can not violate it. Just like any race or ethnicity or equality it is sacred and you can not violate it, how do you sacralize ethnicity, equality & desacralize marriage? Let the people vote. Mahalo Marcelino Madayag Koloa, Kauai

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**From:** [REDACTED] Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:39 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: PASS SB1 (Written Only)

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**From:** JR Mandrial [<mailto:jrmandrial@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:03 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** PASS SB1

Please pass SB1, as I believe marriage should be available to all.

Thank you.  
Isayas Mandrial Jr.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:42 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** sumanzon@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sue Manzon          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I understand that the Judiciary and Finance committees are now reviewing SB 1 "Relating to Equality" a bill that, if enacted, will forever redefine marriage in Hawaii. The bill passed the Senate Judiciary and Labor on October 28 in spite of thousands of people who came to capitol to oppose Senate action. I understand that the Senate will be voting on October 30 and the House Judiciary has scheduled a hearing for Thursday, October 31. This email is to ask you, as my legislator, please, vote NO on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage. At the very least, a constitutional amendment should be placed on the ballot next year so that we the people can make our voice heard on this important issue. As you consider the legislation before you, I want to make it very clear that I am a registered voter and do not support same-sex marriage.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:44 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** sumanzon@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sue Manzon          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. S. Manzon

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:21 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** sumanzon@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sue Manzon          | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Greetings, I am on the outer islands. I am a grandmother and education employee. I am opposed to same sex marriage because it is not healthy for our children. I am not opposed to persons having their private lives but as a registered voter, I oppose this bill. Thank you

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:06 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** damatsuyans@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Emerald Matsuyama | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: Oct 31, 10:00a House Judiciary and Finance Committee Re: Bill #SB1 Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 I will not be testifying in person I am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013. It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But LET THE PEOPLE VOTE! If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights. For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSITION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Sincerely, Emerald M.B. Matsuyama private citizen 99 Krauss Avenue Hilo, Hawaii 96720

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:28 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** vmcarty@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| VICKI MCCARTY | Individual   | Support            | No                   |

Comments: I SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THIS BILL. EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THE SAME BENEFITS THAT I AM ENTITLED TO. IT IS TIME TO PASS THIS BILL AND MOVE FORWARD. I HAVE NOT SUBMITTED TESTIMONY ON THIS BILL PREVIOUSLY BUT, IT IS TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED ON THIS ISSUE. I SUPPORT THIS BILL. VICKI MCCARTY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:12 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** johnandcarlina@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Carlina McCue | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: Hello, My name is Carlina McCue. I live in Waipio Gentry. I am asking that you, Please vote NO on SB1. ~ There is no reason to vote on such a volatile issue in this special session. ~ The democratic process is being circumvented. Let it be vetted properly in regular session. ~ Religious freedoms and First Amendment rights are being placed in jeopardy by this bill and the public accommodations section will absolutely NOT protect churches. ~ Civil Unions already protect same gender couples. ~ SCOTUS ruled in 2007 that marriage is NOT a civil right! ~ Let the people decide in a constitutional amendment to be voted on in 2014. ~ Again, PLEASE vote NO on SB1. Let The People Decide! Mahalo Aloha, Carlina

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Honorable Representatives,

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Michael B. McGuire



---

**From:** [REDACTED] Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:59 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Senate Bill 1 (Written Only)

---

**From:** Dennis Mendoza [<mailto:dmendoza@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 10:04 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 1

Aloha,

I am Dennis Mendoza, a pastor at International Baptist Church in Honolulu. God has entrusted each of you with a tremendous responsibility and I have been praying for you as you are on the eve of making a decision that each of you will one day be accountable to Almighty God for. Senate Bill 1, if passed will ultimately prove to be extremely detrimental to our society. We are heading towards having a country where everyone does what is right in their own eyes and has a total disregard towards what is right in the sight of God. Yet, God is not mocked and we will reap what we sow.

God's standard for marriage is one man to one woman and it will never change. Anything else is a counterfeit marriage. Please do not pass Senate Bill 1. Do the right thing in the eyes of God.

Thank you for the time you have taken to read this.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Dennis Mendoza  
636-3559





**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:38 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** metcalf@hawaiiink.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By        | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| christopher metcalf | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: I understand how much pressure you are under and I pray for you often. I respect you office so PLEASE consider what next week means for Hawaii. By bringing this to a vote in special session what you are saying is "I could care less about the faith community" The LGBT community already has civil unions and thus benefits etc... If the issue is benefits address that issue. There agenda is not about the ceremony at all. This measure will forever alter Hawaii businesses, churches, schools, hospitals etc.... By your rushing..... You are saying I do not care about what the people of Hawaii think is important and I want to push their concerns out of the public dialogue. We must do an environmental impact statement. PLEASE for the sake of Hawaii vote NO. Just look at the conversation taking place in our state. This is no small issue and is proof of the pushing of agendas. This is not about rights at all. Rights were given with the Civil Union bill. Just admit this is about silencing the faith community. Chris Metcalf Lihue, Kauai

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:40 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** dmoef04@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Darrell Moe         | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Aloha, My name is Darrell Moe, I am from Laie, Oahu. I am opposed to the bill SB1. I will not be testifying at the hearing tomorrow. I am opposes to SB1, because after reading the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2012, it seems that the government is seeking to control some aspects of religion, which is not right. This country was founded for that reason, and the very government should be defending our religious freedom, not seeking to control it for the benefits of the few. I am also opposed to SB1 because of the mess same sex marriage laws are creating in states and nations where it is upheld. I do not approve oft children being indoctrinated with ideology I do not believe is right. Also, in Kansas, a sperm donor is being sued by the state to pay child support because a lesbian couple, to whom he donated sperm to, had split up. Unbelievable. Please do not pass this bill to which the majority is opposed. Are you as members of government, to represent the people? Then hear our voice. Do not ignore the majority. Please let us decide. Mahalo

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:22 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** j.kuahiwim@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b>        | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jonathan Kuahiwim<br>Moniz | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I urge my law makers that I voted them in office, that I support equal rights to marriage, as a wedding officiant of no specific demonination, I support the equal rights to marry individuals who they wish to marry.

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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:09 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Special Session SB 1 (Written Only)

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

**From:** [maroon710@yahoo.com](mailto:maroon710@yahoo.com) [<mailto:maroon710@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:22 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Special Session SB 1

I oppose SB 1. In 1998, 69.2% voted Yes to give the Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples ONLY. What's to redifine that? Hawaii is contaminated with lies from you legislatures. I'm very concerned for my individual rights as a citizen and for the innocent children that will be affected by force on what they will be learning if SB 1 passes. Please regard Hawaii and not just the LGBT group. Leviticus 18:22

Mahalo

Jeneen Montero  
Sent from my LG phone



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:22 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** hawaiimarti@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Martha Morishige    | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Aloha Legislators! I do not support changing the formal definition of marriage. Marriage from the beginning of time was about one man and one woman leaving their parents and being joined together so they could help each other and raise children from the union. Children are going to be terribly affected if marriage is going to be made meaningless with people of the same sex declaring they have the same relationship as a marriage with a man and a woman. Children are going to be confused and those who pass this bill will be held responsible for turning society upside down. This whole thing centers around sexual freedom for any perverse activity, let everyone have sex with anyone they want to, let sex be so out in the open that it is made vulgar to children. This bill will create more and more emotionally disturbed people and children. We will be the laughing stock of societys that keep marriage within historical traditions. Martha Morishige Former elementary teacher and mother of three children, grandmother of four children too. Martha Morishige

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

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this testimony in support of Bill SB1 and for equal rights. My name is Kawika Muller and I am a native Hawaiian born on Kaua'i in 1979 and raised on O'ahu. In 2006 I lost a dear friend of mine, Steven M. Mackin to Ewing Sarcoma. He was just 8 days my senior. I knew Stephen from online and my single greatest regret was that I never met him in person. I never again wanted to live with this kind of regret so I vowed to live my life to the fullest in honour of Steven since he couldn't.

I spent majority of 2009 travelling to places I'd always wanted to go but made excuses not to. In August of that year I found myself visiting Martin McGarrie who was an online friend that lived in Glasgow, Scotland. I had no idea I was going to meet a man who was about to change my life. Martin and I bonded over the love of travel and adventure. To make a long story short, he and I have been a couple since 2009 and moved to New Zealand in 2010 to be together.

On December 13, 2010 Martin and I entered into a Civil Union while living in Auckland, New Zealand. We spent a year living there before deciding to move on. The United States doesn't recognise our Civil Union so we had no other choice but to move to Scotland where they do. I have spent the last 2 years exploring the UK with him and learning about his Scottish heritage. Martin has spent a total of 6 months in Hawaii but has never been allowed to stay longer due to Visa restrictions.

It was an historic moment when the Supreme Court ruled the Defense Of Marriage Act unconstitutional. This means we now have the opportunity to return to the United States and I no longer have to live in exile. Although our Civil Union doesn't grant Martin immigration rights, we are still grateful for the chance to return.

A week or so ago I applied for a K1 Fiancé Visa for Martin and we have been making plans to get married in Seattle Washington. Neither of us have any connection to Seattle other than both always wanting to visit there. When I learned of proposed bill SB1 I was over the moon. Just the thought of the potential of being able to get married in my home state with all of my family and friends is very exciting.

Opponents of Bill SB1 purport that Civil Unions grant all the benefits of marriage but my situation clearly demonstrate why that is not correct. If my Civil Union was equal to marriage then Martin would be able to enter the US as my spouse but he does not qualify as merely my Civil Partner. The outdated philosophy of "separate but equal" is being applied and even then it is not an entirely accurate description.

I am a supporter of Bill SB1 because it will help people like me achieve full recognition of equal rights. I am a supporter of this bill because it is about acceptance and not just tolerance. I love my country and my state but I was forced to choose between them and the man I love and I chose Martin. I would like to live in a world that I can have both and Bill SB1 would allow just that.

Please feel free to share my testimony with anyone you may wish. Mine is a story that deserves to be told even though it is by no means unique as I know of many other bi-national couples living in exile that would also like to return home. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Kawika Kamuela Muller



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**From:** [REDACTED] Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:49 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: I SUPPORT SB 1 (Written Only)

**From:** Amanda Naranjo 周娜美 [<mailto:onelovealoha@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 8:04 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony; Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 1

I am writing in support of the Marriage Equality Bill. As a lesbian woman, I dream like many others to have a happy marriage. I believe Love should be an equal opportunity. Thank You for your service and helping move Hawaii toward true Equality.

Mahalo,  
Amanda Naranjo



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:22 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** ben@nihipali.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By        | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Geralyn G. Nihipali | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: My heart is heavy as I write this email message. I am a child of a mother and a father and that's the only way a child can be created. I belong to a family where there is a male father, a female mother, brothers and sisters. Marriage of a man and a woman and the family that they create is what helps to form a community and a strong society. I was taught right from wrong, taught to distinguish between truth and error, taught to know what is not good is sin. Same- sex marriage is not good - it is a sin. My conscience does not allow me to accept this proposal at all. My grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be growing up in a society where this redefinition of marriage will be taught in the school curriculum, will be read about in books found in the classroom and in the school libraries. They will be faced with other sexual orientation issues. The gay and lesbian groups will not stop pushing their way in to get respect for their choices. Why should they when what they're doing is not right, not good for our communities, our schools, our society. Please vote NO to this SB1. Thank You. Please vote to LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE. This is such an important issue for our state of Hawaii to rush through in such a short special session. Why can't other issues such as housing, the homeless, unemployment, education, etc. be discussed and settled in special sessions? Sincerely, Geralyn G. Nihipali 55-551 Moana Street Laie, Hi 96762

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**From:** [REDACTED] Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 4:04 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY (Written Only)

**From:** [tennyson.pete@gmail.com](mailto:tennyson.pete@gmail.com) [<mailto:tennyson.pete@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Pete & Tennyson  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2013 3:18 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

Article 1, Section 1, of the Hawai‘i State Constitution states “ALL POLITICAL POWER OF THIS STATE IS INHERENT IN THE PEOPLE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXERCISE THEREOF RESTS WITH THE PEOPLE. ALL GOVERNMENT IS FOUNDED ON THIS AUTHORITY.”

As residents of the beautiful state of Hawai‘i and with utmost respect, we would like to take this opportunity to express our disappointment with the Governor in calling a special legislative session which we believe has circumvented our right to speak into the issue of same-sex marriage and is an attempt to take away our right to vote on the issue.

We feel that the issue of same sex marriage should be voted on by the people. The use of a special session limits our opportunity to voice our opinions on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

The people of Hawai‘i voted in 1998 to preserve the tradition of marriage by granting the Hawai‘i Legislature the power to prevent same-sex marriage from being conducted or recognized in Hawai‘i. It was the will of the people in 1998 and we believe it is still the will of the majority, and it will always be the will of God which is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let us remember the foundational truths and morals this country was founded upon.

We currently facilitate marriage classes in Hilo as we have witnessed the need for people to understand and apply the foundational and biblical design for marriage, because the biblical design for marriage works. We see the impact of what happens to marriages and families when foundational truths are not understood; frustration, confusion, resentment, abuse, divorce, disrespect, unloving behaviors and list goes on and on.

Marriage was created by God as the union of one man and one woman. Truth is not relative just as marriage is not something that can be “redefined”.

We send this written testimony with a desperate plea to please allow this matter to be voted on by the people of Hawai'i. Thank you for letting our voice be heard.

Peter & Tennyson Noyes  
PO Box 7552  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 640-1459

## **Same-Sex Marriage: Not in the Best Interest of Children**

(May / June 2009 issue of "The Therapist," a publication of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists—CAMFT)

By Trayce Hansen, Ph.D.  
www.drtraycehansen.com

As mental health professionals, it's our ethical and moral obligation to support policies that are in the best interest of those we serve, particularly those who are most vulnerable—namely, children. Same-sex marriage may be in the best interest of adult homosexuals who yearn for social and legal recognition of their unions, but it's not in the best interest of children.

Proponents of same-sex marriage believe love is all children really need. Based on that supposition, they conclude it's just as good for children to be raised by loving parents of the same sex, as by loving parents of the opposite sex. But that basic assumption—and all that flows from it—is naively simplistic and denies the complex nature and core needs of human beings.

According to decades of research, the ideal family structure for children is a two-parent, mother-father family.<sup>(1,2,3)</sup> That research consistently shows that children raised in such families are more likely to thrive—psychologically, mentally, and physically—than children reared in any other kind of family configuration.

Extensive research also reveals that not only mothers, but also fathers, are critical to the healthy development of children. Swedish researchers reviewed the best longitudinal studies from around the world that assessed the effects of fathers on children's development. Their review spanned 20 years of studies and included over 22,000 children, and found that fathers reduce behavioral problems in boys and psychological problems in girls, enhance cognitive development, and decrease delinquency.<sup>(4)</sup>

It's clear that children benefit from having both a male and female parent. Recent medical research confirms genetically determined differences between men and women and those fundamental differences help explain why mothers and fathers bring unique characteristics to parenting that can't be replicated by the other sex. Mothers and fathers simply aren't interchangeable. Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father. One-sex parenting, whether by a single parent or a homosexual couple, deprives children of the full range of parenting offered by dual-sex couples.

Only mother-father families afford children the opportunity to develop relationships with a parent of the same, as well as the opposite sex. Relationships with both sexes early in life make it easier and more comfortable for a child to relate to both sexes later in life. Overall, having a relationship with both a male and female parent increases the likelihood that a child will have successful social and romantic relationships during his or her life.<sup>(5)</sup>

Moreover, existing research on children reared by homosexuals is not only scientifically flawed and extremely limited<sup>(6,7,8)</sup> but some of it actually indicates that those children are at increased risk for a variety of negative outcomes.<sup>(6)</sup> Other studies find that homosexually parented children are more likely to experiment sexually, experience sexual confusion, and engage in homosexual and bisexual behavior themselves.<sup>(5,6,9)</sup> And for those children who later engage in non-heterosexual behavior, extensive research reveals they are more likely to suffer from psychiatric disorders, abuse alcohol and drugs,<sup>(10)</sup> attempt suicide,<sup>(11)</sup> experience domestic violence and sexual assault,<sup>(12)</sup> and are at increased risk for chronic diseases, AIDS, and shortened life spans.<sup>(13,14,15)</sup>

It shouldn't be surprising that studies find children reared by homosexuals are more likely to engage in homosexual behavior themselves<sup>(16,9,17)</sup> since extensive worldwide research reveals homosexuality is primarily environmentally induced. Specifically, social and/or family factors, as well as permissive environments which affirm homosexuality, play major environmental roles in the development of

homosexual behavior.<sup>(18,19,20,21)</sup> There's no question that human sexuality is fluid and pliant.<sup>(22)</sup> Consider ancient Greece and Rome—among many early civilizations—where male homosexuality and bisexuality were nearly ubiquitous. That was not so because most of those men were born with a "gay gene," rather because sexuality is malleable and socially influenced.

Same-sex marriage no doubt will increase sexual confusion and sexual experimentation by young people. The implicit and explicit message of same-sex marriage is that all choices are equally acceptable and desirable. So even children from traditional homes—influenced by the all-sexual-options-are-equal message—will grow up thinking it doesn't matter whom one relates to sexually or marries. Holding such a belief will lead some—if not many—young people to consider sexual and marital arrangements they never would have contemplated previously.

It also must be expected that if society permits same-sex marriage, it also will have to allow other types of non-traditional marriage. The legal logic is simple: If prohibiting same-sex marriage is discriminatory, then disallowing polygamous marriage, polyamorous marriage, or any other marital grouping also will be deemed discriminatory. In fact, such legal maneuverings have already begun. The emotional and psychological ramifications of these assorted arrangements on the developing psyches and sexuality of children would be disastrous.

To date, very little research exists that assesses long-term outcomes for homosexually parented children. According to Charlotte Patterson, a self-proclaimed, pro-same-sex-marriage researcher, there are only two longitudinal studies of children raised by lesbians.<sup>(23)</sup> And no long-term studies of children raised by homosexual men. A professional organization dedicated to the welfare of its patients cannot and should not support drastic change in social policy based on just two, small and non-representative longitudinal studies.

Certainly homosexual couples can be just as loving toward children as heterosexual couples, but children need more than love. They require the distinctive qualities and complementary natures of a male and female parent. The accumulated wisdom of over 5,000 years concludes that the ideal marital and parental configuration is composed of one man and one woman. This time-tested wisdom is now supported by the most advanced, scientifically sound research available.

Importantly, and to their credit, many self-proclaimed pro-same-sex-marriage researchers acknowledge that there is as of yet no definitive evidence as to the impact of homosexual parenting on children. Regardless, some of those advocates support same-sex marriage because they believe it offers a natural laboratory in which to assess the long-term impact on children.<sup>(24)</sup> That position is unconscionable and indefensible.

Same-sex marriage isn't in the best interest of children. While we may empathize with those homosexuals who long to be married and parent children, we mustn't allow our compassion for them to trump our compassion for children. In a contest between the desires of some homosexuals and the needs of all children, we cannot allow the children to lose.

CAMFT, like all mental health organizations, must base policy decisions on scientific evidence and research findings, not personal belief and political opinion. Most importantly, they must never allow children to be used as guinea pigs in unwise and potentially harmful social experiments.

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Dr. Trayce L. Hansen is a licensed psychologist with a clinical and forensic practice. She received her Ph.D. from the California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego, in 1997. Dr. Hansen's professional experiences are varied although she's particularly interested in the areas of marriage, parenting, male/female differences, and homosexuality. Dr. Hansen has extensively reviewed the literature in these areas and occasionally writes commentaries based on her findings that have been published worldwide.

###

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Aloha pumehana kākou,

‘O au nō ‘o Paige Miki Kalāokananiki‘eki‘e Okamura, no Pa‘ala‘a, Waialua, O‘ahu-a-Lua, ke kūkala aku nei me ka ikaika, me ka leo nui a me ka pu‘uwai hāmama, he hoa kāko‘o kēia no ka po‘e māhū. ‘A‘ohe kumu ko kākou no ka hō‘ole ‘ana - ‘oiai ‘o kekahi lula pa‘a ma luna o kākou e noho nei ma lalo o ke aupuni ‘o Amelika Huipua, ua ho‘oka‘awale ‘ia ka haipule me ke aupuni. Ne pēlā, ‘a‘ohe mea e hō‘ole pono ai i ko lākou hui aloha ‘ana. ‘O nā kumu a‘u i lohe ai mai nā kānaka noho na‘aupō, he mau pulukeke wale - ‘o kekahi, no ka hana ‘ino ‘ana i nā keiki ma muli o ka hui ‘ana o nā māhū. Ke kū‘ē aku nei kēia i ua mana‘o nei, ua ‘oi loa aku ka hana ‘ino ‘ana o nā kānaka "pololei" ma luna o ka po‘e māhū. Na lākou ‘o po‘e kū‘ē māhū ka hewa o ka hana ‘ino me ka ho‘okae ‘ana - e like me ma mua i ka wā o ka ho‘okae ‘ili. Mai nō a ho‘i kākou i ka pō.

Na‘u me ke aloha a me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Paige M.K. Okamura

Lā 29 o ‘Okakopa,

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My name is Lynn Onderko. I am a proud American, a proud mother and a proud Army spouse. I am blessed to be married to my best friend and true partner for 15 years. But I struggle every day knowing that this right has not been afforded to everyone that wants it.

This is a civil rights issue. The constitution represents all our citizens equally. Marriage is not an exclusive privilege for only certain qualifying couples. The time is now, we must do the right thing. Pass Marriage Equality.

Respectfully,

Lynn Onderko

Name (print): Lynn Onderko

Street: 91-1199 Waiemi

City: Ewa Beach, HI

Email address: lynneronderko@gmail.com



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I am, <sup>a</sup>retired mother of two grown sons who are part of Generation X. One son identifies as Native Hawaiian and the other son identifies as Black, or African American. These facts inform my belief in and support of equality for all in our land of Aloha.

We must all Move On to Marriage Equality.

Respectfully,

Joyce M. Charles

Name (print): Joyce Midori Charles  
Street: 4964 Kilauea Ave, Apt. 1  
City: HONOLULU 96816  
Email address: joyce.charles @ yahoo.com

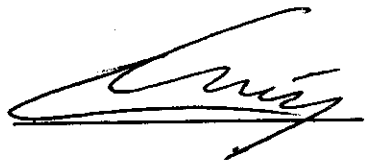
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Tom Brower

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

It is time to pass marriage between same sex individuals. Been a gay man I want to have the choice if I want to marry. I don't think is fair that a group of people limit my rights as a U.S. citizen. Thank you for your support and I'm looking forward to have multiple rights.

Respectfully,



Name (print): Andres Autrique

Street: 445 Seaside Ave #3002

City: Honolulu, HI 96815

Email address: aac12@earthlink.net.

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Marriage should <sup>be</sup> available to all regardless of gender. I support marriage as a right that should not be bridged to those of opposite genders. Gender itself is not fixed; it is a preference. So then should we limit marriage to those of opposite genders? So let's make marriage available to all including gender minorities. It is estimated that 10% of our adult population in Hawaii belongs to gender minorities.

Respectfully,

(LGTB)

Randy Huck

Name (print): Randy Huck

Street: 3324 Sierra Dr. Apt. 103

City: Honolulu, HI 96816

Email address:

Randy In Kaimuki@gmail.com


Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

There's no argument to oppose love and committed relationships. The support for Marriage Equality is about no-discrimination and basic human rights. This is not about a religious ceremony, or what God thinks or meant according to whomever's interpretation of a bible. THIS IS ABOUT THE LAW, LEGAL RIGHTS, FAMILIES that already exist and ARE NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR because someone says God doesn't "love them" "approve of them" etc. This about the Constitution NOT the bible or the Koran. The Law rules, not anyone's different type of church or temple !!!

Respectfully,



Name (print): Adriana ANDRIST

Street: 3518 Alani Dr.

City: Honolulu HI 96822

Email address: Andrea Andrist@msn.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I have been waiting for 35 years to marry my partner. In 1998 I was hopeful of the possibility. I am now considered a senior citizen and as I rapidly approach end of life issues I never dreamed it would take my state so long to do the right thing. Please don't make me wait any longer to have the same rights as my married brothers and sisters. As a tax payer, voter, retired government worker and all around respectful citizen of Hawaii I believe I am due this.

Respectfully,

Monica N. Montgomery

Name (print): Monica Neilani Montgomery

Street: 222 Opihikao Way

City: Honolulu

Email address: Pollywograinbow@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

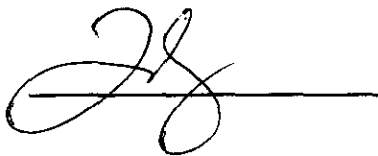
I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have lived in Hawaii my entire life and have grown up being taught values of love, respect and acceptance. During this time of decision that will affect all families in Hawaii, I am in support of marriage equality.

I have several friends and family members who are gay and/or lesbian and I support their freedom to love as other couples love and to be treated with fairness and justice and be extended the same rights as any other couple living in Hawaii.

As our state motto suggests: *Ua mau ke Ea o Ka Aina i ka pono.*  
The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness!

Respectfully,



Name (print): Lauralee Bacy

Street: 3476 KAZIMI ST APT B

City: HONOLULU, HI 96819

Email address:

Kuika143@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My name is Crystal Maya Cathcart. I am a Honolulu resident and I have previously resided in Aiea and Kailua. I am in a same-sex relationship with my girlfriend of nearly six years. We adopted a beautiful daughter two years ago out of the Oregon Child Welfare system. I am a social worker with the Hawaii Department of Human Services & Sheena is an associate at a local architecture company. I stand in strong support of marriage equality in Hawai'i. I am honored ~~to be~~ to be a part of this discussion and thank you for your consideration of making marriage for all loving couples a possibility. I love this great state and hope to make it better. I hope my fellow citizens, including yourselves, will work towards that goal with me. As a tax payer, as a volunteer, and as a state employee, I deserve the same access to marriage as my fellow co-workers, community members, and friends. Please support marriage equality so that we can all make Hawai'i an even greater place to live!

Crystal Maya Cathcart

Name (print): Crystal Maya Cathcart

Street: Puua Ln.

City: Honolulu

Email address: crystalcathcart@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I and my same-sex partner, Stephan Tschudi, have been residents of Hawaii for more than 25 years. We consider these islands to be our home. We have been together as a couple for almost 30 years. We changed our surnames to have the same surname — Tschudi — ten years ago to visibly show our union and commitment to each other. Ever since same-sex marriage began to be legalized in some other U.S. states, we have considered whether we wanted to travel to <sup>one of</sup> those states in order to get married, but our decision has always been that we wanted to get married in this state, our home, where our family + friends live. We have been waiting a long time for this to be possible, and now, with the Special Legislative Session, it seems that now there is finally a real possibility for marriage equality to be legalized in Hawaii. For this reason

Respectfully,

Daniel Tschudi

Name (print):

Daniel Tschudi

Street:

1743 10<sup>th</sup> Ave #1.C

City:

Honolulu, HI 96816

Email address:

daniel.tschudi@gmail.com

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of marriage equality in Hawaii (it is the trend all over the U.S.) so that Stephan and my union can enjoy the same State recognition as that of heterosexual married couples. This is a wonderful chance for our State to show true Aloha Spirit for all residents in these islands!



PE'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

ALOHA MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY,

I AM WRITING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE  
EQUALITY FOR HAWAII.

MY NAME IS SHEENA SHOOK AND I AM A RESIDENT  
OF HONOLULU.

IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR MY GIRLFRIEND AND OUR  
DAUGHTER TO MOVE THROUGH OUR SOCIETY WHILE  
THE LESS THAN EQUAL TREATMENT PRESENTS  
ITSELF EACH AND EVERYDAY.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS IMPORTANT TO ME  
AS A LESBIAN SO THAT I CAN BE PROUD  
OF THIS PLACE THAT I LIVE, LIVE WITH  
ALOHA AND HUBBLY MAKING MY PART IN  
THIS LIFE IS IMPORTANT. LEGALLY, IT IS  
IMPORTANT SO THAT MY GIRLFRIEND AND  
I CAN BE EQUALLY PROTECTED.

THANK YOU FOR BEING THAT ALL ARE  
GRANTED EQUAL RIGHTS IN THIS  
BEAUTIFUL STATE OF OURS.

SINCERELY,

SHEENA SHOOK  
318 PUNA LN, # B  
HONOLULU, HI 96813



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:44 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: SB1 (Written Only)

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

**From:** Sueyen Ortiz [<mailto:sueyen.ortiz@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:44 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** SB1

My husband and I are opposed to SB1. In a country with the very foundations of God, we stand to keep traditional marriage as biblically defined to be between 1 man and 1 woman. Please.

Sincerely,

Mr and Mrs William Ortiz Jr.

PO Box 281

Lawai, HI 96765

# The Top Ten Harms of Same-Sex "Marriage"

BY PETER SPRIGG



Some advocates of same-sex "marriage" scoff at the idea that it could harm anyone. Here are ten ways in which society could be harmed by legalizing same-sex "marriage." Most of these effects would become evident only in the long run, but several would occur immediately.

## Immediate Effects

### **Taxpayers, consumers, and businesses would be forced to subsidize homosexual relationships.**

One of the key arguments often heard in support of homosexual civil "marriage" revolves around all the government "benefits" that homosexuals claim they are denied. Many of these "benefits" involve one thing—taxpayer money that homosexuals are eager to get their hands on. For example, one of the goals of homosexual activists is to take part in the biggest government entitlement program of all—Social Security. Homosexuals want their partners to be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits when one partner dies.

The fact that Social Security survivors benefits were intended to help stay-at-home mothers who did not have retirement benefits from a former employer has not kept homosexuals from demanding the benefit.<sup>1</sup> Homosexual activists are also demanding that children raised by a homosexual couple be eligible for benefits when one of the partners dies—even if the deceased partner was not the child's biological or adoptive parent.

As another example, homosexuals who are employed by the government want to be able to name their homosexual partners as dependents in order to get the taxpayers to pay for health insurance for them. Never mind that most homosexual couples include two

wage-earners, each of whom can obtain their own insurance. Never mind that "dependents" were, when the tax code was developed, assumed to be children and stay-at-home mothers. And never mind that homosexuals have higher rates of physical disease, mental illness, and substance abuse,<sup>2</sup> leading to more medical claims and higher insurance premiums. No, all of these logical considerations must give way in the face of the demand for taxpayer subsidies of homosexual relationships.

But these costs would be imposed not only upon governments, but upon businesses and private organizations as well. Some organizations already offer "domestic partner" benefits to same-sex couples as a matter of choice. Social conservatives have discouraged such policies, but we have not attempted to forbid them by law.

Imagine, though, what the impact on employee benefit programs would be if homosexual "marriage" is legalized nationwide. Right now, marriage still provides a clear, bright line, both legally and socially, to distinguish those who receive dependent benefits and those who don't. But if homosexual couples are granted the full legal status of civil "marriage", then employers who do not want to grant benefits to homosexual partners—whether out of principle, or simply because of a prudent economic judgment—would undoubtedly be coerced by court orders to do so.

## **2 Schools would teach that homosexual relationships are identical to heterosexual ones.**

The advocates of same-sex "marriage" argue that it will have little impact on anyone other than the couples who "marry." However, even the brief experience in Massachusetts, where same-sex "marriage" was imposed by the state's Supreme Judicial Court and began on May 17, 2004, has demonstrated that the impact of such a social revolution will extend much

further—including into the public schools. In September 2004, National Public Radio reported, “Already, some gay and lesbian advocates are working on a new gay-friendly curriculum for kindergarten and up.” They also featured an interview with Deb Allen, a lesbian who teaches eighth-grade sex education in Brookline, Mass. Allen now feels “emboldened” in teaching a “gay-friendly” curriculum, declaring, “If somebody wants to challenge me, I’ll say, ‘Give me a break. It’s legal now.’” Her lessons include descriptions of homosexual sex given “thoroughly and explicitly with a chart.” Allen reports she will ask her students, “Can a woman and a woman have vaginal intercourse, and they will all say no. And I’ll say, ‘Hold it. Of course, they can. They can use a sex toy. They could use’—and we talk—and we discuss that. So the answer there is yes.”<sup>3</sup>

The parents of a kindergarten student in Lexington, Massachusetts were upset when their son’s school sent home a book featuring same-sex couples with the child in a “Diversity Bag.” David Parker, the child’s father, met with his son’s principal to insist that the school notify him and allow his child to opt out of discussions of homosexuality in the classroom. State law specifically guarantees parents the right to opt their child out of any curriculum involving “human sexuality issues.”<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless, the principal refused, and because Parker was unwilling to leave without such assurances, he was arrested for trespassing and spent a night in jail—“stripped of my shoes, my belt, my wedding ring, and my parental rights,” as he later put it.<sup>5</sup> Lexington school superintendent Paul Ash evaded the state law by insisting that books about homosexual couples dealt with “family experiences” and “diversity,” not “human sexuality.”<sup>6</sup> Six months later, the criminal charges against Parker were dropped—but Ash continued to bar Parker from all school property,<sup>7</sup> meaning that he is “banned from voting, teacher-parent conferences, and school committee meetings.”<sup>8</sup>

### **3 Freedom of conscience and religious liberty would be threatened.**

Another important and immediate result of same-sex “marriage” would be serious damage to religious liberty.

Religious liberty means much more than liturgical rituals. It applies not only to formal houses of worship, but to para-church ministries, religious educational and social service organizations, and individual believers trying to live their lives in accordance with their faith not only at church, but at home, in their neighborhoods, and in the workplace. These, more than your pastor or parish priest, are the entities whose religious liberty is most threatened by same-sex “marriage.”

Some of these threats to religious liberty can arise from “nondiscrimination” laws based on sexual orientation, even without same-sex “marriage.” But when homosexual “marriage” becomes legal, then laws which once applied to homosexuals only as individuals then apply to homosexual couples as well. So, for example, when Catholic Charities in Boston insisted that they would stay true to principle and refuse to place children for adoption with same-sex couples, they were told by the state that they could no longer do adoptions at all.<sup>9</sup>

In other cases, a variety of benefits or opportunities that the state makes available to religious nonprofits could be withheld based on the organization’s refusal to treat same-sex couples and “marriages” the same as opposite-sex marriages. Organizations might be denied government grants or aid otherwise available to faith-based groups; they might be denied access to public facilities for events; and they might even have their tax-exempt status removed.<sup>10</sup> That is what happened to the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association in New Jersey when they refused to rent facilities for a lesbian “civil union” ceremony.<sup>11</sup>

Religious educational institutions are particularly at risk, because in some cases they may allow students who are not believers to attend and even have staff who are not adherents of their religion, but still desire to maintain certain religiously-informed norms and standards of behavior. Yet a Lutheran school in California has been sued for expelling two girls who were in a lesbian relationship.<sup>12</sup> Yeshiva University, a Jewish school in New York City, was forced to allow same-sex “domestic partners” in married-student housing.<sup>13</sup> Religious clubs on secular campuses may be denied recognition if they oppose homosexual conduct—this happened to the Christian Legal Society at the University of California’s Hastings School of Law.<sup>14</sup>

Professionals would face lawsuits or even a denial of licensing if they refuse to treat homosexual relationships the same as heterosexual ones. A California fertility doctor was sued for declining to artificially inseminate a lesbian woman.<sup>15</sup> And the online dating service eHarmony succumbed to the pressure of a lawsuit and agreed to provide services for same-sex couples as well.<sup>16</sup>

Individual believers who disapprove of homosexual relationships may be the most vulnerable of all, facing a choice at work between forfeiting their freedom of speech and being fired.<sup>17</sup>

Religious liberty is one of the deepest American values. We must not sacrifice it on the altar of political correctness that homosexual “marriage” would create.

## Long-Term Effects

### **4** Fewer people would marry.

Even where legal recognition and marital rights and benefits are available to same-sex couples (whether through same-sex civil “marriages,” “civil unions,” or “domestic partnerships”), *relatively few same-sex couples even bother to seek such recognition or claim such benefits.*

The most simple way to document this is by comparing the number of same-sex couples who have sought such legal recognition in a given state<sup>18</sup> with the number of “same-sex unmarried-partner households” in the most recent U.S. Census.<sup>19</sup>

When a relatively small percentage of same-sex couples—even among those already living together as partners—even bother to seek legal recognition of their relationships, while an overwhelming majority of heterosexual couples who live together are legally married, it suggests that homosexuals are far more likely than heterosexuals to *reject the institution of marriage* or its legal equivalent.

In California, same-sex “marriage” was only legal for a few months, from the time that the California Supreme Court ruled in May of 2008 until the voters adopted Proposition 8 in November of the same year. Press reports have indicated that about 18,000 same-sex couples got “married” in California<sup>20</sup>—*less than*

*20% of the total* identified by the Census.<sup>21</sup> By contrast, 91% of opposite-sex couples who lived together in California were married.<sup>22</sup> In other words, only 9% of heterosexual couples in California have rejected the institution of marriage, while over 80% of the homosexual couples rejected “marriage” when it was offered to them in 2008.

In Massachusetts, the number of same-sex “marriages between 2004 and the end of 2006<sup>23</sup> represented only 52% of the number of same-sex cohabiting couples in the state identified by the 2000 census.<sup>24</sup> By contrast, 91% of opposite-sex couples who lived together were married.<sup>25</sup> In other words, 48% of same-sex couples rejected “marriage”, a rate more than *five times higher* than the 9% of opposite-sex couples who did so.

In the Netherlands, the first country in the world to legalize same-sex civil “marriage”, the figures are even more dramatic. A 2005 report indicated that only 12% of same-sex cohabiting couples in that country have married, with another 10% in what are called “registered partnerships.”<sup>26</sup> By contrast, 82% of heterosexual couples in the Netherlands (as of 2004) were married.<sup>27</sup> This means that 78% of the same-sex couples in the Netherlands have seen no necessity for legal recognition of their relationships at all, while only 18% of opposite-sex couples have similarly rejected marriage.

These figures show that a large percentage, and possibly even an outright majority, of homosexuals—even those already living with a partner—neither need nor desire to participate in the institution of marriage. Legalizing same-sex “marriage” would be very effective in sending a message of endorsement of homosexual behavior. But the indifference of most homosexuals to “marriage” would send a message to society that marriage does not matter—that it is no longer the normative setting for sexual relations and child-rearing, but is instead nothing more than one relationship option among many, made available as a government entitlement program to those who seek taxpayer-funded benefits.

Couples who could marry, but choose instead to cohabit without the benefit of marriage, harm the institution of marriage by setting an example for other couples, making non-marital cohabitation seem more acceptable as well. If same-sex “marriage” were legalized, the evidence suggests that the percentage of homosexual couples who would choose cohabitation over “marriage” would be much larger than the cur-

rent percentage of heterosexual couples who choose cohabitation over marriage. It is likely that the poor example set by homosexual couples would, over time, lead to lower marriage rates among heterosexuals as well.<sup>28</sup>

## **5 Fewer people would remain monogamous and sexually faithful.**

One value that remains remarkably strong, even among people who have multiple sexual partners before marriage, is the belief that marriage itself is a sexually exclusive relationship. Among married heterosexuals, having sexual relations with anyone other than one's spouse is still considered a grave breach of trust and a violation of the marriage covenant by the vast majority of people.

Yet the same cannot be said of homosexuals—particularly of homosexual men. Numerous studies of homosexual relationships, including “partnered” relationships, covering a span of decades, have shown that sex with multiple partners is tolerated and often expected, even when one has a “long-term” partner. Perhaps the most startling of these studies was published in the journal *AIDS*. In the context of studying HIV risk behavior among young homosexual men in the Netherlands (coincidentally, the first country in the world to legalize homosexual civil “marriage”), the researchers found that homosexual men who were *in partnered relationships* had an *average* of eight sexual partners *per year* outside of the primary relationship.<sup>29</sup> (It must be conceded that having such a partnership did have some “taming” effect upon such men—those without a “permanent” partner had an average of 22 sexual partners per year). This is an astonishing contrast to the typical behavior of married heterosexuals, among whom 75% of the men and 85% of the women report *never* having had extra-marital sex even once during the entire duration of their marriage.<sup>30</sup>

Again, the “conservative” argument for homosexual “marriage” suggests that granting the rights of civil “marriage” to homosexuals would “tame” such promiscuous behavior. (To be fair, it must be pointed out that the data in the Dutch study mentioned above were collected before the legalization of homosexual “marriage” in that country, albeit after most of the rights of marriage had been granted through civil

unions). However, the implausibility of this claim is illustrated not only by the experience of the Netherlands and other northern European countries that recognize homosexual partnerships, but also by the open declarations of many homosexuals themselves.<sup>31</sup>

Rather than marriage changing the behavior of homosexuals to match the relative sexual fidelity of heterosexuals, it seems likely that the opposite would occur. If homosexual relationships, promiscuity and all, are held up to society as being a fully equal part of the social ideal that is called “marriage,” then the value of sexual fidelity as an expected standard of behavior for married people will further erode—even among heterosexuals.

## **6 Fewer people would remain married for a lifetime.**

Lawrence Kurdek, a homosexual psychologist from Ohio's Wright State University,<sup>32</sup> who has done extensive research on the nature of homosexual relationships, has correctly stated, “Perhaps the most important ‘bottom-line’ question about gay and lesbian couples is whether their relationships last.”<sup>33</sup> After extensive research, he determined that “it is safe to conclude that gay and lesbian couples dissolve their relationships more frequently than heterosexual couples, especially heterosexual couples with children.”<sup>34</sup>

Once again, abundant research has borne out this point. Older studies came to similar conclusions. In one study of 156 male couples, for instance, only seven had been together for longer than five years (and none of those seven had remained sexually faithful to each other).<sup>35</sup>

International findings are similar. The Dutch study mentioned earlier, which highlighted so dramatically the promiscuous nature of male homosexual relationships, also showed their transience. It found that the average male homosexual partnership lasted only 1.5 years.<sup>36</sup> In contrast, more than 50 percent of heterosexual marriages last fifteen years or longer.<sup>37</sup>

Some may argue that granting homosexual relationships legal recognition as “marriages” would make them as stable as heterosexual marriages. However, a study of “married” same-sex couples in Massachusetts found that after only a year or less of “marriage,” more

than a third (35%) of the male couples and nearly half (46%) of the female couples had already “seriously discussed” ending their relationship.<sup>38</sup> And a study of same-sex divorce among homosexual couples in “registered partnerships” in Sweden found that “the divorce risk in partnerships of men appears 50 percent higher than the corresponding risk in heterosexual marriages, and that the divorce risk in partnerships of women is about the double of that of men”—thus making lesbian “divorces” almost three times as likely as heterosexual ones.<sup>39</sup>

How would this affect heterosexual couples? If the unstable nature of homosexual partnerships becomes part of the ideal of marriage that is being held up to society, it will inevitably affect the future behavior of everyone in society—heterosexuals included. Therefore, we can predict the following:

If homosexual “marriage” is legalized, the percentage of homosexual couples that remain together for a lifetime will always be lower than the percentage of heterosexual couples that do so; but the percentage of heterosexual couples demonstrating lifelong commitment will also decline, to the harm of society as a whole.

## **7 Fewer children would be raised by a married mother and father.**

The greatest tragedy resulting from the legalization of homosexual “marriage” would not be its effect on adults, but its effect on children. For the first time in history, society would be placing its highest stamp of official government approval on the *deliberate* creation of *permanently* motherless or fatherless households for children.

There simply cannot be any serious debate, based on the mass of scholarly literature available to us, about the ideal family form for children. It consists of a mother and father who are committed to one another in marriage. Children raised by their married mother and father experience lower rates of many social pathologies, including:

- premarital childbearing;<sup>40</sup>
- illicit drug use;<sup>41</sup>
- arrest;<sup>42</sup>
- health, emotional, or behavioral problems;<sup>43</sup>

- poverty;<sup>44</sup>
- or school failure or expulsion.<sup>45</sup>

These benefits are then passed on to future generations as well, because children raised by their married mother and father are themselves less likely to cohabit or to divorce as adults.<sup>46</sup>

In a perfect world, every child would have that kind of household provided by his or her own loving and capable biological parents (and every husband and wife who wanted children would be able to conceive them together). Of course, we do not live in a perfect world.

But the parent who says, “I’m gay,” is telling his or her child that he or she has no intention of providing a parent of both sexes for that child. And a homosexual who “marries” someone of the same sex is declaring that this deprivation is to be permanent—and with the blessing of the state.

Homosexual activists argue that research on homosexual parenting does not show differences among the children raised by homosexuals and those raised by heterosexuals. Even leading professional organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, under the influence of homosexual activists, have issued policy statements making such claims.<sup>47</sup>

A close examination of the actual research, however, shows that such claims are unsupported. The truth is that most research on “homosexual parents” thus far has been marred by serious methodological problems.<sup>48</sup> However, even pro-homosexual sociologists Judith Stacey and Timothy Biblarz report that the actual data from key studies show the “no differences” claim to be false.

Surveying the research (primarily regarding lesbians) in an *American Sociological Review* article in 2001, they found that:

- Children of lesbians are less likely to conform to traditional gender norms.
- Children of lesbians are more likely to engage in homosexual behavior.
- Daughters of lesbians are “more sexually adventurous and less chaste.”
- Lesbian “co-parent relationships” are more likely to break up than heterosexual marriages.<sup>49</sup>

A 1996 study by an Australian sociologist compared children raised by heterosexual married couples, heterosexual cohabiting couples, and homosexual cohabiting couples. It found that the children of heterosexual married couples did the best, and children of homosexual couples the worst, in nine of the thirteen academic and social categories measured.<sup>50</sup>

As scholar Stanley Kurtz says,

If, as in Norway, gay “marriage” were imposed here by a socially liberal cultural elite, it would likely speed us on the way toward the classic Nordic pattern of less frequent marriage, more frequent out-of-wedlock birth, and skyrocketing family dissolution. In the American context, this would be a disaster.<sup>51</sup>

## **8** More children would grow up fatherless.

This harm is closely related to the previous one, but worth noting separately. As more children grow up without a married mother and father, they will be deprived of the tangible and intangible benefits and security that come from that family structure. However, most of those who live with only one biological parent will live with their mothers. In the general population, 79% of single-parent households are headed by the mother, compared to only 10% which are headed by the father.<sup>52</sup> Among homosexual couples, as identified in the 2000 census, 34% of lesbian couples have children living at home, while only 22% of male couples were raising children.<sup>53</sup> The encouragement of homosexual relationships that is intrinsic in the legalization of same-sex “marriage” would thus result in an increase in the number of children who suffer a specific set of negative consequences that are clearly associated with fatherlessness.

Homosexual activists say that having both a mother and a father simply does not matter—it is having two loving parents that counts. But social science research simply does not support this claim. Dr. Kyle Pruett of Yale Medical School, for example, has demonstrated in his book *Fatherneed* that fathers contribute to parenting in ways that mothers do not. Pruett declares, “From deep within their biological and psychological being, children need to connect to fathers . . . to live life whole.”<sup>54</sup>

Children—both sons and daughters—suffer without a father in their lives. The body of evidence supporting this conclusion is both large and growing.<sup>55</sup> For example, research has shown that “youth incarceration risks in a national male cohort were elevated for adolescents in father-absent households,” even after controlling for other factors.<sup>56</sup> Among daughters, “father absence was strongly associated with elevated risk for early sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy.”<sup>57</sup> Author David Blankenhorn puts these risks more succinctly: “One primary result of growing fatherlessness is more boys with guns. Another is more girls with babies.”<sup>58</sup> Even researchers who are supportive of homosexual parenting have had to admit that “children raised in fatherless families from infancy,” while closer to their mothers, “perceived themselves to be less cognitively and physically competent than their peers from father-present families.”<sup>59</sup>

Some lesbian couples are deliberately *creating* new children in order to raise them fatherless from birth. It is quite striking to read, for example, the model “Donor Agreement” for sperm donors offered on the Human Rights Campaign website, and to see the lengths to which they will go to legally insure that the actual biological father plays no role in the life of a lesbian mother’s child.<sup>60</sup> Yet a recent study of children conceived through sperm donation found, “Donor offspring are significantly more likely than those raised by their biological parents to struggle with serious, negative outcomes such as delinquency, substance abuse, and depression, even when controlling for socio-economic and other factors.”<sup>61</sup> Remarkably, 38% of donor offspring born to lesbian couples in the study agreed that “it is wrong deliberately to conceive a fatherless child.”<sup>62</sup>

## **9** Birth rates would fall.

One of the most fundamental tasks of any society is to reproduce itself. That is why virtually every human society up until the present day has given a privileged social status to male-female sexual relationships—the only type capable of resulting in natural procreation. This privileged social status is what we call “marriage.”

Extending the benefits and status of “marriage” to couples who are intrinsically incapable of natural procreation (i.e., two men or two women) would dramat-



ically change the social meaning of the institution. It would become impossible to argue that “marriage” is about encouraging the formation of life-long, potentially procreative (i.e., opposite-sex) relationships. The likely long-term result would be that fewer such relationships would be formed, fewer such couples would choose to procreate, and fewer babies would be born.

There is already evidence of at least a *correlation* between low birth rates and the legalization of same-sex “marriage.” At this writing, five U.S. states grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. As of 2007, the last year for which complete data are available, four of those five states ranked within the bottom eight out of all fifty states in both birth rate (measured in relation to the total population) and fertility rate (measured in relation to the population of women of childbearing age).<sup>63</sup>

Even granting marriage-related benefits to same-sex couples is associated with low birth and fertility rates. There are sixteen states which offer at least some recognition or benefits to same-sex relationships.<sup>64</sup> Twelve of these sixteen states rank in the bottom twenty states in birth rate, while eleven of them rank in the bottom seventeen in fertility rate. Vermont, the *first* state in the U. S. to offer 100% of the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples through passage of its “civil unions” law in 2000<sup>65</sup>, ranks dead *last* in both birth rate and fertility rate.<sup>66</sup>

Similar data are available on the international level. Currently there are ten countries which permit same-sex “marriage.”<sup>67</sup> Six of these ten fall well within the bottom quarter in both birth rates and fertility rates among 223 countries and territories. All ten fall below the total world fertility rate, while only South Africa has a birth rate that is higher (barely) than the world rate.<sup>68</sup>

It could be argued that the widespread availability and use of artificial birth control, together with other social trends, has already weakened the perceived link between marriage and procreation and led to a decline in birth rates. These changes may have helped clear a path for same-sex “marriage,” rather than the reverse.<sup>69</sup> Nevertheless, legalization of same-sex “marriage” would *reinforce* a declining emphasis on procreation as a key purpose of marriage—resulting in lower birth rates than if it had not been legalized.

Of course, there are some who are still locked in the alarmism of the 1960’s over warnings of *over*-population.<sup>70</sup> However, in recent years it has become clear, particularly in the developed world, that declining birth rates now pose a much greater threat. Declining birth rates lead to an aging population, and demographers have warned of the consequences,

. . . from the potentially devastating effects on an unprepared welfare state to shortages of blood for transfusions. Pension provisions will be stretched to the limit. The traditional model of the working young paying for the retired old will not work if the latter group is twice the size of the former. . . . In addition, . . . healthcare costs will rise.<sup>71</sup>

The contribution of same-sex “marriage” to declining birth rates would clearly lead to significant harm for society.

## **10** Demands for legalization of polygamy would grow.

If the natural sexual complementarity of male and female and the theoretical procreative capacity of an opposite-sex union are to be discarded as principles central to the definition of marriage, then what is left? According to the arguments of the homosexual “marriage” advocates, only love and companionship are truly necessary elements of marriage.

But if that is the case, then why should *other* relationships that provide love, companionship, and a lifelong commitment not *also* be recognized as “marriages”—including relationships between adults and children, or between blood relatives, or between three or more adults? And if it violates the equal protection of the laws to deny homosexuals their first choice of marital partner, why would it not do the same to deny pedophiles, polygamists, or the incestuous the right to marry the person (or persons) of their choice?

Of these, the road to polygamy seems the best-paved—and it is the most difficult for homosexual “marriage” advocates to deny. If, as they claim, it is arbitrary and unjust to limit the *gender* of one’s marital partner, it is hard to explain why it would not be

equally arbitrary and unjust to limit the *number* of marital partners.

There are also two other reasons why same-sex “marriage” advocates have trouble refuting warnings of a slippery slope toward polygamy. The first is that there is far more precedent cross-culturally for polygamy as an accepted marital structure than there is for homosexual “marriage.” The second is that there is a genuine movement for polygamy or “polyamory” in some circles.

The *San Francisco Chronicle*’s religion writer did a feature on the “polyamory” movement in 2004. It even quoted Jasmine Walston, the president of “Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness,” as saying, “We’re where the gay rights movement was 30 years ago.” The story also quoted Barb Greve, a program associate with the Association of Unitarian Universalists’ Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns in Boston. Greve, helpfully described as “a transgender person who likes to be called ‘he,’” said, “There are people who want to be in committed relationships—whether it’s heterosexual marriage, same-sex “marriage” or polyamory—and that should be acknowledged religiously and legally.”<sup>72</sup>

The “gay” oriented newspaper the *Washington Blade* has also featured this topic in a full-page article under the headline “Polygamy advocates buoyed by gay court wins.” It quotes Art Spitzer of the American Civil Liberties Union acknowledging, “Yes, I think [the Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*] would give a lawyer a foothold to argue such a case. The general framework of that case, that states can’t make it a crime to engage in private consensual intimate relationships, is a strong argument.”<sup>73</sup>

This argument is already being pressed in the courts. Two convicted bigamists in Utah, Tom Green and Rodney Holm, have appealed to have their convictions overturned—citing the Supreme Court’s decision in the *Lawrence* case as precedent.<sup>74</sup> And another attorney has filed suit challenging the refusal of the Salt Lake County clerk to grant a marriage license for G. Lee Cook to take a second wife.<sup>75</sup>

Make no mistake about it—if same-sex “marriage” is not stopped now, we will have the exact same debate about “plural” marriages only one generation from now.

## Endnotes

- 1 One of the architects of Social Security, Abraham Epstein, said, "[T]he American standard assumes a normal family of man, wife, and two or three children, with the father fully able to provide for them out of his own income." Abraham Epstein, *Insecurity: A Challenge to America* (New York: Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, 1933), 101-102; cited in Allan Carlson, *The "American Way": Family and Community in the Shaping of the American Identity* (Wilmington, DE: ISI Books, 2003), 69. See generally Carlson's entire chapter on "Sanctifying the Traditional Family: The New Deal and National Solidarity," 55-77.
- 2 See Victor M. B. Silenzio, "Top 10 Things Gay Men Should Discuss with their Healthcare Provider" (San Francisco: Gay & Lesbian Medical Association); accessed April 1, 2010; online at: [http://www.glma.org/data/n\\_0001/resources/live/Top%20Ten%20Gay%20Men.pdf](http://www.glma.org/data/n_0001/resources/live/Top%20Ten%20Gay%20Men.pdf); and Katherine A. O'Hanlan, "Top 10 Things Lesbians Should Discuss with their Healthcare Provider" (San Francisco: Gay & Lesbian Medical Association); accessed April 1, 2010; online at: [http://www.glma.org/data/n\\_0001/resources/live/Top%20Ten%20Lesbians.pdf](http://www.glma.org/data/n_0001/resources/live/Top%20Ten%20Lesbians.pdf)
- 3 "Debate in Massachusetts over how to address the issue of discussing gay relationships and sex in public school classrooms," *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, September 13, 2004.
- 4 Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 32A. Online at: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/71-32a.htm>
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- 6 Paul Ash, "What does the law say schools have to do?" *Lexington Minuteman*, September 22, 2005. Quoted online at: [http://www.article8.org/docs/news\\_events/parker/paul\\_ash\\_letter.htm](http://www.article8.org/docs/news_events/parker/paul_ash_letter.htm)
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## About the Author

PETER SPRIGG is Senior Fellow for Policy Studies at Family Research Council in Washington, D. C. He is the author of *Outrage: How Gay Activists and Liberal Judges are Trashing Democracy to Redefine Marriage* and co-author of *Getting It Straight: What the Research Shows about Homosexuality*.

### THE TOP TEN HARMS OF SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE"

BY PETER SPRIGG

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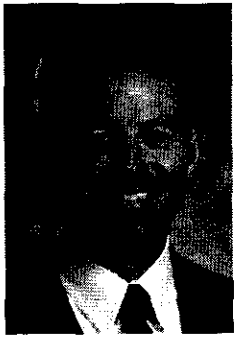
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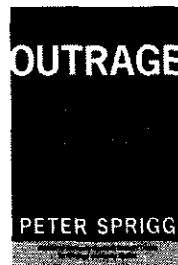
I look forward to working with you as we bring about a society that respects life and protects marriage.

President  
Family Research Council

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**The Top Ten Myths About Homosexuality** **BK10E01** Homosexual activists have a clear agenda. It is an agenda that demands the universal acceptance of homosexual acts and relationships—morally, socially, legally, religiously, politically and financially. Indeed, it calls for not only acceptance, but affirmation and celebration of this behavior as normal, natural, and even as desirable for those who desire it. However, this agenda is founded on myths rather than facts.



**Outrage: How Gay Activists and Liberal Judges are Trashing Democracy to Redefine Marriage** **BK04H01** Here is the book America needs to make sense of the debate over same-sex “marriage.” Author Peter Sprigg demolishes stereotypes on this issue, showing why homosexual civil “marriage” should be opposed by libertarians, Democrats, women, men, and even homosexuals themselves. Sprigg demonstrates that this “culture war” was not started by conservatives, but by homosexual activists and radical judges.



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Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My name is Stacey Moniz and I believe in the right to marriage for ALL. I STRONGLY support the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Hawaii is the Aloha State. It's time. Our community is ready to embrace marriage equality. Let's have liberty and justice for all!

Respectfully,

Stacey Moniz

Name (print):

Stacey Moniz

Street:

2 A Kilakila Street

City:

Pukalani, HI 96793

Email address:

staceymoniz@gmail.com



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

This is an issue of basic fairness. Please pass this bill. It will make a positive difference in the lives of families throughout Hawai'i. Mahalo!

Respectfully,

David Raatz

Name (print): David Raatz  
Street: 2547 Main St.  
City: Wailuku HI 96793  
Email address: daverantz@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My name is Sandra Farmer-Wiley and I live in Kihui on the island of Maui. I share a home with my wife of 36 years. We tried to wait for Hawaii to recognize and offer respect to that commitment. This is your chance to do so.

Our relationship has endured without the support it should have had from the Community, Government and some time our Faith Community.

We are now senior citizens and we're looking forward to being able to age with dignity, not fear.

Respectfully,

Sandra 'Sandy' Farmer-Wiley

Name (print): SANDRA FARMER-WILEY

Street: 2763 Kauhale St

City: Kihui, HI. 96753

Email address: mztata@hawaii.ntl.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

Same gender marriage is a civil issue -  
a fairness issue.

Equal is equal. Family is family.

My partner/wife and I have supported  
one another thru births, marriages and  
deaths for 36 years. We feel that we  
have earned the rights and privileges of  
all married couples in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

N. Jean Walker

Name (print): N. Jean Walker

Street: 2763 Kauhale St

City: Kihei, Hawai'i 96753

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

As a person of great faith and a strong belief in GOD, I strongly support equality for all and I am in favor of any and all Bills such as this that support Equality. I have been a long time resident Employer, + home owner here on Maui and very involved in the community and the education system. It is simply time to move through fear and do the right thing. I applaud your brave + bold efforts to pass this Bill once + for all. Know that YOU are making a difference in ~~our~~ creating a better world for us all. In the end we will stand for you because you stood in your truth + fairness for all.

Respectfully,

Name (print):

Kecia Joy

Street:

24 Ho'oi Ki Place

City:

Kihei, HI 96753

Email address:

Kecia@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

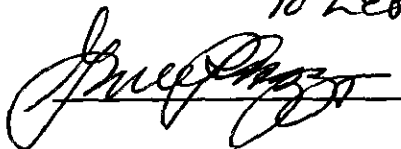
I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

MY REASONS FOR SUPPORTING ARE BOTH LEGAL + PERSONAL. I HAVE BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF EQUAL CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE CITIZENS OF HAWAII + THE UNITED STATES. SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS W/ YOUR VOTE IS THE GOOD THING TO DO.

I HAVE BEEN HONORED + BLESSED TO BE A FRIEND OF A LOVING, COMMITTED, RESPONSIBLE + MODERATE SAME SEX COUPLE FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS. NO TWO PEOPLE HAVE EXEMPLIFIED FAMILY VALUES MORE THAN THESE TWO MEN. THEY ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE + CHARITABLE GIFTS.

SADLY, AFTER BEING TOGETHER FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS, ONE OF THEM DIED OF CANCER 2 WEEKS AFTER HAVING BEEN DEVOTEDLY CARED FOR AS ANY MARRIAGE PARTNER. BUT THEY WERE DENIED TO LEGALLY BE RECOGNIZED + CALL EACH OTHER BELOVED SPOUSES.

Respectfully,



Name (print): GAIL P. BRAZZO

Street: 19 OHA LEHUA PL

City: MAKAWAO, HI 96768

Email address: gail.p.brazzo@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I am also a strong supporter of family values. With the help of my husband, John (we were married in California in 2008) we provided moral, emotional, & financial support to our close relatives living in Vancouver, WA.

Over five years we have traveled to Washington state 26 times, helping with all those crisis that effect all families, two deaths, nursing homes, assisted living situations etc, etc. Our family respects

Respectfully,

US, loves us, & admires our devotion.  
Please let folks in Hawaii have  
this opportunity as well.

Name (print): John Montfort

Street: 585 Iao Valley Rd.

City: Wailuku HI 96793

Email address:

John@theJohnz.com.

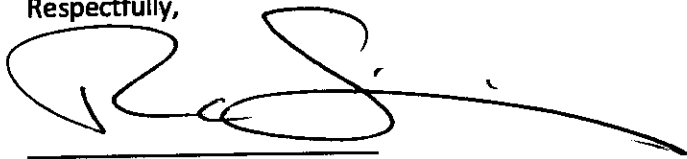
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

I recently moved to Maui from California because of how open and loving and accepting the residents were towards everyone, including same sex relationships. In this <sup>past</sup> year I have purchased a home with the idea of sharing and making a family. So I thank you for hearing the bill that would grant Civil Union to same-sex couples. As a person of faith, I pray and love every single day to marry my partner, and start my family. I am in favor of this piece of legislation that would grant the basic rights and responsibilities to committed couples regardless of gender they happen to fall in love with. Really... peace & love is the answer to community & world peace by ~~asset~~ acceptance of all.

Respectfully,



Name (print): Rebecca Siminon

Street: 52 Waiapo Street

City: Kihai, HI 96753

Email address: phototrekker@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

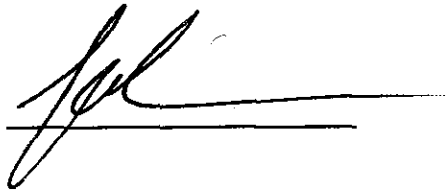
I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have lived here on Maui for over 10 years and I have cultivated a thriving small business during this time and am now only self employed. I pay state taxes on time every month.

I was raised in a conservative Christian environment, so I understand the opposing side. Even I, before I fell in love with my partner, wasn't convinced that everyone needed the right to marry; now I cannot imagine not being able to have the same rights with the person I love.

It is basic human rights, and I am happy to be on the right side of history!

Respectfully,



Name (print): John Galvan

Street: 1104A Kahaapo Loop

City: Kihei

Email address: [chefjohnmaui@gmail.com](mailto:chefjohnmaui@gmail.com)



Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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

My partner & I have lived & worked in Maui for over 20 years. We are self-employed and have paid taxes, both State & Federal and we enjoy what Maui has to offer. During this time on Maui, we have held signs and lobbied to have same-sex marriage available to us. We've been in a committed relationship for 34 years and although we are registered as Domestic Partnership Reciprocity, we do NOT enjoy the over 1,000 benefits that marriage affords heterosexual people. We've waited long enough, 34 years and now is the time to legalize our committed relationship.

Respectfully,

John M. Maroon

Name (print): JOHN M. MAROON

Street: 173 Kulipuu St

City: Kihei, Hi. 96753

Email address: Leepers001@HAWAII.PR.COM

# What happens to marriage and families when the law recognises “Same-Sex Marriage”?

## *Experience of legalising marriage for same-sex couples in Europe and North America*

### Executive Summary

The claim that “same-sex marriage”\* dilutes or even abolishes the institution of marriage is often countered by the claim that opening up marriage to same-sex couples will actually strengthen the institution. It is claimed that same-sex marriage will thus serve the common good as well as promoting equality. This paper examines the evidence for these claims.

**Patricia Morgan** is a leading researcher on family policy and author of numerous books and scholarly papers on marriage and the state. She has researched the effect on marriage when same-sex marriage legislation is introduced.

She has produced the following paper for SPUC based on research and data from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada the US, and concludes that:

- As marriage is redefined to accommodate same-sex couples, this reinforces the idea that marriage is irrelevant to parenthood.
- Same sex marriage leads to the casualisation of heterosexual unions and separation of marriage and parenthood.
- Spain saw a pronounced acceleration in the decline of marriage following the introduction of same-sex marriage (same-sex marriage was introduced at the same time as the ‘express divorce bill’).
- Across all countries analysed no causal link has been established to support the idea that same-sex marriage prevents marital decline.
- In the move to same-sex marriage, opposite-sex relationships have to conform to gay norms rather than vice-versa.
- A publicly professed, legal, partnership does not prevent homosexual couples from breaking up more frequently than married heterosexual couples.

- Experience with same-sex partnerships/marriage legislation tends to suggest that *availability* is all, and participation more or less irrelevant to sexual minorities.
- Same-sex marriage may be the end-game of long-running anti-marriage, anti-family policy typified by Sweden.
- Same-sex marriage may begin the process of severing marriage from family in otherwise family-friendly societies such as Spain and the Netherlands.
- Same-sex marriage triggers dismemberment of family structures in family-friendly societies.

*\*Note: We introduce the term "same-sex marriage" with quotation marks because it is not really marriage - but in the text we ask the reader to take the distinction as read.*

## What happens to marriage and families when the law recognises “Same-Sex Marriage”?

### The case for (and against) the rejuvenation argument.

1. Part of the argument for ‘equal’ marriage – especially from conservatives - is how homosexuals are eager to get married and, as they do so, this will increase and strengthen heterosexual marriage.

“At a time when many heterosexuals are spurning the idea of marriage, here is a section of society positively lobbying for the right to respect and continue the institution. Perhaps gay marriage will encourage more straight people back on to the marital path.” (Douglas Murray, D Gay rites. *The Spectator* 01.10.2011)

Homosexuals will be missionaries to the wider society and make it “stronger” (Home Secretary Teresa May reported: *Daily Telegraph* 25.05.2012).

As homosexuals increase the marriage rate, we are told, this will have a profound effect on social problems, saving us all much tribulation, tears and treasure.

“... the most significant driver of social instability and poverty – [is] family breakdown... Backing marriage... would encourage strong and stable families, and tackle the social breakdown that fuels poverty.” (Skelton, D and Flint, R ed Gibbs, B *What's In A Name?* 2012 Policy Exchange Quoting the Centre for Social Justice, p.22)

Homosexuals will, we are told, bring back foundational marital virtues in danger of being lost. Same sex marriage promises to be a force for revival which will:

“...strengthen – rather than undermine – the institution of marriage and valuable notions of commitment, fidelity and responsibility...” (Skelton, D and Flint, R ed Gibbs, B *What's In A Name?* 2012 Policy Exchange. p.60)

Any claim that giving marital rights to gay couples will:

“... undermine heterosexual marriage is based on the consistent misuse and misinterpretation of data”. (Lee Badgett, M. V Will Providing Marriage Rights to Same-Sex Couples Undermine Heterosexual Marriage? *Sexuality Research & Social Policy* 2004 Vol. 1 ( 3) pgs. 1-10)

2. Following on this optimism, suggestions are that marriage rates have remained stable or even grown in countries that have enacted (either or both) ‘partnerships’ and ‘marriage’. Constant rates are not, of course, the same as rising rates.

### What is available?

3. In the Nordic countries civil unions or ‘registered partnerships’ have been available for the longest time - *Denmark from 1989; Norway from 1993 and Sweden from 1995*. The UK introduced civil partnerships in 2005.

**Norway** moved to 'gender-neutral' marriage in 2008. **Sweden** followed in 2009 and imposed its law virtually overnight without consultation. Since marriage, particularly in *Sweden, has long had little or no recognition or status, partnership morphed seamlessly into marriage and the two have been treated de facto* and, for all intents and purposes, as virtually identical – both before and after the transition. Initially, the exceptions for partnerships were that these did not bestow a right to marry in a state church, adopt children or access reproductive technologies. Afterwards, while there were 'faith' groups no longer "willing and able to continue to act as a state agent in the form of religious ceremonies of confirmation" the Church of Sweden grumbled but complied in this highly conformist society and created a 'gender neutral' liturgy' as they lost independent solemnizing powers. The state is supreme and "once the applicable legal framework has been established, this framework is alone decisive".<sup>1</sup> The country's parliament voted through the new law on same-sex marriage by a large majority, making it mandatory for all churches to conduct gay marriages. Similarly, Churches in Denmark were obliged to carry out same sex weddings in 2012. If individual priests refuse to carry out the ceremony, the local bishop must arrange a replacement for their church.

4. The *Netherlands first introduced same sex marriage in 2001, followed by Belgium in 2003 - both countries created civil partnerships a few years earlier. The Netherlands was unsure that paternity could be ascribed to a non-generative 'parent', and made it necessary for the partner of a mother to adopt any child they both regarded as their own. Same-sex marriage in Spain and Canada followed in 2005; dispensing with civil unions as a prelude to marriage. France introduced PACS or civil contracts in 1999 which gave limited rights to cohabiting couples, regardless of gender. In 2004, a mayor conducted a same sex marriage ceremony and a court nullified the union, but there is movement towards same sex marriage going on at present.*
5. Since 1997, when **Hawaii** became the first state in the US to allow reciprocal-beneficiary registration for same-sex couples, 19 states and the District of Columbia have granted some form of legal recognition to same sex relationships. The variants include marriage, civil unions, domestic partnerships, and reciprocal-beneficiary relationships. Most prominently, there have been civil unions in **Vermont** (2000), domestic partnerships in **California** (1999) and marriage in **Massachusetts** (2004).
6. **In the move to same sex marriage, opposite sex relationships have to conform to gay norms, rather than vice versa, since matters pertaining to complementary sexes cannot apply to those of the same sex. For example: Spanish birth certificates record 'progenitor A'**

and 'progenitor B' rather than 'mother' and 'father'. In Canada, the concept of natural parent has been erased from law - for every child and every couple - with court rulings that children could have three parents. Sweden has also moved to eliminate the words 'boy' and 'girl' in return for one neutral word.

**Have gays rushed to make partnerships or marry?**

7. Since same-sex marriage has only recently been legalized in a handful of countries, data on how the laws have affected marriage rates – for heterosexuals or homosexuals - is limited.

In discussions of same sex marriage, one of the questions rarely asked is 'How interested are 'gay' couples in actually getting married?'

8. In the **Netherlands**, which has had same-sex marriage as a legal option for the longest period (since 2001), 2% - 6% of homosexuals entered marriages in the first five years; much the same as **Belgium**.<sup>2</sup> One in three Dutch homosexual couples living together had their relationships officially registered by 2010 -with nearly 11,000 married and more than 6,000 in registered partnerships. Survey data suggest that 2.8% and 1.4% of Dutch men and women are gay or lesbian. The population of the Netherlands is just over sixteen and a half million; indicating that the homosexual population is approximately two thirds of a million – a high estimate.

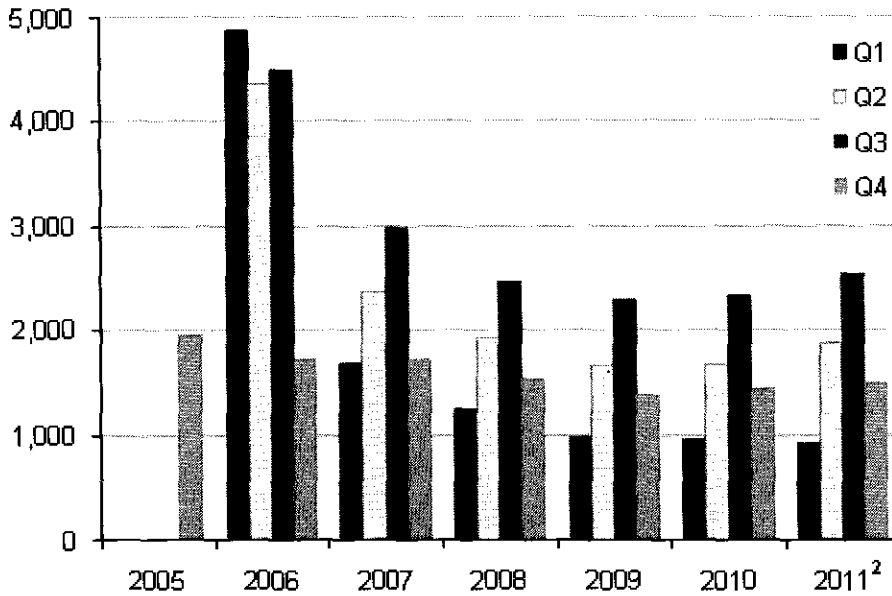
There are claims that same sex marriage in the Netherlands is actually declining in popularity: 2,500 gay couples married in 2001- the year it was legalized - dropping to 1,800 in 2002, 1,384 in 2010 and 1,355 in 2011 – with a 52 fold difference with the heterosexual marriage total of 70,217. By 2009, less than 2 per cent of marriages were between same-sex couples. The number registering partnerships varies between 400 and 600 per year.

9. Researchers remark how, their "first observation is that the incidence of same-sex marriage in Norway and Sweden is not particularly impressive."<sup>3</sup> For the 1,293 partnerships contracted in **Norway** in 1993–2001, 196,000 heterosexual marriages were entered; indicating a ratio of around 7 new same-sex unions to every 1,000 marriages. In almost 20% of Norwegian registered partnership over the 1990s, one partner had been previously married and in least 16% of the cases, one was also a parent, although not very likely to be living with their children.<sup>4</sup> In **Sweden**, there were 1,526 partnerships entered during 1995–2002 compared to 280,000 heterosexual marriages - a ratio of 5 to 1,000. It is suggested that one to

five per cent of the homosexual population contract a civil partnership or marry, with trend data indicating that - as elsewhere - numbers tend to decrease after an initial burst (reflecting pent up demand). In the years 1990-1998 – a cumulative total of 2168 partnerships were registered in **Denmark**, encompassing 1.7% of the homosexual population.<sup>5</sup>

10. In the **UK**, approximately 53,417 civil partnerships have been formed since December 2005. Numbers fell from 16,106 in 2006 to 8728 in 2007 to 6281 in 2009, with a rise to 6795 in 2011 - when less than one person per 1,000 unmarried adults aged 16 and over entered into a civil partnership in England and Wales.

**No. of civil partnerships in UK by quarter of occurrence 2005-2011**



Source: Office for National Statistics

11. The most recent U.S. Census data reveal that, in the last 15 years, 150,000 same-sex couples have taken advantage of official unions - equivalent to around one in five of the self-identified same-sex couples in the United States. This number is not just low because only a few states have allowed full 'marriage'. In the first four years when same sex marriage has been an option in **Massachusetts**, there was an average of only about 3,000 per year - including many who came from out of state. Overall, same sex households have increased in the US - from 358,000 same-sex (married or unmarried) partner households in 2000 to 646,000 plus in the 2010 census (roughly 131,729 married couple and 514,735

same-sex unmarried partner households). They accounted for 0.6 per cent or less than one per cent of **all households in the US**.<sup>6</sup>

12. The period in which same-sex marriage has been available in **Canada** varies from province to province – all maintain their own statistics – with national legislation taking effect in July 2005. Depending on the province, it seems that between 0.15% and 14% of Canadian homosexuals have entered marriages. As elsewhere, the rate trails off over time.

13. **Experience with same sex partnerships/marriage tends to bear out claims that availability or the ‘right’ is all and participation more or less irrelevant** to sexual minorities. There is little or no difference in take-up between ‘marriage’ and registered partnerships. In places that have one or both **and** significant numbers of homosexuals, there has been no groundswell.

From the beginning, the debate over marriage has not necessarily hinged on its popularity among the eligible, with advocates of same sex unions insisting that “equality” was not a numerical proposition. It is the mere existence of a right to marry which is important, irrespective of whether anyone partakes of it or not. This has tended to be ignored by naïve heterosexual supporters, who believe they are speaking for reticent homosexuals desperate to share in a heterosexual privilege.

#### **Splitting Up.**

14. When same sex couples do get married, they are more likely than their heterosexual equivalents to change their minds later. A publicly professed, legal partnership does not prevent homosexual couples from breaking up more frequently than married heterosexual couples.<sup>7</sup>

We might have predicted **low separation rates with the advent of same sex unions, as only the most eager and committed would be the first to move in together – but this is not so.**<sup>8</sup>

15. Longitudinal **Swedish and Norwegian** data on 2,819 homosexual and 222,000 opposite-sex marriages included information on characteristics such as age, geographic background, as well as experience of previous opposite-sex marriage, parenthood and education. Breakdown rates in **Norway** revealed that same-sex male couples were 1.5 times more likely (and same sex female couples were 2.67 more likely) to break up compared to heterosexual unions: within five years 20% of male and 30% of female same sex unions were terminated, compared to 13% for heterosexuals. Similarly in **Sweden**, male unions are 50% more likely to end in divorce than heterosexual marriages and the risk for female partnerships is nearly double

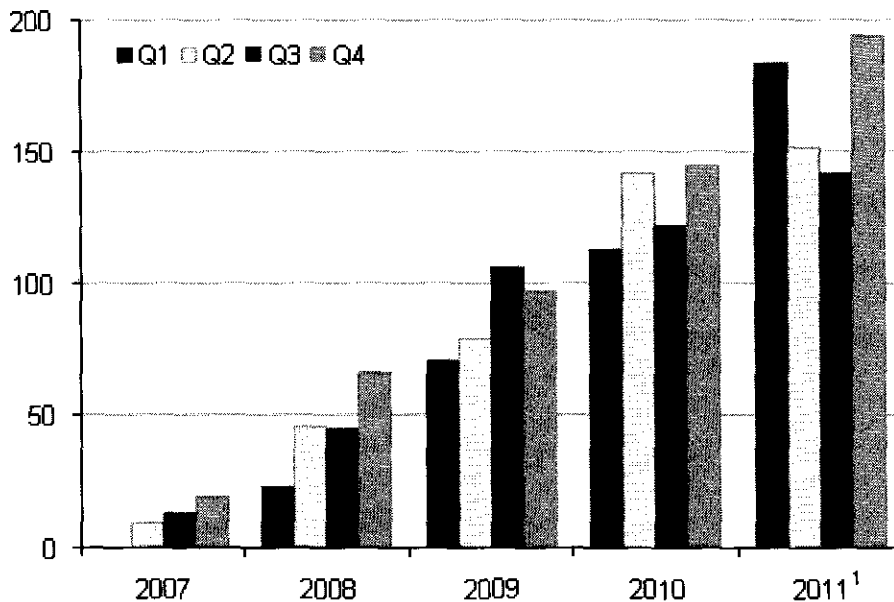


that for men. Comparison with childless unions leaves this unchanged as do controls for various demographic and socioeconomic differences.<sup>9</sup> The instability of same sex unions has been labelled ‘dynamism’ to indicate superiority to the ‘inertia’ of marital stability - a dynamism attributed to the lack of ‘clear power structures’ which supposedly oppress opposite sex relationships.

16. In the **Netherlands**, there have been 1,078 same sex ‘divorces’ up to 2010 - two thirds were by females and a similar pattern is present elsewhere, as in **Massachusetts** and **Sweden**.<sup>10</sup> This follows the heterosexual pattern, where more females than males instigate divorce. Previously, a study compared same-sex cohabiters, different sex cohabiters and different sex married couples in the *Netherlands between 1989 and 1999 (after which same sex partners could move into same sex marriages)*. *The dissolution rate for same-sex cohabitation was 12 times higher than the rate for different-sex marriage and three times higher than the rate for opposite sex cohabitation.*<sup>11</sup> The breakdown rates here were higher for male unions.

Dissolutions appear to be increasing for *UK civil partnerships, with a 28.7% rise between 2010 and 2011. Again, female dissolutions are double those of male.*

**No. of civil partnership dissolutions in the UK, by quarter of occurrence, 2007–2011**



Source: Office for National Statistics

17. A **Vermont** study compared same sex partners in civil unions, those outside unions and heterosexually married siblings. It was hypothesized that lesbian and gay male couples in civil unions would be more similar in monogamy to married heterosexual couples than to same-sex couples not in civil unions.<sup>12</sup> Non-monogamy was reported by over one-half of homosexual men in both types of couples (compared with 15.2% of married heterosexual men). A half of the homosexual men in civil unions and one-third of those not in civil unions had an agreement that sex outside their relationship was permissible, compared with 5% or fewer lesbian and heterosexual couples. This did not prevent homosexual men having extra-relational sex regardless. With or without such an agreement there is no sign that considerable conflict has been avoided by such arrangements.

18. There are a couple of features of Scandinavian unions that warrant mention:

**i. High death rates** - seen in the early years of same sex unions in Denmark,<sup>13</sup> plus the way that partners have also been, on average, considerably older than corresponding opposite-sex spouses in Norwegian and Swedish data.<sup>14</sup> This suggests that **matters of inheritance** as much or more than home building may be uppermost.

**ii. High rates of non-national partners**, *suggesting that many same sex unions serve immigration purposes* - particularly for male partnerships. Sweden is considered one of the most globalised countries. In the last few decades, the potential marriage market has increased dramatically, with increasing numbers of migrants living in Sweden, along with Swedes who travel, work or study abroad, and the rise of internet usage.<sup>15</sup>

19. In Norway, 43% of male partnerships included a non-Norwegian citizen and 45% in Sweden. It is part of a wider process, where about three out of 10 Norwegian marriages involve one or two persons with immigrant backgrounds. A total of 13.5% of Norwegian marriages in mid-decade were between a man without and a woman with an immigrant background, and 7% between a woman without and a man with an immigrant background.<sup>16</sup> The probability of marrying spouses from outside the European Union has doubled for native Swedish women and quadrupled for men in less than 20 years and many will not have met in Sweden.

Even these figures fall far short of figures for same sex unions and it is significant that those with one foreign partner are particularly likely to dissolve - with nearly a half rapidly folding up. This suggests unions of convenience made (or bought and sold?) for resident rights and citizenship.

This does not appear to be considered in the UK, but it is a possibility - particularly given the low number of homosexuals at all interested in unions for themselves.

**What has happened to heterosexual marriage rates where gays marry?**

**Some background considerations:**

20. Declining marriage rates, paralleled by increasing rates of unmarried cohabitation and births are generally seen as parts of a second demographic transition in the Western world, where marriage and family have been weakened as the primary child rearing environment.
21. The Nordic countries are leaders here. Moral and cultural controls have largely disappeared and religious influence has faded. Not far behind are France, Belgium, Great Britain, and Germany, along with the U.S and Canada. With tighter family patterns and lower rates of cohabitation, family dissolution, and out-of-wedlock births are the southern European countries of Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece. There is a general drift towards the Nordic pattern, promoted not only by secularisation, increasing sexualisation and easy marital dissolution but also, significantly, by welfare states. Privileges once reserved for marriage are given to individuals regardless of relationships or family arrangements. Male provision for families is frowned upon and mothers are expected to be employed and self-sufficient, with wage subsidies and children in day care. Spousal benefits or exemptions do not exist, income tax is individual and state support is targeted to lone parents with the stand alone mother the locus of family 'diversity'.
22. The disintegrative process is somewhat held in check by tendencies for parents to marry after a couple of births; pointing to the persistence of residual norms and family pressures connecting child rearing to spousal commitment. As out-of-wedlock childbearing pushes beyond 50% a stalling process is evident as it enters the toughest area of cultural resistance. Once that marker disappears and the tendency to marry at the second birth dissipates, the path opens to the terminus of marriage which, if it survives at all, rests only upon residual sentiment. While mass cohabitation is not initially a long-term form of living together, but rather a prelude to marriage or separation, it then becomes extended and a substitute for marriage. People conform to suggestion and example and, as married parenthood becomes a minority phenomenon, it loses the critical mass needed to be a socially normative force.
23. When same sex partnerships - readily absorbed to marriage - made their appearance in **Scandinavian** countries, marriage had been more or less dismantled in all but name.

Sweden's anti-marriage policy has been implemented earlier than those in Norway and Denmark as well as being more explicit and coordinated than in the UK, where there has been considerable prevarication and subterfuge.<sup>17</sup> Sweden's politicians' and planners' 'ideology of neutrality' (sic) amounted to about the most concerted attempt in history to engineer a liberated sexuality free from moral and social norms, freedom of women from child care responsibilities and the demise of interdependence through economic manipulation, social pressures and massive public re-education. With radical feminist and socialist ideology dominant from an early period, powerful social scientists have seen marriage as a barrier to full equality between the sexes. Re-defined as "a form of voluntary cohabitation between independent persons"<sup>18</sup> anything which might benefit it over cohabitation was stripped away as couples living together acquired much the same rights as married people. Divorce was made available on request without giving reason(s). There could not be a 'right to choose', since people were deemed 'culturally conditioned' into an impoverishing mould. The withdrawal of support for two parent families, imposition of penalties on non-working 'partners' and very high taxation made it impossible to live on one wage. The word 'custodian' has designated the person closest to a child, who serves the state as the supervisor and agency on whose behalf parents act. Norway and Denmark experienced similar moves away from the largely self-financing two parent family towards employed mothers and public child care supported by social security.

24. Removing any incentives to get and stay married have had direct and unsurprising effects on marriage. Sweden's rates were falling dramatically by the end of the 1960s (it registered the lowest rate in recorded history in 1997), accompanied by rising cohabitation, unwed births and high levels of single person households.<sup>19</sup> By the 1980s, boast was that Sweden was "moving faster than most other advanced industrialised counties toward a society of cohabiting individuals, temporary families, and single individuals with and without children."<sup>20</sup> Unwed births were at 48.2% in 1991 and hit the 55% mark in the next decade. With marriage neither legally nor normatively a precondition for a family this has become simply a matter of the fact of parenthood.

25. **If Sweden and Norway are the kind of places where we are expected to find that same sex unions have rescued marriage** after heterosexuals have trashed it, then marriage has hardly been welcome in recent Scandinavian history – or not by governments. Hardly promising, is it?

Notwithstanding, oscillations in Scandinavian marriage rates post 1990 have led to claims that same sex partnership/marriage has helped to revitalise the institution. And, the argument goes, if societies with such low marriage rates can see a boost from same sex marriage, why not elsewhere?

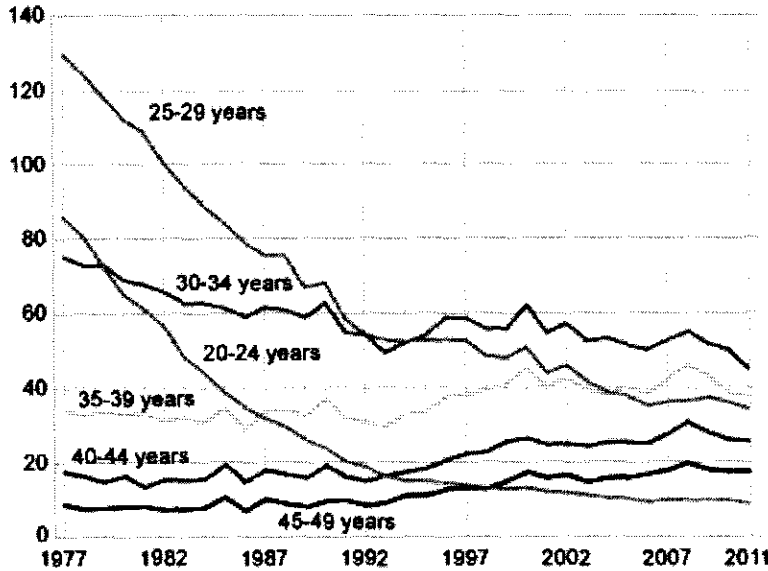
26. **For example:** this has been forcefully put – mainly in reference to Norway - by US ‘gay’ advocates William N. Eskridge and Darren R. Spedale.<sup>21</sup> They accept the data showing a close correlation between legal and economic changes and lower marriage rates, high divorce rates and unwed births. Throughout the 1980s, Norwegian marital households with children plummeted; falling 18% from 1989 to 1993 as cohabiting with children rose 70%. So, would we not expect same sex partnerships and marriage to cause an acceleration - whether temporarily or long term - in changes that have been going on since the 1970s? But they argue that we do not see a further plunge. Instead, while there is still a continuous rise in cohabitation with children and a decline in marriage both absolutely and comparatively in the 1990s, same sex unions were “no stake through the heart of marriage.” Instead, they were responsible for how “the trend slowed down a little bit after 1993.”<sup>22</sup>

Norwegian tabloids and media suggest that marriage was made ‘fashionable’ among young people due to royal rather than ‘gay’ weddings.

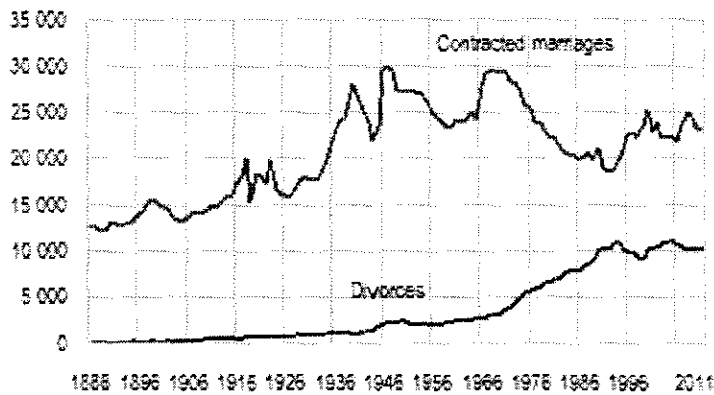
27. Both perspectives are described by demographers as ‘misguided’.<sup>23</sup> **Marriage statistics in societies with very low rates present problems for analysis.** Marriage rates are fairly volatile anyway; affected by economic conditions and predictions as well as one off events.

Small rises in the number of Norwegian marriages over recent years appear to result from increasing numbers of people of marriageable age (including immigrants), along with catching-up by people who marry later in life (often with children born out of wedlock), and increasing numbers of divorcees available for remarriage (not a rise in their frequency of marriage). People marry late and divorce frequently, and they increasingly cohabit for long periods instead of marrying. Among those in their 20s, marriage rates have not changed much – in fact, these are still falling heavily up to the mid-30s. Even after that age, recent years have seen a further tip downwards for older age groups.

**Marriage rates for first time married males in selected age groups. Marriages between different sex. 1961-2011**



At the same time, divorce has generally remained high. While the period 1995 to 1999 saw divorce rates stabilise in Norway, by 2000-2001 the projections were back at 1994-levels.



Slightly more marriages and hulls in rising divorce levels in countries with generally low marriage rates do not mean that two parent married families have undergone a revival. All has more to with the institution's overall decline than any renaissance. Why not look at Sweden's divorce rates? There has been no pause there - so not saved by same sex unions.



28. Between 1990 and 2000, Norway's out-of-wedlock birthrate rose from 39% to 50% as, tail gunning Swedish rates, the tendency to marry with the second child weakened in both. **Denmark** saw a levelling off during the 1990s at around 45% - which seems to relate to a slight increase in fertility among older couples, who marry after multiple births as, at the same time, there was a 25% increase in cohabitation and unmarried parenthood among mainly younger couples. About 60% of first born children in Denmark now have unmarried parents.
29. Family dissolution rates differ from divorce rates when so many people rear children outside of marriage. We need to know the rate at which parents (married or not) split up and suggestions are that throughout Scandinavia and Europe cohabiting couples with children break up at three times the rate of married parents. Rising rates of cohabitation and out-of-wedlock births are true proxies for rising rates of family dissolution.
30. **Finally**: a case has also been made for **Belgium** having a slightly upward marriage trend. Like Scandinavian experience, this is difficult to reconcile with the marriage rate per thousand population dropping from 6.5 in 1990 to 4.4 in 2000 and 4.0 in 2009.<sup>24</sup> Again, the waters are muddied somewhat by immigration, where entrants from the Muslim world will have a higher marriage rate than the resident population.

Belgium's divorce rate is amongst the highest in the European Union. The crude divorce rate per 1,000 inhabitants stood at 47.0 in 2010, the same as Denmark's. Higher levels are recorded for Sweden at 54.1 and Norway at 54.8. (Otherwise, there is Bulgaria at 54.1: Estonia at 59.1 and Slovenia at 55). Belgium's unwed birth rate rivals the UK's at 45.7% in 2009. This is a swifter rise than in the UK or from 4.1% in 1980 and 11.6% in 1990, compared with the UK's 11.5% in 1980, 27.9% in 1990 and 46.3% in 2009.<sup>25</sup> Children

living with two parents at 14 are 65% in Belgium compared with the UK at 68.9% - a Western world low (apart from Latvia).

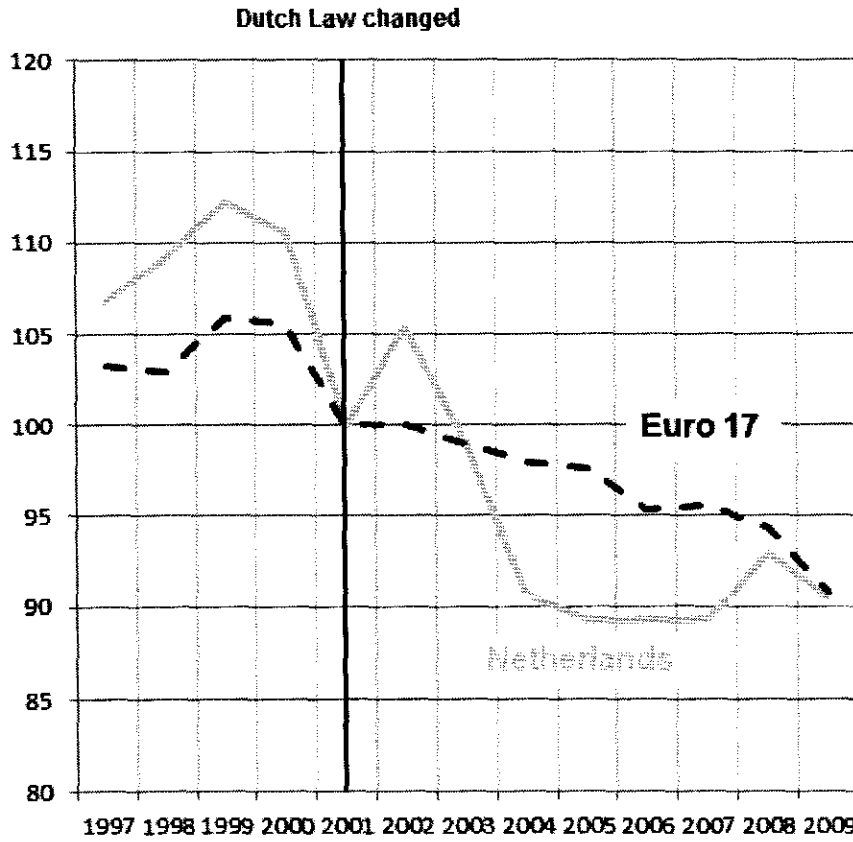
31. **In Sum:** from what we know about demographic trends, it is preposterous to argue that people suddenly somehow embrace marriage and slow or reverse its decline because homosexuals can have it. Exponents cherry pick their statistics. They also fail to suggest how this could possibly be so and how it is supposed to operate. Why grasp same sex marriage as the reason for the slowing of disintegrative trends, if that is what is even going on in the first place, rather than a plethora of other explanations? As already mentioned; explanations in societies with low formal union rates are bound to be more complex than simplistic mono-causal hunches. It has also been mentioned how the third phase of marital decline tends to stall around the 50% unwed birthrate level due to residual attachment to traditional forms in sections of society more resistant to the de-institutionalisation of cohabitation and procreation.

32. **As we move to more traditionally family centred societies** the picture is bleak.

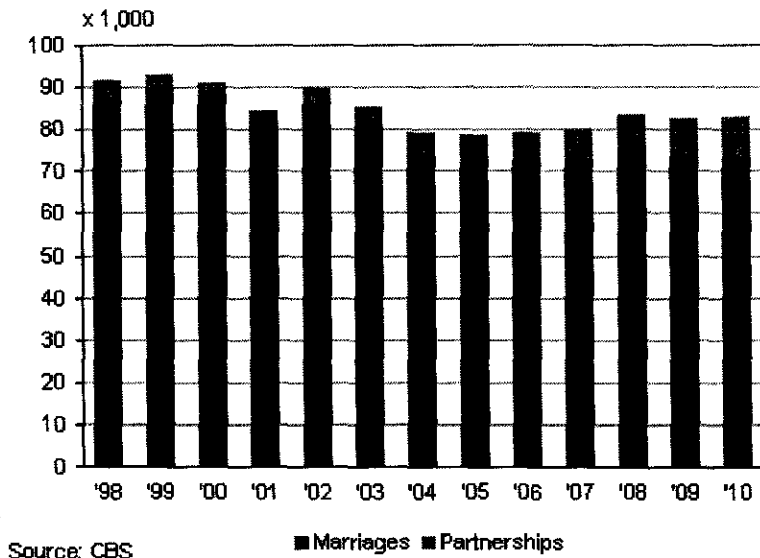
In the **Netherlands**, marriage even had a bit of a mini-renaissance in the late 80's and early 90's then, between 1993-4 and 2009, the trend is downhill. A slight upward move in 2002 may be partly accounted for by same sex unions – partnerships and marriages. Otherwise, marriage is declining among heterosexuals, with higher rates of divorce and out of wedlock childbearing. Dropping quite steeply from 88,000 plus in 2000, marriage is at its lowest since WWII (with 70,000 plus in 2010). There is an increase in registered partnerships – which offer a lighter relationship for heterosexuals. Nearly one in three women who enter into a registered partnership are over 40 years old, compared to more than one in five women who get married. If this suggests a remaining connection between marriage and family building, so might the way in which nine in ten couples plan to live together before marrying and two-thirds of cohabiting couples aspire to marry some time.<sup>26</sup>



**Marriages index: Netherlands and Euro area: 1997-2009**

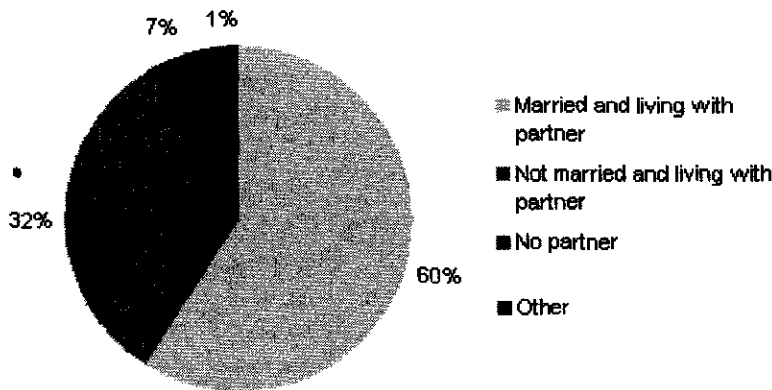


**Marriages and registered partnerships: Netherlands**



33. From 2001, the formal divorce rate in the Netherlands dropped. However, from 2001 – the same year as same sex marriage - couples could convert their marriages to registered partnerships, which could be annulled without a court order. Using this process of ‘flash divorce’, some 30,000 couples separated in this way up to 2009; almost completely compensating for the decrease in formal divorces. At the same time, rights of married couples and registered partners were extended to unregistered cohabiters. Four in ten babies are now born to unwed mothers – although if the mother has a subsequent child she is likely to marry. The rise has been particularly rapid, from 24.9% in 2000 to 43.3 % in 2009, compared with 11.4 in 1990 and only 4.1 in 1980. (UK comparisons: 46.3% in 2009, up from 27.9% in 1990 and 11.5% in 1980.) In the decade ending in 2009, the share of unmarried parents among people in their thirties went from eight to 28%. However, provinces (containing cities like Amsterdam and Rotterdam) with the highest proportion of babies born to single mothers contain large immigrant groups among whom casual partnerships are more common. The level of single lone mothers seen for the UK and US is still not matched in the Netherlands.

Proportion of live-born babies by marital status of the mother, 2009



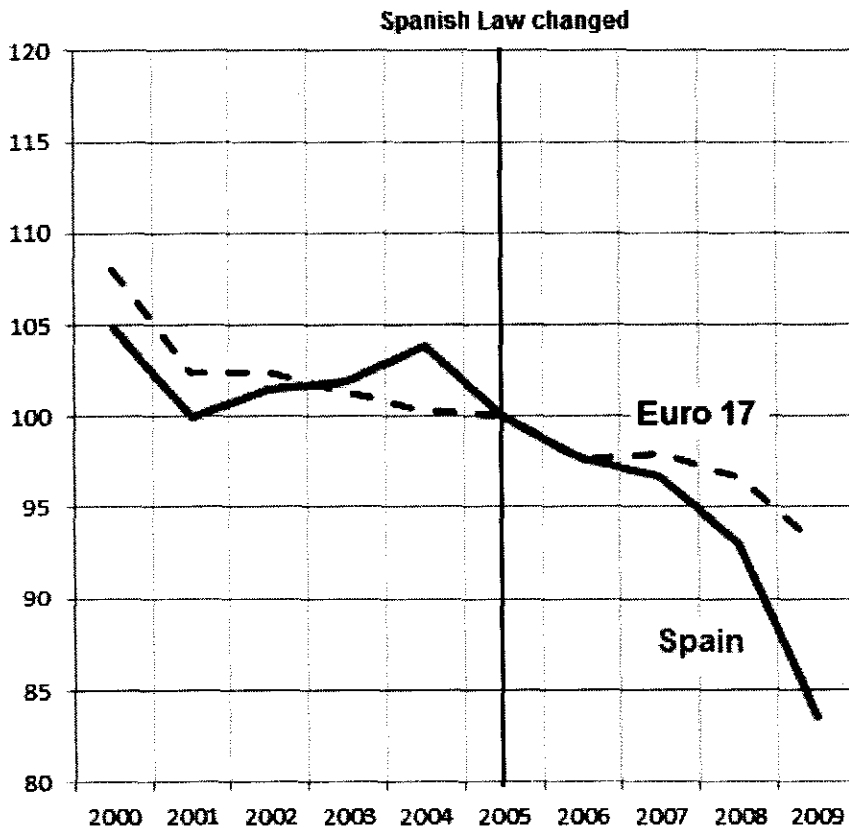
Source: CBS

34. This is happening in what has been a generally family centred country which otherwise more resembles Italy’s than Scandinavian or Anglophone nations- and whether we look at low proportions of children aged three and under attending day care or nursery school, youngsters eating meals with their family, the influence of local citizens on education and

tax relief for families. Making registered partnerships available to heterosexuals and distributing the privileges of marriage to uncommitted relationships appears to be associated with the casualization and trivialization of unions.

35. **Spain** saw a pronounced downwards acceleration in its marriage decline following the introduction of same-sex marriage. This started to abate a little by 2009 – perhaps due to more same sex unions being formalized in the event of a centre right government terminating the arrangement (it has not). The annual number of marriages fell by over 14,600 over the first three years (2005-2007) in which same sex couples were able to marry. For the next three years (2008-10), the annual fall was 34,000. The descent is quite precipitous, since Spanish marriage rates (per thousand population) have been reasonably steady compared to some other countries – at 5.9 in 1980: 5.7 in 1990 and 5.4 in 2000 before the plunge to 3.8 in 2009. This includes the more than 18,000 same-sex couples who got married in Spain between 2005 and the end of 2010 (when 2.1 per cent of marriages were between people of the same sex, with 2,216 female). The State Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Transsexuals and bisexuals (ELGBT) believes that the actual number is 23,000, since not all have been recorded.

**Marriages index: Spain and Euro area: 2000-2009**



36. At the same time as Spain’s socialist government introduced same sex marriage it also brought in legislation known as the ‘express divorce’ bill, to make the process easier and faster.

Again, we have the association between the drive for same sex marriage in the context of a general libertarianism which trivialises and is fundamentally hostile to marriage. The legal change eliminated the need for couples to be physically separated for a period before legal proceedings could begin. In the following year (2006), 126,952 divorces were registered in 2006, a 74.3% increase on the previous year. The sharpest rise was seen in divorces between those who had been married for less than a year: up 330.6%.

37. **Verdict:** Optimistic accounts of a re-vitalisation of marriage or even ‘no damage done’ are, at very least, premature. This is not saying that same sex marriage is *the reason* for marital decline anywhere - simply how it does nothing to prevent it.

We can be certain that same sex marriage will do no such thing as encourage stable marriage whether for heterosexuals and/or homosexuals. Marriage in Scandinavia, Spain, Netherlands and elsewhere is in deep decline.

**What does same sex marriage do to marriage?**

38. Same sex marriage is both an effect and a cause of the evisceration of marriage - especially the separation between this and parenthood. As rising out-of-wedlock births and cohabitation rates - as well as legal changes - disassociate marriage from parenthood, same sex marriage becomes conceivable. If marriage is only about couple relationships, and is not intrinsically connected to parenthood, why not give the leavings to homosexuals? As marriage is redefined to accommodate same-sex couples, this reinforces the irrelevance of marriage to parenthood. Elsewhere, same sex marriage is an instigator for the casualisation of heterosexual unions and separation of marriage and parenthood.

**39. In the feedback loop, either:**

**‘Gay’ marriage is the end game of long running anti-marriage and family policy - typified by Sweden.** Cohabitation and out-of-wedlock birth rates were rising and marriage rates were falling in Scandinavia long before the enactment of homosexual partnership/marriage laws. These trends are explicable in terms of the removal or reduction of incentives to marry by forces hostile to traditional conjugality. Same sex partnership/marriage then locks in and reinforces existing trends toward the separation of marriage and parenthood.

**Or:**

**Gay marriage initiates the severance and dismemberment of marriage and family** in more family friendly societies, such as Spain and the Netherlands. There is free-fall towards the Scandinavian model – driving “home the message that marriage itself is outdated, and that virtually any ‘family form’, is acceptable.”<sup>27</sup>

Either which way, same sex marriage is more a terminus for marriage or ultimate act of dissolution, rather than a force for revival.

**By products**

40. **Education.** Everywhere, the remaking of the sexes has been inseparable from an aggressive policy to equalize 'sexualities' within the context of its overriding ethos that expert elites possess a superior knowledge of how best people should live. In Sweden, the National Academy for Education conducted an extensive review of school material and schools were ordered to 'integrate gender equality and sexual orientation issues into their operations and everyday tasks. Research is meant to focus upon how 'norms and attitudes make homophobia possible' even where there are 'no statistics or consistent studies which can pinpoint discrimination due to sexual orientation', and making what might be considered offensive statements about homosexuality merit a prison term.<sup>28</sup>
41. **Spreading the practice.** There is the suggestion of a big, recent rise in sex ever or recently with a same sex partner and LGB-identities in the Netherlands.<sup>29</sup> Same for Massachusetts. This is, of course, seen elsewhere where there are homosexual endorsing and promoting curricula in schools, but it is likely to increase with same-sex marriage. This has massive health implications.
42. **Other institutions.** Churches in the UK might be better protected from hostile litigation if the established church's legal obligation to marry any eligible persons in England and Wales was ended, or the rights of any religious bodies to conduct marriages were taken away – as in Sweden. Some clearly hope that compulsion to perform same sex weddings will sever church and state and further push Christianity out of the public arena and, therefore, consciousness.<sup>30</sup> Undermined and stigmatized for their unreasonableness and prejudice, the moral authority of religious institutions will further retreat in favour of a narrow secular ideology, particularly as sexual behaviour at odds with traditional norms is further encouraged and advanced.
43. The prospect of disciplinary procedures faces chaplains for the NHS, universities, armed forces or anywhere else, even if they were acting in their own church outside work time. Charities may be forced to close if they cannot affirm equal marriage. Bodies which pay to use premises provided by local authorities, like a school hall for a charity sale, face bans - and so the civic and social implications go on.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:11 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** suziehema@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Susan Otaguro | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: Oct 31, 10:00a House Judiciary and Finance Committee Re: Bill #SB1 Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions.Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married.Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society.As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians.If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it.But LET THE PEOPLE VOTE! If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country.It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God.It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years.It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in.Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible.It is their religious right to do so.To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights. For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE "No" to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Sincerely, Susan Otaguro 15-1668 3rd Ave. HPP mailing: PO Box 492979 Kea'au, HI. 96749

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:23 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** suziehema@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Susan Otaguro | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: Please allow the people of Hawaii to vote on this issue, not in a session where there are few people. I want my voice to be heard too. That's why I am submitting my testimony. I live on the big island and am not able to fly over to Oahu, so technology is a life-saver because it is allowing me to be heard. I appreciate that! In something so important to the people as this bill, it should be heard from all people. I believe in the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. That doesn't mean I hate gays or lesbians. It is my belief that traditional marriage brings us the most happiness for families. I do not support this bill. Please let the people be heard. Susan Otaguro

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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:14 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** paaluaw@polynesia.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)\*

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wilda Paalua        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments:

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Pertaining to the hearing of October 13, 2013 at 10:00am (SB1 Status)

To The House of Representatives:

Please do not approve marriage between individuals of the same sex to marry each other. I declare that I am not in favor of it. God created man and woman; not man and man, or woman and woman. If you pass this law, it will have a terrible impact on our children, our schools, our churches, and all Hawaii citizens. You will regret making such a wrong decision. I pray that God guides you in truth and shows you that marriage should not be allowed for homosexuals.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Parker, Hawaii citizen  
(I will not be testifying in person)



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:17 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose SB 1 (Written Only)

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**From:** Lucy Parkin [<mailto:lparkin@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:53 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 1

Aloha Senators Rhoads and Luke,

I am a Honolulu, Hawaii resident and live in the Kakaako district. I am very disappointed on how the Senate hearing was handled with insensitivity to the many who signed up to testify and were not given the opportunity to be heard. I hope Thursday's hearing will not be a repeat of the injustice displayed to many who sacrificed their time and resources to be at the hearing.

I strongly oppose the SB 1 for same sex marriage. Please take count of my opposition.

Yours truly,

Lucy Parkin  
600 Queen Street, #2107  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808.357.3938

Steven Pereira  
P.O. Box 346  
Hanapepe, HI 96716

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

28 October 2013

Dear State of Hawaii Legislators,

*"The state of being husband and wife; wedlock"; "The legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife,"* are the leading definition statements that you would find for the word marriage in the New College Edition of The American Heritage Dictionary. The edition I have happens to be copyrighted in 1976.

I have an even older dictionary, Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, copyrighted 1963. Webster defines it: *"the state of being married"; "the mutual relationship of husband and wife: wedlock"; "the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family."*

Webster's collegiate dictionary was first copyrighted in 1914. I have never laid eyes on the first copyrighted edition, but there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that marriage was defined back then much the way it is defined in the dictionary's of today. That is because in all of history, the word marriage referred to the union of a man and a woman.

The word marriage was established because a term was needed to refer to the custom of a man and a woman entering into the special relationship of husband and wife. The custom was so natural, so normal and commonplace throughout the entire world and history that it had to be given a name. The custom of a man taking a woman as his bride, in the English language, was and is called *marriage*.

So why a millennium later, would we change the definition of marriage?

Because our Constitution and laws of our government say that homosexual couples should be entitled to the same rights and benefits of married couples? Please, there are better ways of accomplishing equality than by changing the definition of a term that is thousands of years old. After all, the practice of men marrying women was going on long before humans even decided to establish governments! US government is a mere 200 years old; Hawaii state government practically an infant. What gives our governments the right to change the definition of marriage? What gives government any ground to redefine an *institution* that is thousands of years older than itself?

I encourage you and all legislators to take a step back and look at what you are doing. There are truly better ways of insuring equality. The federal government needs to do the same. By all means, do not follow their faulty leadership with more of the same.

Stand up. Be brave. Break from party ranks if you must. Ours is not a government of Democrats. Ours is not a government of Republicans. Ours is a government *for the People, of the People, and by the People*, and the People voted unanimously in 1998 to hold marriage in Hawaii as being the union of a man and a woman. To discount the vote of the people and take it upon your selves to decide what marriage is through this special legislative action is wrong. It is not in keeping with government *for the People*. Do not confuse the loud voices of a minority to be that of the majority. I urge you not to redefine marriage. I urge you to leave the meaning of marriage to the People of Hawaii. If you feel the people of Hawaii have changed their sentiments on this issue since 1998, I urge you to be a Government *for the People*, and put this back to the vote of the People.

The definition of marriage does not belong to any one of us. The definition, indeed, marriage itself, belongs to the men and women that have embraced one another in this special union throughout the history of mankind, the union responsible for the procreation of life, and the survival of the human race.

Yours in trust,

Steven Pereira  
Hanapepe, Kauai, HI

Peter Plotzeneder  
[pplotz@hotmail.com](mailto:pplotz@hotmail.com)

To whom it may concern:

RE: SB1 – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

I personally think that this is a right of the State Licensed Officiant to decide whom they can wed. I also believe that the State and Federal government should honor that contract between two people no matter what their sexual preference is.

I also believe that the wording could be changed to maybe make the concept easier to understand for the people that are against it because of their fundamental belief of “marriage is for procreation”. I believe it would lessen the blow of the word “marriage” if the wording were written as such:

“Recognizes the union between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive”

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

*Peter Plotzeneder*

Peter Plotzeneder



Joseph D. Pluta  
181 Lahainaluna Road, Suite I, P.O. Box 12278, Lahaina, HI 96761  
E-mail: [Pluta@maui.net](mailto:Pluta@maui.net) Toll Free: 1-800-367-5637  
FAX: (808) 661-7992 Local: (808) 661-7990

October 29, 2013      EMAIL TESTIMONY

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

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

**THERE IS A SOLUTION TO YOUR DILEMMA THAT WILL SATISFY THE SUPER MAJORITY OF CONCERNS REGARDING THIS CONTROVERSIAL BILL.**

**CHANGE THE VEHICLE! AMEND THE CIVIL UNIONS LAWS INSTEAD!**

**DEFER THIS BILL AS THE WRONG VEHICLE TO DRIVE TO THE SOLUTION. AVOID UNNECESSARY TAMPERING WITH WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!**

This Bill is simply the wrong way to address equality in legal rights and discriminatory practices by confusing it with marriage as the vehicle instead of adding these legal rights to civil unions already legal in the State of Hawaii.

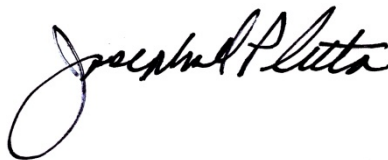
The laws of this world are always changing and will continue to do so.

**Do Not confuse God's Biblical Laws with Man's Laws!**

The Bible and the Word of God are unchangeable and eternal.

**You have a choice! You will have to be accountable for your choice of being part of an abomination and false doctrine! Why ? It's not necessary!**

Respectfully Submitted:



**For the House hearing:** Hearing on 10/31 @ 10:00am

House Committee on Judiciary and Finance

**Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF PROPOSED HAWAII MARRIAGE EQUALITY ACT OF 2013**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly showed that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Sincerely,

Priscilla Wong

Nelson Quiocho  
Bobbie Quiocho  
95-1037 Kaapeha St., #264  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
(80) 542-1986

October 29, 2013

House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB – 1

Dear Honorable House of Representatives:

Please consider my plea in your decision regarding the SB1. It is my honorable requests that you hear the people of Hawaii on the concerns and of the outcome should this bill were to pass. I am oppose to this bill, primarily as my role as a mother. It is my plea to protect any and all influences of the gay/lesbian relationships that will be opposed, against my beliefs and wishes, to my child, in our communities and schools, should this bill pass.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Nelson and Bobbie Quiocho

Aloha members of the senate,

My name is Brayden AKT Ramos, otherwise known as Kaleo and I am in support of the Senate Bill No. 1, Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

As you meet to discuss the issue on same-sex marriage I strongly urge you to vote in support of the Senate Bill No. 1, Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, which will allow two loving same sexed persons in a relationship to marry.

My partner and I have been in a loving relationship for the past 5 years and look forward to spending a lifetime together with our son. We met a number of years ago through mutual friends and have been inseparable since. Our love story is has become a gem for us to continue the fight for Marriage Equality.

In 2008 Michael and I began our journey together. As I mentioned above we initially met through mutual friends. Since we've met I fell madly in love with him. It was everything about him, his kindness, his concern for others, his intelligence, his family; he is everything to me, next to my son. About two years after we met Michael and I had a strange discussion through text messages on our cell phones. As it turned out he felt the very same. Michael and I went through a lot together, from broken friendships that could not handle our relationship being within the circle of our friends, to those friends who stuck by us. Over the years, all of our friends are now in support of our loving relationship. As a couple we do many things. Michael is a HIV/AIDS prevention specialist in a non-profit agency and I am a special education teacher in the Department of Education, together as a couple Michael and I work within many programs that offer support/services to our GLBTQIA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and ally) youth. Aside from work we volunteer much of our time in our community. Two things that we stand by as we teach our GLBTQIA youth, we teach them to feel empowered and to advocate for the their own civil rights as citizens of the United States.

As I pass by the sign holders along the avenues of Hawaii urging the senate to "let the people vote" my blood begins to boil. The people did vote. The people voted for those who are holding office in the senate. The people's voice was heard and now you, the people who are in office, will make a decision on the fate of all same-sexed couples in Hawaii. You will make a decision that will affect those of us who have been together and committed in loving relationships of many years to decades. Although diverse, we are still worthy of being able to seal our relationships with marriage and become families.

Ultimately, Michael and I both believe that two people in a loving and committed relationship should be awarded the opportunity to solidify this union under a federal law-binding document such as a marriage license. We both want to have the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities that come with marriage as they already do with heterosexual couples because it is our civil right.

Mahalo for your time,  
Brayden AKT Ramos



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:24 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** honolulu@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| jerome ranos        | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I absolutely support SB1 to allow equal rights to the minority group of LGBT in Hawaii with regards to marriage and all rights currently available to non- LGBT CITIZENS.

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

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**N.TOD ROBERTSON**  
**620 MCCULLY STREET #507**  
**HONOLULU, HAWAII.**

Aloha Judiciary Chair Rep. Rhoads and Vice Chair Rep. Har, and Finance Chair Rep. Luke and Vice Chairs Rep. Ling Johanson and Rep. Nishimoto.

My name is N. Tod Robertson. I am a 23 year resident of Hawaii who strongly supports SB1. I ask you to support SB1 also.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Now is the time to grant same-sex couples their full Civil Rights. Same-sex individuals deserve the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

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 recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex by supporting SB1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

N.Tod Robertson



October 31, 2013

House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

Judiciary Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads

Judiciary Vice Chair Rep. Sharon Har

Finance Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke

Finance Vice Chairs Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson and Rep. Scott Nishimoto

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Pride At Work Hawai'i, which advocates for full equality and inclusiveness - in our workplaces and our unions - for LGBT workers and our families, testifies in strong support of marriage equality legislation. We stand united with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement both locally and nationally on this important issue of economic and social justice.

Now that Section 3 of DOMA has been repealed by the Supreme Court, the State of Hawai'i's non-recognition of same-sex relationships as marriage deprives thousands of families of the most important attributes of their labor: the ability to provide for themselves and their families. There are more than 1,100 rights and protections under federal law to which only married couples are entitled. Many, such as Social Security benefits and family medical leave, derive from an individual's employment status.

While opponents of working people's interests try to use marriage as a wedge issue to divide our strength, at the heart of labor's support for LGBT equality is the belief that "an injury to one is an injury to all." As Joe Hansen, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, said, "Marriage equality is an economic justice issue, and a social justice issue - and that makes it a union issue."

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Tod Robertson  
President



**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:42 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: sb1; support (Written Only)

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**From:** Lyle Roe [<mailto:lyle@fatlawfarm.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:01 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Cc:** Alvin Ty Law

**Subject:** sb1; support

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Luke, and Members of the Hawaii House Special Session Committee on the Judiciary,

I am writing in strong, passionate, and hopefully reasoned support of SB 1.

I moved to these Islands a year and a half ago. I moved with my partner and boyfriend because his family needed him to come back from the mainland and help manage their farm. As I have a background in agriculture, the move seemed ideal for us. We were exhilarated when HB 1109 was introduced in January, and we had moderate hopes for its passage. We followed the bills lack of progress through the entire session -- *disappointment* doesn't really begin to touch the emotions we experienced.

We were ecstatic when the Supreme Court handed down its landmark pair of decisions in June, and we joined our brothers, sisters, and allies in urging the Governor to call this special session to deal with this issue. It is my hope that this committee and this chamber will honor the spirit of equality and civil rights for gay men and women.

The arguments are all out there, but there is one that I feel deserves some attention: the question of why civil unions aren't enough. For the same reason that separate drinking fountains were not enough for African-American men and women in the Deep South, civil unions, while a blessing a reprieve, do not represent full equality under the law. We honor the idea that *separate is inherently unequal*, as noted by Justice Earl Warren in *Brown v. Board* (1954). In the same way that a separate water fountains, even if fancy and gleaming new, are designed to maintain separation and distinction between the majority and minority groups, so civil unions, while helpful in alleviating some of the challenges and legal issues that my gay brothers and sisters endure, it, *STILL*, is not equal. I am mindful and appreciative of the effort that many in the legislature made to pass civil unions. Truly, it has been a blessing and a lifesaver for many. But it was still a patch; an interim effort to mitigate the rampant disadvantages and discrimination that we faced, and still face, while we waited for the opportunity to pass full marriage equality.

That day is here. Civil Beats, Star Advertiser, and an entire host of Mainland news and polling organizations corroborate each other in the showing that the majority of Americans now support marriage equality. 2012 was a landmark year for marriage equality -- it passed in every statewide contest to which it was submitted. The



President supports marriage equality. The Supreme Court has upheld the concept of marriage equality. Democrats and many Republicans support marriage equality. The Governor supports marriage equality. And I believe a strong majority of your chamber supports marriage equality.

Marriage for gay men and women means full equality under the law, and the opportunity to express our love for each other in the same way that you can. *I respectfully ask you to vote YES on the House version of SB 1.*

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony.

---

**LYLE ROE**

Operations Manager  
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Aloha,

I am writing in regards to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, which began discussion on October 28, 2013. That is, I oppose it.

Of Hawaii's residents, only 5% are homosexual. Only 0.5% are in Civil Unions- meaning very few are interested in marriage. It is my upbringing and firm belief that marriage is between a man and woman. This is order, as everything in this world- including our laws- has balance and order. In other words, they function together. Same-sex marriage goes against this order. It is through marriages that families are created. Homosexuals don't have the means to do this.

Likewise, the morals of this society would be seriously challenged. I do not want any of today or the future generations to be faced with changes in their school curriculum's regarding same-sex marriage, which this bill would do. Personally, I feel that this would lead to an even more corrupt government.

Lastly, this bill invades on our rights of religion. All religious facilities and leaders should have the right to deny any gay or lesbian couple from marrying in that church's facilities or by that church's leader. The fact that they're marrying goes against biblical teachings. This bill is infringing on the religious rights of Hawaii's citizens.

It is with humility and respect for those on the opposing team that I hope you take in to consideration my testimony. It's clear that the few who want to get married will cause a greater turn of negative events.

Sincerely,

Kayla Romero

October 29, 2013

Re: In Opposition of SB1

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing you today to express my heartfelt opinion, opposing the Same-Sex-Marriage bill being discussed at the Special Session held on Monday 28, 2013. I strongly feel that the Hawaii Lawmakers should not pass the proposed legislation to legalize gay marriage, but rather let the people decide whether to change the definition of marriage through vote.

The bill attempts to redefine marriage. I believe in the biblical definition of marriage.

*The man said, "This is now the bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:23-24*

It is essential to the well-being of families, children and society as a whole that we uphold this! The protections offered to protect religious freedoms in this bill are inadequate. Our country was built upon traditional marriage and religious freedom and we must cherish them both and protect them.

Please defeat the Same-Sex-Marriage bill and put the issue up for popular vote. The citizens of Hawaii have a right to make our choices through voting and should be able to weigh in on this issue rather than have the decision made for them. I prayerfully urge you to let the people speak up for themselves and have their voices heard through popular vote.

I pray that you and your families are blessed during this difficult time and decision making. Take care and God bless.

Sincerely,

Leslie M. Rush



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:42 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: #HE>I (Written Only)

**From:** JUNIOR SALAUSA [<mailto:leinani1977@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:18 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** #HE>I

The reason I got married was for the covenant with God.. Not cuz im in Love or Tax.. was to Make a Commitment with God and stop living in Sin! ! There is No happily ever after when u get married it tough and hard not Ez!!.. that Jus Me!! Im glad I waited for My Husband I have now cuz if I married for Love I would have married the wrong person!!..

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

To the Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Chair Rep. Carl Rhoades ; to the Members of the Committee on Finance and Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke:

My friends and family call me Davina [Sanders]. I am speaking for myself and on behalf of my family. I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013" being reviewed this Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013".

My conscience has been troubled by this bill and by the behavior of government officials such as yourselves. Let's start with the latter: I question the call for a "special session" where any reprisal from the people you represent is disregarded due to a time limit (Read Hawaii State Constitution Preamble). I feel betrayed by this so called Governor Abercrombie and you because it seems as though democracy is being undermined by seditious motives and intentions. Who will benefit from this? Is this for the "greater good"? I always let my children know that with CHOICES whether big or small and good or bad there will be consequences. So, I exhort you to consider the ramifications of your actions and decisions.

As for Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013", I have questions ( If listed, it is of equal importance):

- 1/ So, after reading it, Are the Homosexual Community looking for "federal recognition" through a status change from "civil unions" to "marriages"? Are they trying to build a nation within a nation? or a religion or religious state of there own?
- 2/ Because the Hawaii Constitution Bill of Rights Article 1 Section 23 Marriage defines marriage as being between a man and a woman, then wouldn't that mean "federal recognition" which the Senate Bill 1 proposes would still be disregarded due to this challenge? So what is the proper process of "federal recognition"? What is the point in passing this bill when it conflicts with the Constitution? Doesn't our 1998 constitutional vote matter at all?
- 3/ Because you are considering "marriage equality" for the homosexual community, then why not polygamist and polygynist as well? How do you accomodate for one and exclude all? Where does the confusion end?
- 4/ So, "public accommodations" includes state and city county properties as well as private businesses too that do "for profit" activities for the general public? So if the state or city county refuses services of marriage anywhere, they get sued too like religious entities? If so, who pays for this? Must everyone and businesses become a target for lawsuits and redicule? Is this good business sense?
- 5/ When freedom of religion and freedom of sexual preference conflict? Then what sense does law have---not common sense?
- 6/ Just a couple days ago, my friends ( a pregnant mommy and here husband) were violently attacked at their home by an individual because they opposed the bill openly seeking reprisal from you in the mean time through testimonies and petition. So, where is the compassion? Peoples' lives and that of our unborn seem to be at stake literally, what will you do to protect them and us from ridicule and persecution?
- 7/ Have you considered the plight of other states who have passed such a bill? Will you be defining the "new normacy" too through public school education? Is government changing and dictating our morals and sequestering our freedom of conscience for "convenience"? Why are governments promoting confusion instead of compassion?
- 8/ How does this bill fit in with FAITH? Where does "Divine Guidance" take its rightful place in the

hearts of men? Will the voice of the people be the conscious of the government? Do we perpetuate the life of the land in righteousness or do we disregard it to be accommodating to economic stresses and popular beliefs?

There is more that could be said, but this will suffice for now. On this note, I reiterate: I oppose the Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Davina Sanders



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:11 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** intermarvehawaii@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)\*

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dujduen Santeco     |                     | Oppose                    | No                          |

**Comments:**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:05 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** intermarvehawaii@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dujduen Santeco     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: This matter is way more serious than anyone can imagine. Your decision is very critical. If this bill is passed, communities will be greatly affected. Many religious institutions will no longer be able to provide support and services to non-memebers of the religion regardless of marriage preferences. This also greatly affects our children the future generations who will be our leaders. Our 11-year-old son has already felt affected by the decision last night. Hope and pray for the leaders to make the right decisions. Important matters like this need to be givin to people to vote.

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Jenny R.F. Fujinaka  
808-228-1973  
Email: jade\_1004@yahoo.com

To: House Committees on Judiciary & Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00am  
Place: Auditorium, Hawaii State Capitol  
Re: Testimony in Support of S.B.1, Relating to Equal Rights

October 29, 2013

Greetings Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sharon Har, House Committee Members on Judiciary, and Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chairs Scott Nishimoto and Aaron Johanson, and House Committee Members on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1. I am in full support of this bill that offers equal rights to all loving members of our community who choose to marry. The freedom to love and marry is a constitutional protected right and one that has been denied to too many for too long. I do not understand why it has taken so long for this day to come, but I embrace it fully now that it has arrived.

My father and his partner both died long ago, I'm sure never realizing that how they lived might one day become a protected freedom and a right. Their house was my house, they were my family, we didn't use or refer to phrases like 'civil union' or 'marriage equality' back then. We just were a unique family and part of who I am now is directly related to the love and acceptance they showed to me and for each other. I'm hopeful that my dad and his partner and many others who have since passed would think SB1 a wonderful, beautiful, and liberating way to move our community forward in peace and acceptance.

As a full-time working, mother of two, I am also hopeful that I can show my two young daughters that we live in a world of freedom and acceptance with the passage of SB1. May they grow up here in our unique and beautiful home in Hawaii, knowing that all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability status, etc., have the same legal rights and opportunities as everyone else in our country.

Sincerely and with aloha,



Jenny R.F. Fujinaka, MA, MLISc

Committee on Judiciary and Labor/Committee on Finance  
October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.  
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Written testimony of **Joanne Sheng** in **SUPPORT** of S.B. 1

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor and Committee on Finance:

My name is Joanne Sheng and I am writing in strong support of S.B. 1, which seeks to recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex in Hawai'i. Over the past twenty years, Hawai'i – and the entire nation – has seen a tremendous shift in public attitudes towards support for our gay and lesbian friends and family members. As you are aware, many Hawai'i residents support marriage equality. On October 31, 2013, you will be in the unique groundbreaking position to end the legal discrimination that has existed for so long – by finally erasing the legal distinction between same-sex married couples and opposite-sex married couples in Hawai'i.

**I would be so proud if you, our hardworking lawmakers, would seize this opportunity and make Hawai'i the 15th state to legalize full marriage equality.**



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:45 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** surfer2003@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)\*

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Patricia Scheck     | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:51 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** scott.dean.schmidt@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Scott D Schmidt | Individual   | Support            | No                   |

Comments: Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Scott D. Schmidt E-mail: [scott.dean.schmidt@aol.com](mailto:scott.dean.schmidt@aol.com) 415-336-4562 P.S. As a fmr. resident of Hawai'i, as well as a very frequent visitor to the islands, I feel compelled to let you know that the issue of marriage equality has always been an issue that I feel very passionate about. While I had lived in Hawai'i, I did extensive volunteer work for Marriage Project Hawai'i, as well as the Human Rights Campaign affiliated group, Protect Our Constitution, back in 1998. It is high time that Hawai'i pass S.B. 1, the marriage equality bill. In fact, I think its' time is past due. In the end, it is my hope that Hawai'i passes this very important legislation and join Calif., Conn., Del., Iowa, Maine, Md., Mass., Minn., N.H., N.J., N.Y., R.I., Vt., Wash., as well as D.C., w/ similar statues already in place.

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Ladies and gentlemen,

As a resident of Honaunau on the Big Island, I am a citizen of the state of Hawaii and an attentive observer of your actions, especially in the current special session. The governor has convened this special session of the legislature with the purpose of bypassing the will of the majority of the people of Hawaii to consider a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage. I am confident that Governor Abercrombie, as well as you legislators, are aware that a referendum on this subject was defeated by an overwhelming majority of 70%. Instead of listening the voters, the governor has decided to do an end run around the majority. I find this action alone to be offensive. You can help rectify this by voting no on the proposed legislation.

I speak as an individual, not as a representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that I belong to. However, I stand squarely with the Church in its statement issued on Sept. 23, 1995, entitled "The Family; A Proclamation to the World."

*We, the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.*

*All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual premortal, mortal, and eternal identity and purpose...*

*The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife.*

Following the recent Supreme Court decisions regarding the Defense of Marriage Act and Proposition 8 in California, the Church stated that it is "unwaveringly" opposed to same-sex marriage. I too continue to be opposed

to this idea despite its popularity among various celebrities and a loud minority.

Same-sex marriage is unnatural, taking into consideration the physical structure of men and women, and is contrary to the concept of marriage as recognized by all faiths across the globe. Although the popularity of this issue in the media and among various celebrities may overshadow the majority of Hawaii's voters and result in the passage of the legislation, I urge that strong protections for religious beliefs be incorporated. The current proposal does not provide adequate religious exceptions. By the current language of the bill, a church would lose its exemption by merely allowing a single non-member to use any of its facilities. Situations like this are likely to cause suits against religious organizations by individuals, and suits against the state by these same organizations, and clog the already overloaded court system. Additionally, many church sponsored social services such as adoption and counseling that are currently offered to the public, may be forced to close. If you, as legislators cannot listen to the majority of the people and vote against this bill, then strong religious exceptions must be incorporated such that clergy and their chapels, temples, synagogues, mosques, etc., be excluded from **any** compulsion to perform marriages that violate their beliefs. Additionally, people of conscience who own businesses must also be protected from being forced to provide services in any situation that violates their beliefs. If the bill is passed as written, Hawaii will have the most restrictive religious freedoms in the nation. Don't let intolerance destroy the spirit of aloha that Hawaii is so well known for.

As a constituent, let me assure each of you that I will not vote for any legislator, or governor, who approves of this proposed legislation unless its grossly inadequate religious protections are replaced with robust language to protect all people of faith.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Schooler

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1

TO: Representative Karl Roads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance

FROM: Gwen Shen 585-2937

DATE OF HEARING: THURSDAY 10-31-13

POSITION: OPPOSE SB 1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

I TESTIFY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1

This bill is taking away the privilege, responsibility and right of a parent to teach the child what is right, in accordance to the value of the family in the area of same sex marriage.

When this becomes law of the land, I have no choice and no right to protect my child from the indoctrination of same sex life style. It will not become a homosexual individual's choice which my child can choose to respect, it will become a law that forces my child to comply and accommodate.

This is not equal rights. This is dictatorship.

Let the people decide. Let the majority win.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB 1.

Thank you.

Gwen Shen

10-29-13 2:03am



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:07 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony (Written Only)

**From:** Damien Shrinski [<mailto:shrinski@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:17 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Testimony

Honorable Representatives,

I ask you to reject the Same Sex Marriage Bill in this Special Session and put it on the ballot for the people to decide.

I believe in the democratic process. I believe that this issue should be decided as a popular vote. In many posts, I've seen the argument that "equality" is something that cannot be decided by popular vote. Maybe that's the consensus here. If that's true, what are the criteria that allows representatives to bypass their duty to represent? We come to dangerous ground when we get to decide when the voice of the people counts or not. Some have related this issue to the one of civil rights and slavery. Consider the truth that the civil war was less about slavery was abolished and more about how it was abolished. The rights of States not being considered created a war that still leaves deep seated resentment today. Many of the Confederate leaders agreed that slavery should have been abolished, just not in that manner.

In this issue, consider the voice of the majority. Don't elevate your opinion or your position over the majority voice. You are their servant; elected by them, paid by them.

Please speak let this deep seated issue be decided by the people on a ballot.

Damien Shrinski  
PO Box 507  
Kurtistown, HI 96760  
8088962064



Testimony on Hawaii SB#1.

My name is Jack Snell and my place of residence is P.O. Box 25, Volcano, Hawaii 96785. My email address is [jbjsnell@gmail.com](mailto:jbjsnell@gmail.com).

I am opposed to SB#1 which would redefine marriage to include same-sex couples. Marriage is more than just an intense emotional relationship between two adults. Marriage, in our current laws in the US is primarily a government sanctioned relationship between a father and a mother for the purpose of raising children. Our society and societies for thousands of years have operated quite well with this definition.

Suddenly I find that the debate is about “equality”. Even the title of the bill makes “equality” the issue. This isn’t the issue. Marriage is being redefined. Of course equality is important, but we have now become a society where the wishes of a loud, well-financed minority trump the precedent of history and the rights of the majority. Marriage now becomes primarily about emotional commitment and my right to marry whoever I please. In the process we invite even more types of marriage to follow. Soon long-honored beliefs in marriage like monogamy, sexual exclusivity, permanency, etc. will no longer be the norm. Since marriage will be primarily about my personal rights...we will accept all forms of arrangements. As Dan Savage, a gay activist, writes in a New York Times profile, “a more flexible attitude within marriage may be just what the straight community needs.” After all, the story added, sexual exclusivity “gives people unrealistic expectations of themselves and their partners.”

In the words of Ryan T. Anderson, “Marriage, as American law has previously outlined it, has traditionally incentivized men and women to commit to each other. Marriage is a personal relationship that benefits the public good in a way that very few other personal relationships do. It’s the least restrictive way that a political community has to ensure the wellbeing of children.”

Members of the Hawaii House of Representatives...today we stand at a crossroads. Why are we choosing to elevate the “emotional rights” of a very small minority above what is in the best interest of our society? And on top of this those who believe in traditional marriage will now become the targets...the bad guys...the ones who will be targeted and labeled as bigots. We will now become the targets of increased discrimination. Freedom of conscience and religion will be attacked in new ways by our courts. The good ways that many churches and religious institutions are performing in their communities will have to stop because of fear of lawsuits.

And I close with a strong feeling of many in our state today. “Shame, Shame on you” for bypassing the people. For attempting to railroad through a so called “equality” bill without giving the people a chance to vote. And also shame on the University of Hawaii law professor who on TV said that sometimes democracy isn’t the best thing. I hear her words very clearly. She, her governor, and her legislative friends feel they have the right to “highjack” government in Hawaii. There is no “pono” left in the government.

Respectfully, Jack Snell



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:16 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** puhlsnyder@thisweek.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| paula snyder        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Stop the special legislative session and allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on the Same-sex Marriage bill. Also, include robust protections for religious freedom that would protect religious leaders, organizations, individuals and small businesses from having to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs

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

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

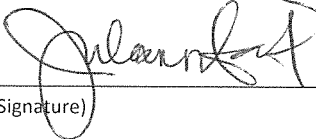
As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process.

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 to testify against this special session and against this bill.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

(Printed name) Julie-Anne Sojot

(address) 225 Queen St. 86 Hon. HI 96813

(phone number) 330-1187

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

As a 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 to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Keoni Sojat  
(Signature)

(Printed name) Keoni Sojat

(address) 225 Queen St. 8G Hon. HI 96813

(phone number) 330-1187

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

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

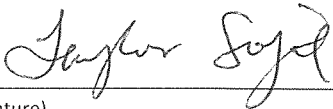
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.



(Signature)

(Printed name) Taylor Sojdt

(address) 225 Green St. 8G Hon. HI 96813

(phone number) 330-1187

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

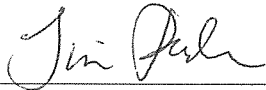
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Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

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



(Signature)

(Printed name) Tim Pader

(address) 225 Queen Street 86 Hon. HI 96813

(phone number) 228-1598



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:40 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** lanakila11@me.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| caleb spencer       | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: I am aggentist this bill because of my beliefs in Jesus Christ and his beliefs of a man and woman marriage! And I do not agree with teaching it in the schools of Hawaii that's its ok to be gay!! I'm not for this at all and I will be angry if we the people do not get to vote!

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

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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:35 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Same sex marriage (Written Only)

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

From: Sandi [<mailto:ssk41@hawaiiantel.net>]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:29 AM  
To: Judiciary Special Session  
Subject: Same sex marriage

Sent from my iPod

God did not create Adam & Steve...He created Adam & Eve. Let us not undo what was meant by God

Sandi Sterker  
Kauai





**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:07 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** rstotzer@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rebecca Stotzer     | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I live in Manoa and am writing to show my support for marriage equality in the State of Hawaii. It is far past time to recognize love in the Aloha State. Recognizing same-sex marriages will strengthen Hawaii's families, is consistent with traditional Hawaiian values, will honor the marriage ceremonies of many faith communities, and will decrease discrimination in the State. Please show your support for Hawaii's future by voting yes in favor of marriage equality. Thank you.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:33 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** sussman@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Stephen Sussman     | Individual          | Support                   | No                          |

Comments: I tried to write earlier and never got confirmation that my testimony went in. If it did, I did not mean to do this multiple times. I am **STRONGLY IN FAVOR** of this bill to provide equality and protection for religions. There is no valid reason to deny it. If we don't do this now we're going to spend a ton of money defending our civil unions in court, and we'll lose based on the Supreme Court ruling. The main factors I see argued against it are either: 1) religious (but this is about civil marriage) 2) "protect the children"-yet analysis of all studies by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows no harm to children and they are officially in favor of same sex marriage 3) "marriage is for procreation"-then why let postmenopausal women marry? why let someone who had a hysterectomy, a vasectomy, or a tubal ligation marry? 4) "I don't want my children to learn about homosexuals"-this is just homophobia pure and simple. This bill is about love and commitment, not about acts of sex 5) "we just don't want to change an institution. We don't know the long term effects."-well, under this reasoning we'd still have slavery in the US, an "institution" that was present since the beginning, and by the way, is acceptable in the Bible. thank you. Stephen Sussman, MD

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:10 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** naike.e.swai@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Naike Swai   | Individual   | Comments Only      | No                   |

Comments: I support equality in marriage between people of the same sex and strongly hope that Hawaii will become one of the trail blazing states in the USA to make gay-marriage legal. We are living in the 21st century, a time where we can clearly recognize that a union between two individuals is based on love and not biology. Marriage consecrates a a commitment two people make towards one another to support and love each other in this life as a family. It is this commitment that we honor in marriage and not a biological fact. The presence or absence of genitalia should not determine how America values family structures. Denying gay unions the equality shared by conventional marriages is akin to denying marriage based on race. Both are merely biological conditions and have nothing to do with the content of a person's heart, thoughts or conduct. It is time for America to stop being blind to these facts. Marriage is not and has never been an establishment for procreation only. Then why deny the union of same-sex couples, many of whom have children that they wish to support together. Hawaii please support the freedom to love whom we love and marry who we wish to marry!

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## Soana Tupua-Fanoga

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**From:** Lynette Tanaka <tookytan@hawaiiantel.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:15 AM  
**To:** Rep. Mele Carroll  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality  
**Attachments:** The Top Ten Harms of Same-Sex Marriage.pdf; Same Sex Marriage-Not in the Best Interest of Children.docx; Effects of Same Sex Marriages.pdf; Testimony.SSM.docx

Dear Representative Carroll:

The instructions to submit testimony stated that, "If you wish to attach more than one file, please email your testimony directly to the committee holding the hearing." Therefore, I am emailing my testimony with attachments directly to your attention. I thank you.

Respectfully,

Lynette Tanaka, M.S.W., L.S.W

**Committee on Judiciary**  
**SB1 Relating to Equal Rights**  
**Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair**  
**Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair**  
**Thursday, October 31, 2013; State Capitol Auditorium**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Testimony of Lynette Tanaka**

My name is Lynette Tanaka and I am opposed to Same Sex Marriages.

I understand that since last June's U.S. Supreme Court decision on the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the IRS and U.S. Treasury Department have determined that same-sex couples who marry in jurisdictions recognizing same sex marriages will be treated as married for federal tax purposes. In addition, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs announced that gay married couples will be eligible for veteran's benefits. Furthermore, the Pentagon announced that married same-sex couples will be eligible for the same health care, housing and separation benefits as married opposite-sex couples.

This justification for legalizing Same Sex Marriages, then, appears to me to be driven by the desire for material gain and no discernment has been made about the consequences and repercussions of the legalization of same sex unions in our culture and upon the youth.

Attached are research studies that reveal the negative impact of same sex marriages in other parts of the world as well as in our own United States where same sex marriages have already been legalized. For example, Pat Morgan, a leading researcher in family policy noted in her research based on data provided from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Canada and the US, entitled, What Happens to Marriage and Families When the Law Recognizes "Same-Sex Marriage," reveals:

- 1) Same sex marriage leads to the casual [nature] of heterosexual unions and separation of marriage and parenthood;
- 2) In the move to same-sex marriage, opposite-sex relationships have to conform to gay norms rather than vice-versa;
- 3) Same-sex marriage triggers dismemberment of family structures in family friendly societies;
- 4) When same sex couples do get married, they are more likely than their heterosexual equivalents to change their minds later;
- 5) In a Vermont study, non-monogamy was reported by over one-half of homosexual men (compared with 15.2% of married heterosexual men). A half of the homosexual men in civil unions and one-third of those not in civil unions had an agreement that sex outside their relationship was permissible, compared with 5% or fewer lesbian and heterosexual couples
- 6) Homosexuals endorse and promote curricula in schools such as in Massachusetts and Canada. This is likely to increase with same-sex marriage.

In addition, Dr. Trayce Hansen, who has a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy in California, states in her article **"Same-Sex Marriage: Not in the Best Interest of Children"**:

**"Homosexually parented children are more likely to experiment sexually, experience sexual confusion, and engage in homosexual and bisexual behavior themselves . . . Dr. Hansen adds, "Same-sex marriage isn't in the best interest of children. While we may empathize with those homosexuals who long to be married and parent children, we mustn't allow our compassion for them to trump our compassion for children. In a contest between the desires of some homosexuals and the needs of all children, we cannot allow the children to lose."**

I would also like to inform you that Dr. Marya Grambs, Executive Director, Mental Health America in Hawaii, stated on 10/24/13 that "Hawaii has the highest rate of suicide in middle school children, with high school students having similar statistics. Hawaii's number of suicides has doubled over the past five years and is the leading cause of injury-related death in Hawaii."

Given the serious climate of our youth in Hawaii, the passage of this bill on Same Sex Marriages will not be conducive for the mental well-being of our youth. It will create more sexual confusion and justification for further sexual experimentation as well as avenues for adverse behavior that our young are ill prepared for. Governor Abercrombie stated that the passage of Same Sex Marriages is "just, fair and right." Is this the path of what is "just, right and fair" that we want for all our children and youth? More homosexuality? More confusion?

I appeal to our Governor and Legislators to open your eyes and ears to what is happening in our culture. We have men in leadership and positions of power who have been unable to control their own sexual drives: President Clinton, former Governor Schwarzenegger, former Governor Eliot Spitzer, General Petraeus, U.S. Senator John Edwards, even Catholic priests. We also have youth raping young girls while they're intoxicated or drugged and distributing pictures of the rape to their peers. Do you not question why these individuals succumbed to their decisions and actions? There is no moral filter, no conscience of wrongdoing of their actions. A priest recently stated that America's inclination towards freedom has been our strength; now, it is our cross, because there is no moderation, no restraint, no responsibility with our freedoms.

As a Catholic, I am also against Same Sex Marriages because homosexuality is considered a sin in the Bible. Re homosexuality, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states "men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies ... must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity." [59] Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided." It opposes criminal penalties against homosexuality. The Catholic Church requires" those who are attracted to people of the same (or opposite) sex to practice chastity, because it teaches that sexuality should only be practiced within marriage, which includes chaste sex as permanent, procreative, heterosexual, and monogamous."

Re marriage, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states that marriage is one of the seven sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony) and teaches:

"The seven sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify

and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them. The effect of the sacrament is an increase in sanctifying grace for the spouses, a participation in the divine life of God Himself.

This sanctifying grace helps each spouse to help the other advance in holiness, and it helps them together to cooperate in God's plan of redemption by raising up children in the Faith. In this way, sacramental marriage is more than a union of a man and a woman; it is, in fact, a type and symbol of the divine union between Christ, the Bridegroom, and His Church, the Bride. As married Christians, open to the creation of new life and committed to our mutual salvation, we participate not only in God's creative act but in the redemptive act of Christ.

Therefore, by this description of marriage as a sacrament, we as Catholics believe that marriage is a gift from Christ as one means to help us to advance in holiness and it is our gift to Him to preserve the true, divine essence of marriage in the way it was intended

Megachurch Pastor Joel Osteen also recently stated in March, 2013: Marriage is between a male and female. Again we're for everybody, but that's where I draw the line . . . When I've come back to the Scripture, as much as I am for everybody, I don't see same-sex [marriage] in the Scripture. The marriage covenant necessarily entails two people of the opposite sex being "joined together" and becoming "one flesh" in the context of sexual intimacy – which God has only ever sanctioned and blessed within the confines of marriage. No other relationship can be a substitute for that. High profile Christian Pastor T.D. Jakes, has also spoken out against homosexuality on the Oprah program: "I believe that sex between 2 people of the same sex is condemned in the scriptures. And as long it says that in the scriptures I don't get to say what I think, I get to say what is in the scriptures.

The above statements make it clear that the Catholic Church and the Christian community do not condemn homosexuals BUT it does condemn the act of homosexuality, as it does adultery, premarital sex, sodomy, etc. Will the Legislature also condone these other acts as well? Adulterers can argue that they were created as non-monogamous individuals and could easily make the case for legalized adultery, open marriages and polygamy. Individuals with a propensity towards children can argue that they were created that way and could also argue for marriages to minors who give their consent.

As one door opens, another one appears. Your consent to legalize same sex marriages WILL give way to other doors of a sexual nature. I do not deny homosexuals the right to inheritance, property rights, medical insurance, and even raising children, in special circumstances. Nor do I deny them the intangibles of compassion, mercy, understanding and forgiveness. I am, however, against homosexuality as a legalized right in the context of marriage. Marriage was not created to embrace homosexuality. Again, marriage is a sacrament and homosexuality is a sin. Take note, that historically, whenever a nation endorsed homosexuality as an established norm, the civilization began to deteriorate, beginning of course with Sodom and Gomorrah, Greece, Pompei, and Rome.

Therefore, please do not pass the Same Sex Marriage Bill and please allow the people to vote. However, should you decide to pass the Same Sex Marriage Bill against the will of the people, then please have the same sex marriages restricted to the Legislature and to the Methodist and Episcopalian churches. Thank you very much.

Baruch

1:14—2:5; 3:1-8 He has made us subject to all the kingdoms round about us, a reproach and a horror among all the nations round about to which the Lord has scattered us. We are brought low, not raised up, because we sinned against the Lord, our God, not heeding his voice.

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on my side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, because God is always right ~Abraham Lincoln

Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. ~Abraham Lincoln

The "garden" of the church must be protected from the "wilderness" of the world -- a world that could threaten the fragility and purity of the garden. ~ Thomas Jefferson

My life would not be worth living if it were not for the driving power of religion, for *faith*, pure and simple. I have seen all my life the arguments against it without ever having been moved by them. ... [N]ever for a moment, have I had one doubt about my religious beliefs. There are people who *believe* only so far as they *understand* -- that seems to me presumptuous and sets their understanding as the standard of the Universe. ... I am sorry for such people." ~ Woodrow Wilson

We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation, without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic. Its teaching, as has been wisely suggested, is ploughed into the very heart of the race. ~Franklin D. Roosevelt

Nobody goes through six years of war without faith. That doesn't mean that I adhere to any sect. A democracy cannot exist without a religious base. I believe in democracy.~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill to add the phrase "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. At the bill-signing ceremony on Flag Day in 1954, he said, "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than to contemplate this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's true meaning. "

First Amendment was written not to protect the people and their laws from religious values, but to protect those values from government tyranny~ Ronald Reagan

Let us take up the challenge to reawaken America's religious and moral heart, recognizing that a deep and abiding faith in God is the rock upon which this great nation was founded ~ Ronald Reagan



To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. We the people elected you guys to be the voice for the people not voice of the people. This means elected leaders cannot do things without the people's approval.

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 is a very crucial moment of our history and this should not be decided abruptly without what the people of Hawaii want.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! It is a violation of our right of speech to not let everyone say their opinion about this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

James Tapulgo

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

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Judiciary and Finance:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Celeste Tefan



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:11 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Same Sex Marriage (Written Only)

**From:** James Texeira [<mailto:ptsrmkona@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:22 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Same Sex Marriage

Aloha,

My name is James P Texeira and I am a voter and resident in the state of Hawaii. Born and raised here. I am writing in opposition to SB-1 or the Same Sex Marriage bill. I do not believe that this is a civil issue. I believe that marriage is not to be decided by the government. I am also concerned with how this bill effects the churches that do not believe in same sex marriage. The ads on the radio that I've heard say that the bill protects the religious organizations and clergy that do not agree with same sex marriage. I do not think it's that cut and dry in reading the bill. Who is determining if our facilities are not or are a public accommodation? The bill is vague in providing this and the time is too short for amendments to be properly vetted by all sides.

I vote for the people to decide and not the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

James P Texeira  
73-1299 Hiolani Street  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

--

***James "Tex" Texeira***  
***Lead Pastor SRM***  
***Hawaii District Youth Director***  
***Big Island Presbyter***



[www.srmkona.com](http://www.srmkona.com)

No same-sex marriage

Dear Members of the Hawaii Legislature

I do not support redefining marriage to include same-sex couples. Please do not hold a special session to do so. Marriage – **real marriage** – is between one man and one woman. Same-sex marriage is a severe contradiction in terms. Even as "civil unions," same-sex pairings are morally unlawful and cannot be called *marriages*. One cannot doubt that people in same-sex unions can and do love one another, can and have raised families together, and can make and sustain valuable contributions to society in general. Nonetheless their union is not marriage and should not be equated with marriage in any form or fashion.

Marriage *per se* was instituted by God and is therefore not a civil commitment but a moral commitment. Attempting to establish civil equality on the basis of iniquitous unions is unwise and immoral. This is not a civil issue; it is a moral issue. This proposed law giving continued support of same-sex marriage evinces that you choose to ignore that fact. Governor Abercrombie claims he wants everyone to feel they are being treated fairly. This is a fallacious premise. You cannot promote "fairness" by abrogating the constitutionally guaranteed right to religious freedom. As the bill is written, it does not clarify whether or not churches and religious organization who oppose same-sex marriage will be forced to provide that service.

A further concern is the precedent this sets. We have laws against bigamy, for example, and the reasons for those laws are just as morally and judicially correct as laws that do not recognize the validity of same-sex relationships as a valid *marriage*. If Hawaii condones same-sex unions and approves them as marriage, it opens the door for all sorts of other "marriages." Can you envision the uproar when supporters of same-family marriage join ranks with proponents of same-sex marriage and insist that incest is their right? Laws against bigamy and incest are not discriminatory; they are essential, basic, natural, moral laws that discern between normal human behavior and depravity in our society.

I insert this quote from Bishop Larry Silva's letter to the Hawaii Catholic Community and all citizens of Hawaii – including those who errantly espouse this legislation:

"Would people who firmly believe that God made us male and female, and that God has revealed that homosexual ACTS are sinful be allowed to hold such beliefs? Or would they have to be 're-educated' to think as 'normal' people think? Would churches that refuse to celebrate same-sex marriage because of deeply held religious convictions be deprived of the freedom to live those convictions? Would Christians, Muslims, and others who believe that homosexual ACTS are contrary to God's law (the law that governs those whom God himself has created in such wonder) be persecuted for holding on to those beliefs that have been so sacred to us for centuries? Will the religious freedom we treasure be only a paper freedom, while we will be told what we may or may not believe?"

This proposed law degrades our community, degrades our liberty, and degrades the status of all our citizens including those who favor such a travesty because it seeks to impose unjust limits on the constitutional right to religious freedom by equating iniquity with civil justice. And further to base it on a contrived need for tax monies makes this legislation even more egregious.

If you personally feel that same-sex "marriage" should be established in Hawaii, then you should do the right thing and put it to the people for a vote as a constitutional amendment.

If you are opposed to this Bill, then I applaud you and encourage you to stand with the citizens of Hawaii who truly value 'ohana as the bulwark of true Hawaiian culture. Only heterosexual marriage is pono. Trying to claim that homosexual marriage is right is in itself very, very wrong and undermines the basic human values that have sustained civilizations around the world for millennia.

I urge you as well to support and bring into public law in the state of Hawaii House Bills 5, 8, 11, and 12. We have had enough of this foolishness over providing financial equality to a handful of individuals by trouncing the constitutional rights of freedom of religion for the majority of persons in Hawaii.

Charles O. Todd, III  
5143 Annie Road  
Kapa'a, HI 96746-2004

**For the House joint hearing:** Hearing on 10/31/2013, time 10:00am

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

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

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

I am opposing legalizing same sex marriage because of my heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of Hawaii. Legalizing same sex marriage will have huge effects on my community, my children, and to my traditional family life. I believe that children are best raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom. It violates our freedom to believe and exercise our belief. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill in this Special Session.

Let the people of Hawaii to decide on this issue which is so important to us!

Sincerely,

Andrew Tong



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:41 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** jweber9@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Joshua Weber        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: To Whom it may concern, The family is central to society. This truth will never change. Just because certain beliefs become popular does not make them true. The proposed marriage equality bill is looking to change truths. No matter what governments try to do, truths will never change. Please vote against this bill. This current proposal is too faceted and complicated to succeed. Much negativity could come because of it. I agree with equality and fairness, but this issue is a much different issue that if the state wants to be a part of, the state needs to leave out private organizations and religions. Thank you for your time. Joshua Weber

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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:41 AM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** rp\_white@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Renee White  | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: Thank you very much for your service to our community. I was so touched by the testimonies presented and watched over four hours on Monday October 28, 2013. The majority who testified were opposed to SB-1 approximately 70% to 80%. Hawaii deserves better legislation than this. I don't even feel that I live in a democracy that the people are listened to any more. Please choose to make our democracy stronger and let the people decide. My own opinion stems from a healthcare perspective and not civil. I believe that individuals have rights to make decisions. But, Hawaii is known as a healthy place to live. It was testified from well qualified medical experts as to consequences of same gender relations. This is a choice, but how can Hawaii continue to be a healthy state when these are characterized as marriage?

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:44 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** melissa.wilson@byuh.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testifying in Person |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Melissa Wilson | Individual   | Oppose             | No                   |

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am a Native Hawaiian who strongly opposes Bill SB1 and strongly opposes this "Emergency Session" to pass Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week without really "hearing" our voice and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. The way the session was viewed last night by many was that our "leaders" already have an "agenda" and are just rushing through this process to get it over with! This act is NOT DEMOCRACY it's HYPOCRACY!!! This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Melissa L. Wilson, Resident Laie, Hawaii

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:12 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** faith\_wright2003@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Faith Wright        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments: Directing testimony to: House Judiciary and Finance Committees; I am in Opposition to SB1 relating to equality. This bill has everything to do with my freedom of religion. I oppose YOU deciding that marriage between a man and a woman, which is traditional marriage, is some afterthought and should be changed because a few say so. The people have spoken again and again relating to this issue, and voices should be not only heard but then followed. The government (YOU) as elected officials were not put in to do as you please!! The fact that this is trying to be bullied through judicial process shows that in fact what I speak is the truth!! Please know that I will not vote for anyone who votes for this bill. Faith Wright/ Voter

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Sharon Yanagi

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair  
House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a. m.  
I will not be present to deliver my testimony in person

Re: I am in opposition to SB 1: The Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary:

I am opposed to S. B. 1, the Marriage Equality Act of 2013, and, as a registered voter, I believe that we, the people of Hawaii, should be given the right to vote on this issue. You are **our** representatives, you should be **our** voice. I feel that it is important that your decision is based not on an individual opinion or according to the Democratic party line, but based on the majority opinion of the constituents whom you represent. The State of Hawaii is a democracy - a government for the people, by the people. However, this special session is stripping us of our inalienable right to vote. Give us this right and let the people of Hawaii decide. If the people decide in favor of same sex marriage, then so be it. But if the people of Hawaii vote against same sex marriage, then I believe that it is your obligation to honor those voices against same sex marriage.

The focus on the Marriage Equality Act of 2013 has been on the small minority of same sex couples involved and their right to benefits. I do not think that enough attention, however, has been focused on the impact this bill will have on everyone else such as individuals involved in wedding related businesses like photographers, florists, bakers, caterers, religious counselors providing marriage counseling, teachers. Our churches are not adequately protected in S. B. 1. It is imperative that these protections be provided before the bill goes forward, not after the bill has been rushed through the process and enacted, and then the law tested in suits against churches and individuals.

More importantly, however, is the impact the Marriage Equality Act will have on our children and the curriculum taught in our schools. I believe that same sex is a life style choice, it is a choice in sexual preference. It is not a racial issue where a person is born with a specific racial extraction and therefore cannot decide later on that he would rather be another race. With same sex, a life style choice is deliberately made. If this bill becomes a law, I no longer will have a choice - I will be forced to acknowledge that same sex choices are acceptable behavior. Parents will no longer have the ability to choose whether or not to excuse their child from a class that teaches same sex. Teachers will be forced to teach same sex as acceptable behavior.

I urge you to vote **NO** on the Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you.

Sharon Yanagi



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**From:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:40 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony to SB1 (Written Only)

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

From: Meilin Yeh [<mailto:meilinyeh@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:15 AM  
To: Judiciary Special Session  
Subject: Testimony to SB1

Please put the bill for PEOPLE to vote in order to be really EQUAL for everyone. Please vote NO to this bill.

Mei Lin Yeh  
1288 Kapiolani Blvd.  
Apt. 3007  
Hon. Hi 96814

Sent from my iPad



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:24 PM  
**To:** House Special Session  
**Cc:** Dennis@hawaiitents.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)\*

**SB1**

Submitted on: 10/29/2013

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

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testifying in Person</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dennis Young        | Individual          | Oppose                    | No                          |

Comments:

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