

Honorable Committee Members:

Aloha. My name is Mark Koppel. I live on Hawaii Island in Hakalau. I wish I could be here person but, unfortunately, I cannot.

I am writing in support of SB1, to provide Equal Marriage for all in Hawai'i.

First, let me emphasize this a Civil Rights bill. We do not have referendums on people's rights. In Hawai'i, most of us, from the wonderful original Hawai'ans, to Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Blacks etc. have been subjected to discrimination based solely on one characteristic of theirs.

The same thing has happened to Lesbians and Gays. One characteristic has led to severe discrimination against them. The Supreme Court has ruled that this discrimination is unconstitutional.

Let me answer what my Opponents will say.

First, "Marriage between a man and a woman is God's law". We do not govern our state or country by "God's law". And whose God? The Judeo-Christian God, the Buddhist God, the Shinto God? In the Bible, many men have multiple wives and concubines. Is this what we want? This argument fails.

Second, Marriage between a man and a woman follows "natural law". Once again, what is "natural law"? In nature, many animals have what could be called same-sex relations. There are stories, for example, about two male penguins mating for life and raising chicks. The argument fails.

Third, Marriage is for procreation. One of the worst arguments of all. Do we prevent sterile people from marrying? Old people? People who say they don't want to have children? Do we end marriages that have not produced children? The argument fails.

Fourth, Homosexuality is a choice. As almost any Lesbian or Gay person can tell you, they knew what they were from childhood. In spite of years of trying to change, Lesbians and Gays remain that way. The so-called Ex-Gay movement is completely discredited by former members, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, etc. etc. Two states, New Jersey and California have passed laws banning so-called Ex-Gay therapy. The argument fails.

Fifth, Equal Marriage will destroy America. This would be news to the people of the fifteen states that have Equal Marriage. There have been no changes in marriage, divorce, etc. The end of Don't Ask Don't Tell has not negatively affected the Military at all. The only change is Lesbians and Gays and their children can enjoy the benefits everyone does. The argument fails.

Sixth, There will be a slippery slope of people marrying their siblings, their pets, a bridge

in France, multiple partners, etc. This is false. Why does this not happen now? Because we restrict marriage to two people who hopefully love each other. Nothing changes under Equal Marriage. Since Equal Marriage has begun, not one of these absurd prophecies has come true. Nor will they. The argument fails.

Seventh, Equal Marriage will harm religion. False. The laws of our state and country provide for the separation of church and state. No church can be forced to marry anyone. Many churches right now refuse to marry interfaith couples. This is their right. Some refuse to marry divorced couples. This is their right. If any church refuses to marry two men or two women, this is their right. No religion has been harmed in any sense. The argument fails.

Eighth, Equal Marriage will require services such as photographers and florists to work for Same-Sex couples. What opponents do not say is that this is already true. Our anti-discrimination laws prevent any business that serves the public from discriminating against any group now. Nothing will change. The argument fails.

I believe these points answer any possible objections to Equal Marriage. Our state has a wonderful tradition of equal opportunity for all. This is our chance to show what Aloha really means. We can lead the way for other people. All this law does is provide the opportunity for two people and, in many cases, their children, to receive equal protection under the law. They can visit their spouse in the hospital and control their care when needed; they can provide for their families at death; they can pay taxes equal to other couples; they can receive any of the famous 1,100 federal benefits married couples receive.

Civil Unions do not provide these. Only marriage does.

Who could possibly be against this?

Equal Marriage is overdue.

I know our legislature will pass SB1 and bring us once again to the forefront of Equality in the nation.

Mahalo

Mark A. Koppel
P O Box 283
Hakalau, HI

Thursday, October 31, 2013
House's Committee on judiciary
House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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

I support SB-1 related to Equal Rights in regards to marriage equality because I believe that all of my gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters should be afforded full equality rights as every other American citizen.

Though this is not the only social injustice or civil rights issue that exists within Hawaii today, I believe it is the appropriate time to allow this Legislative body the opportunity to evaluate the Supreme Court DOMA decision ruling deeming the federal same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional and make the determination that Hawaii should become the 15th state to recognize same-sex marriage.

More recently, I have been made to feel like I am a second-class citizen and that I do not deserve the rights and benefits afforded to other people because of the person I fell in love with. It has been difficult to hear through the opposition's testimony that I am a sodomite and will cause the end of civilization, as we now know it. If being a tax paying, law-abiding, charitable and hard working individual within our community is wrong then I don't think I want to be part of that civilization.

Sincerely,
Jamilyn Makaehu
47-220 Kamakoi Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744



Century21
FINE HOMES
& ESTATESSM

ALL ISLANDS

22 October 2013

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of Full Marriage Equality in Hawai'i

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ron Wilson and I have lived and worked as a Realtor in Hawaii for twenty-four years, both on Hawai'i and now Maui. I am writing to you to express my support for passage of the marriage equality bill currently under your consideration.

I feel it is vitally important to give back to my community, so have been deeply involved with numerous organizations after deciding to make Hawai'i my home in 1990, volunteering with Hale Kaukau (the free meals program through St. Theresa Catholic Church), dancing hula with Halau O Kekuhi under the direction of Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahela and Nalani Kanaka'ole in Hilo and now Halau Hula Kauluokala under Uluwehi Guerrero on Maui, chairing Big Island Friends of Public Radio to bring Hawai'i Public Radio to the largest unserved population in the US and continuing to volunteer with HPR here on Maui, organizing and taking part in hiking groups on both islands and serving as President of my current and past condominium associations.

Nonetheless, as a gay man, I am still denied full rights as a member of my community by not being allowed to marry the person of my choice, and am denied the full bundle of protections, privileges and rights afforded married couples under the law. Hawai'i is renowned for its spirit of aloha, acceptance and welcome and a shining example of a true "melting pot" of cultures and values.

I ask you to please honor this tradition by supporting passage of the marriage equality bill during this special legislative session. Thank you for your consideration of this vital issue, and for helping Hawai'i to finally arrive on the right side of history!

Sincerely,

Ron Wilson, Realtor
P.O. Box 1147, Kihei, HI 96753
ronmaui@yahoo.com



To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lurana O'Malley
Honolulu, HI 96825
LuranaO@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, It is indeed a special day. The times are a-changing, and Hawai'i has the opportunity to stand on the side of equal rights, of human rights. We have the opportunity to make our children proud of us. There hasn't always been tolerance in our state. There hasn't always been justice. And we are not always the peaceful melting pot we claim to be. But because so many in our islands have faced injustices (from native Hawaiians to dockworkers to imprisoned Japanese Americans), we have a high tolerance for tolerance. The majority of people in Hawai'i wholeheartedly embrace this country's constitutional ideals of equality. We know in our hearts, maybe more than any other state, that we don't all have to be alike or act alike or look alike or worship alike. It's time to do the right thing with regards to the gay and lesbian citizens of our state. Do the right thing for our gay and lesbian neighbors and friends. My eleven-year-old daughter asked me tonight, "Mommy, who do we know who's gay?" I listed men and women from their school, from our work, from the public sphere on our island. I listed couples. I listed single people. I listed parents. I listed so many that it became very clear to her that gay and lesbian people are all around her every day. For my daughter's generation, the idea that same-sex couples can't marry is incomprehensible. Eleven-year-old indignation is something to see, believe me. It is thrilling to me that she and her sister will witness Hawai'i make this transformation. To transform means to "change one's shape." Please support Senate Bill 1. Please change the shape of our islands for the better, so that we may become more open, and more strong. Thank you, Lurana D. O'Malley

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Eric Voorhies
Kapaa, HI 96746
ericv63@msn.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Thomas Edwards
Honolulu, HI 96815
onvaconhi@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Thomas Edwards and 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.

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From: Bronson Maulupe Kanae
Kapolei, HI 96707
bmaulupe@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Chea Matsuura-Albarado
Honolulu, HI 96825
Chez.n.kristen@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Dania Sopher
Honokaa, HI 96727
thesopherohana@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lee Yamamoto
HONOLULU, HI 96826
leeayamamoto@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Wes Lum
Honolulu, HI 96814
wesleylum@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Wes Lum and 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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kiana Kauwe
Kailua, HI 96734
Kianakauwe@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I believe all people should have the right to marry...gay, lesbian, or straight. I happen to be a heterosexual female, age 28 and I speak for myself and all of my friends when I say, "We want marriage equality!" It's simple. Pass SB1. It's the right thing and frankly I'm embarrassed that it's taken the state of Hawaii this long. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Dawn Harper
Honolulu, HI 96813
Dlkharp@me.com

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From: Julie Lappert
Lawai, HI 96765
julielappert@gmail.com

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From: Nancy Moser
honolulu, HI 96816
Mosernancy@yahoo.com

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From: Eric Beyer
honolulu, HI 96828
drlovecpunk@yahoo.com

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From: kristian Stone
Lahaina, HI 96761
24pohaku@gmail.com

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From: Theresa Moreno
waianae, HI 96792
chefteemoreno@gmail.com

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From: Tina Boteilho
Makawao, HI 96768
kinaana@aol.com

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From: Terrilani Chong
Honolulu, HI 96728
terrilanichong@gmail.com

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From: Norm Foster
Honolulu, HI 96822
info@normzart.com

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mary A. Ramsey
Honolulu, HI 96816
Ramseyann@icloud.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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From: Briana Gouveia
Pearl City, HI 96782
gouveia.briana@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Bart Zobel
Kapolei, HI 96707
Bartonz@hotmail.com

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Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I'm an honorably retired veteran of the US Navy, and I have suffered humiliation and indignities as the result of institutionalized inequality, both while serving my country and as a resident of this state. After "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" became law, a Master Chief at my command began emphatically using the phrase "flaming homosexual mistake" every time he saw something wrong. He was a senior enlisted leader, and I was a subordinate without recourse. As a gay man, I felt I was being attacked, indirectly but harshly. In 1998, before Hawaii voters passed the amendment allowing the legislature to define marriage, equality opponents ran an ad in which an actor incredulously stated, "I can't marry my dog!" sending the message that same-sex relationships are as ridiculous as a man wanting to marry his dog. Horrible. As long as inequality is institutionalized, there will be people who will view that as an excuse to go one step further and attack GLBT citizens of this state, directly or indirectly, harshly, emotionally, physically, spiritually. Institutionalized inequality will embolden some to deny or deprive us of our jobs, property, homes, and even our lives. Equality is a c

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From: George hanawahine
waianae, HI 96792
kauwaloku@gmail.com

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From: Roxane Stewart
Hilo, HI 96720
rstewart99489@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Dana Anderson
Honolulu, HI 96817
dana2854@gmail.com

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Kapolei, HI 96707
Bartonz@hotmail.com

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From: Bernard Nunies
Honolulu, HI 96813
bknunies@gmail.com

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From: Isaac Koki
Mililani, HI 96789
ikoki@hawaii.rr.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Chase Tajima
Honolulu, HI 96822
chase.tajima@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rev. Dr. Mele Welte
Honolulu, HI 96825
mewelte@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Why am I writing to those who know that equal rights belong to all citizens of this state and this nation. It is simply amazing to me that there is in this day and age such resistance by so many people here in our Aloha State especially, to legalizing marriage for all adult citizens both straight and same sex couples. . The case against legalizing marriage for same sex couples by those who want to bring religion into the law, which must not discriminate, is a biased and prejudiced opinion. Church and State must be kept separate in our democratic republic. Religious freedom has nothing to do with those citizens who are now demanding equal rights in marriage that heterosexual married couples enjoy. Same sex couples marrying should be a legal right here in our state NOW. It is long overdue and an embarrassment that we were not first to legalize marriage for same sex couples! I hold a doctorate in Religious Studies and an honorary ministerial certificate. I lived many years as a Catholic nun and as a theology major at Loyola U. I do not believe that our religious beliefs should determine the law. I would say to those opponents of SB1, in what way do same sex couples affect your lives? Would you inflict your religious beliefs and interpretations of the scriptures on those who do not hold to your beliefs? The state must not fall prey to the beliefs that have turned into prejudices of those in opposition to civil equal rights. This is a not a religious state. This is a free state. This must be upheld by the House and the House Committees, dedicated to laws that support a government that provides liberty and justice for all its citizens. Marriage equality is a critical statement of these values. I recall that there was a time when whites and blacks were not permitted to marry, that there were many non-equal rights between two different skin colors. I recall that there was a time when a white person could own a black person and use them. Equality is the cornerstone of our nation and must be in our state as well. Mahalo for reviewing my testimony in support of legalizing marriage for same sex couples in the state of Hawai'i nei. Rev. Dr. Mele Welte 25 year resident of our aloha state Hawai'i Kai

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Lisa Kimsey
Honolulu, HI 96816
kimsey.lisa@gmail.com

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From: Jeffrey Agbayani
Honolulu, HI 96822
jagbayani09@gmail.com

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Kapolei, HI 96707
westcot.delta@gmail.com

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From: Brett Laronde
Honolulu, HI 96814
blaronde@gmail.com

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Paulina Solyn
Lahaina, HI 96761
Paliz004@yahoo.com

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Waimanalo, HI 96795
susanlovinger@gmail.com

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From: Alton Slater
Honolulu, HI 96822
altonslater@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Nohealani Tak
HONOLULU, HI 96826
nohealanitak@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in absolute support of SB 1. I am not eloquent and this needs to be in by 10pm so I'm going to roughly say why I support marriage equality and why others should also. However, I know that it probably won't change any minds, but I would hope that it would make some of those against SB1 shut their mouths. While this issue can be an extremely emotional one I believe that there are many logical reasons for marriage equality that opposing parties may overlook in their ignorance. I believe not allowing everyone and anyone to get married to whom they love would be against the best interest of not only those people but of those opposing marriage equality. Here are a few reasons and then I must go to sleep... 1) Religion If churches and religious leaders wanted to truly "spread the word of god" then think of how many people would be alienated from this benefit if it was only for those who were straight? For the general population that does not want to believe that religion is just a means of control, if religion is only here to help and be the betterment of mankind why would it try so hard to single people out and make them feel guilty for something out of their control? If God is truly above us and we are his disciples, why are we judging each other? In the end God will judge his children and let us not forget how parents judge their children. With unconditional love. 2) Churches If churches are scared that by passing this bill they would be placed on the spot and forced to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies... Well, they've waited this long just for the chance to get married, I'm sure there are bigger things on their minds like their honeymoon, or even their wedding cake or maybe even the food... Yummm the food... So there really is no reason to fret. Heck, if ALL the churches, priests, pastors and Bishops in Hawaii refused to marry someone because they're gay I'll go out and get a license to perform marriages and marry all of them! 3) Exposure Some people believe that if this passes then we are just taking a step towards agreeing that it is ok to be gay and that "The Gays" will just walk around donning their fabulous fashion sense holding their hands and showing our children that it is ok to be gay. Is it so much better to show them that it's right to look at someone disdainfully even though they have never done anything wrong to you. Because it must be much better to instead surround them with violent and derogatory experiences. If we teach our children that it is ok to withhold a person's right to do what they want to do just because we do not agree with it or because it is not in our best interest... Well I'm sure they will turn out fine...

Just look at the republican party. Too much more to write and it is 9:59pm... So please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Alex Oshiro
Honolulu, HI 96814
djrx.cares@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Kathleen Kuo
Aiea, HI 96701
Kattica86@hotmail.com

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Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Clayton Logue
Wailuku, HI 96793
clogue966@aol.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jane Haitzuka
Mililani, HI 96789
seanjane138@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry is not an issue of sex. The freedom to marry is just that, the freedom to CHOOSE who a person will marry. Just as government cannot force a person to marry another, government should NOT be allowed to deny it. The idea of same sex should be completely taken out of this equation. We are not talking about "gay marriage" or "homosexual marriage," this is just a matter of the right to marry who we chose. How can citizens have the right to vote, but not the basic right to choose who they will marry? How dare government take their tax money but not afford all citizens the same basic rights? I am a wife and mother of 3 young children. I pray that my children will not grow up in a state that does not allow this choice. I cannot imagine what it would be like, to be in a relationship for 20 years and not have any legal right to my shared life with my significant other. That is demeaning and demoralizing and I hope my children do not ever have to experience this or see another Hawaii citizen go through that. This is not a matter of sex. This is not a matter of religion. This is a matter of doing what is JUST. Martin Luther King Jr. said "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Do what is right. Pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tiana Santiago
Kahului, HI 96732
syiann_22@hotmail.com

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From: Susie Graeb
Honolulu, HI 96821
susiegraeb@gmail.com

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From: James Vivian
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Peteandjim@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Devin Awong
Hilo, HI 96720
devinawong@mac.com

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From: alain mei
KIHEI, HI 96753
alainmaui@gmail.com

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Brent Ching
Honolulu, HI 96814
brentobento@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rebecca Miyashiro
Kaneohe, HI 96744
rhfm09@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My name is Rebecca Miyashiro. I am 21 years old, a student at Windward Community College, a Christian, and also of Hawaiian descent. I do not believe love has a gender. I've spent the last 4 hours listening to the testimonies of Hawaii's people. I have to say I agree with the statements suggesting this issue not be rushed, but I do not agree with the statements that others have said. I know nothing about politics, but today I have learned many things from this hearing. First, I learned that my lifestyle is not normal, natural, healthy, or desirable. I am a threat to people I have never even met before. My goal is to destroy families and tear apart religious freedoms. By marrying a woman, I am on the same level as a prostitute, child molester, and animal abuser. To top it all off, I am going to FORCE children in Hawaii to learn about gay sex education which will corrupt their minds and future. Do you really think all of the above is who I am? Because it's not. My lifestyle does not define who I am, nor does it influence my actions onto others. I am disappointed in the fact that many of the opposed brought religion into this argument, whereas the supported have no religion to back themselves up. I feel the people against SB1 have the unfair advantage of being able to have God on their side. However, God does not choose sides. He loves each and every one of us equally, no matter what. I don't think it was his plan to see us fighting with each other, trying to prove who's right and who's wrong. When it comes down to it, he is the ultimate judge. If you let the decision fall into the hands of the people, sure it's fair and just. But think about it, the majority of Hawaii is predominantly Christian. Obviously they are all going to join together to say no, and outweigh those who are in favor of same sex marriage. As much as I feel there is no hope left for marriage equality, I will never stop fighting. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Adesina Ogunelese
Makawao, HI 96768
zebrafem@aol.com

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Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Same Sex Marriage and the Pastors' front page story In a

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Richard Miller
Kailua, HI 96734
rmiller@aya.yale.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Same Sex Marriage and the Pastors' front page story In a front page headline in the Star-Advertiser of Tuesday, October 22nd, the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable is credited with declaring that "God's word is the highest law of the land" and urging the Hawai'i Legislature "to uphold traditional marriage." Furthermore, "[t]he pastors cited the Book of Genesis for God's plan that marriage is a life-long commitment between a man and a woman." (Emphasis added.) First, the Book of Genesis does not say anything about marriage. Here is what it says: Chap 27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Chap.28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." It did not say anything about marriage and it certainly did not say that those who cannot procreate, like a man and woman couple one of whom is sterile, or same sex couples, cannot marry. But even if it did prohibit marriage between same-sex couples, it would violate our Constitution to impose such a religious rule on same-sex couples who disagree and wish to marry. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" And the Fourteenth Amendment, which has long been understood as making the Bill of Rights applicable to the States as well as the federal government, provides "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States" Happily for those citizens who believe in and rely upon the Constitution's protection for freedom of religion, the pastors have made very clear that the opposition to same-sex marriage that they are urging is a biblical/religious concept. Enforcing that upon those who are not in agreement with a biblical directive opposing same-sex marriage, if there was one, or with the religion that requires such opposition rather clearly constitutes an "establishment of religion." And further, making that religious requirement mandatory inhibits others whose religion disagrees and interferes with "the free exercise" of their religion. Thus, while they may indeed be well-intentioned, the pastors of the Roundtable have provided strong support for the principle that those who seek same-sex marriage are protected by the Bill of Rights from religious commands which they do not share. And while it is easy to understand why

the pastors might feel that the Book of Genesis, if it were applicable, takes precedence, it is truly difficult to understand how they can ignore the need for empathy for those persons of any faith, or none at all, who truly and dearly love their would-be same-sex spouses as much, and maybe even more, than the pastors themselves loved their spouses. If, indeed, same-sex marriage troubles God – and there appears to be no evidence of that – then the Pastors, at least, should believe that God can provide an adequate punishment, now or in the afterlife, and that they should be compassionate and keep their hands off. R. Miller, Prof. of Law, Emeritus Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Peter Mateo
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
vivianj001@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Shirley Lum
Honolulu, HI 96818
lumboujun@aol.com

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From: Brandon Lang
Honolulu, HI 96816
blang73@gmail.com

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From: Janice Taketa
Honolulu, HI 96816
janicehtaketa@mac.com

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From: COLLEEN TANAKA
AIEA, HI 96701
TANAKADC@MSN.COM

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From: KATHLEEN LIMBAGA
AIEA, HI 96701
KLIMBAGA@YAHOO.COM

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From: Steven Vannatta
Honolulu, HI 96815
Stevenvannatta@yahoo.com

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From: Sarah Moore
Honolulu, HI 96822
Sarah_lw@hotmail.com

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From: Andrew Carpenter
Honolulu, HI 96813
andrewcarpenter@hawaiiantel.net

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From: Jacqueline Sanchez
Kaneohe, HI 96744
kahea@gmx.com

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From: nirmaliz pena
honolulu, HI 96814
npena2003@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tatjana Johnson
Mililani, HI 96789
tatjana.johnson@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. We must ensure marriage equality NOW! 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Anne Leete
Haiku, HI 96708
annekleete@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1, the marriage equality bill. As an attorney who has practiced family law in Hawaii for nearly a decade, I find it abhorrent that our marriage laws do not apply equally to all of our citizens. For example, I have been with my husband for nine years. After five years together, we decided to marry. After our wedding, we instantly gained access to numerous rights, including major financial benefits related to inheritance and taxation. However, our next door neighbors and close friends, Kevin and Mark, are unable to access the same benefits that we gained upon our marriage. Despite being together in a committed relationship for over a decade, they are unable to obtain the same legal protections that my husband and I enjoy. This is simply not just, not right, and certainly not pono. Many people cite the bible as the basis of their objection to this bill. I find that objection meaningless. Ours is a secular nation, founded on principles of religious liberty. The bible's take on same sex relationships matters no more than the Quran, the Talmud, or any other religious text. In fact, homosexual relationships enjoyed special status in ancient Hawaii, but were quickly demonized with the arrival of Christian missionaries. This bill should not be controversial. In many of our lifetimes, it was illegal for people to marry between races. This seems absurd and wildly discriminatory today. I hope that my children will look back on this debate with similar feelings - wondering why any government would think it appropriate to discriminate against people who love each other. Please pass SB 1, and end the unfair discrimination against same sex couples in Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: China Byrns
Honolulu, HI 96822
Chinabyrns@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jennifer Wong
4306 Olaloa St., HI 96818
jenniferwhwong@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Bernadette Urban
Kailua kona, HI 96740
Burnurban@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sylvia Burton
Kihei, HI 96753
sylvia@sylviaburton.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana gay or straight should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. I have been with my partner for 16 years

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Caroline Miura
Kapaa, HI 96746
therev@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am an ordained minister in the UCC & currently serving as Spiritual Care & Bereavement Care Coordinator for Kauai Hospice. I believe God calls us to love all people & sees us all as equal in God's eyes. As folks face the end of their lives, those GLTB couples who are not married do not have the same rights & access & benefits as heterosexual couples. It is unfortunate & unnecessary. I believe Jesus would rather we love everyone into the Kingdom & leave the judging to Him. Sadly, many misguided Christians are judging everyone out of the Kingdom & leaving no one left for God to love. Please err on the side of love & pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Mahalo for your time & consideration. Blessings & Aloha, Rev. Caroline Carr Miura

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: David Deges
Keaau, HI 96749
hairycuddlerbear@live.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Adam Cafege
Kihei, HI 96753
hawaiirx@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Marielle Schricker
Kailua, HI 96734
marielle.hansen@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Laura Epstein
Kapolei, HI 96707
lle96707@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. As a clinical psychologist who works with children and teens, I am very aware of the mental health issues of gay teens who are rejected by their families and bullied by many in society. It is very important that they see that their government is not discriminating against them. Let's show the world that Hawai'i is truly a place of aloha. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rev Gregory Hungerford
Waialua, HI 96791
doctorforgolf@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jennifer Ahia
Wailuku, HI 96793
jennahia@yahoo.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Nohealani Tak
HONOLULU, HI 96826
nohealanitak@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Frank Lassise Jr
Kihei, HI 96753
scdoggiedoc@gmail.com

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Teresa Oh Happy
Honolulu, HI 96824
tohappy@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: William Schmidt
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ironww@gmail.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Stephen Smith
Honolulu, HI 96814
sdrexelsmith@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in support of SB 1. I was living in Boston on 05/17/2004 when judges ruled the State did not have the right to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples. At that time, I was 25 and it didn't mean much to me. However, all the craziness afterwards brought to light how this one simple inequality was a tool of oppression in a broader sense. I also witnessed how certain government officials lashed out against these judges who were doing their job. The horrific and politically charged term, 'activist judges' was born. What a horrible thing for one branch of our government to label and discard another branch so easily. A righting of a civil inequality was used by some, who no doubt history will remember unfavorably, to gain political advantage over others, all while stepping on a class of Americans with no regard for them as American citizens. Over the years we've seen tides come in and go out, which is such an appropriate analogy for Hawaii. The term "activist judges" came and went, happily. Same-sex marriage came, went, and has come back to our shores. This is the time to address it and allow same-sex couples the civil right of marriage. To do otherwise, would be simply to push the tide out and wait for it to come back. Thank you for this opportunity, and whatever the decision, I am happy for this chance to address you. Aloha, S. Drexel Smith

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Drew DeMotta
Kailua kona, HI 96740
Drewkdemotta@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Cathy Levinson
Honolulu, HI 96822
cmilevinson@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Hawaii is the land of aloha. Discrimination, as WWII relocation camps and segregated schools in the South have taught us, is not right. Public sentiment is in favor of marriage equality for everyone. Twenty years is enough time for Hawaii's people to discuss and decide this issue. It is time to do the right thing and enable same sex couples to have federal rights and benefits for themselves and their children. Please, do what is right. Pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jessika Galvez
Makawao, HI 96768
Jessikagalvez@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: matt yee
pearl city, HI 96782
mattyee2011@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Anne Bareng
Kunia, HI 96759
annembareng@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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眠票鉗捌湯壘集癡
桴慳敷燿杓璿瀕泮牡禛愠桴援舛舛璿⁹馮澣次匠▽漆敬獾摺敷璵故璵浩馮馮摺敷槩
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杀愁汨梯涸鬢敲晦妨⁹ a

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am an attorney

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ryan Loeffers
Honolulu, HI 96813
ryan.loeffers@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am an attorney and am writing in strong support of SB 1. Denying same-sex couples the right to marry is contrary to the equal protection clause of the Constitution and the Aloha Spirit. Hawaii's same-sex couples are simply asking for the protections that their families need. This includes equal tax treatment under both state and federal law and equal access to employment benefits. The IRS has stated that Civil Unions will not be considered marriage for purposes of federal law. However, a couple can be married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage, and be married for federal law purposes, but not state law purposes. Administering the dual marriage system (being married for federal purposes, but not for state purposes) is both costly and confusing for Hawaii's people, and its employers. Dollars which should be used to expand benefits for Hawaii employees, grow Hawaii's businesses, or be used for Hawaii's families, are instead being wasted on needless complicated administrative procedures to navigate the dual marriage system. By passing a same-sex marriage law, Hawaii will have a single system where couples can be married for both federal and state law purposes. This will simplify administration for Hawaii's businesses and its people. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Llevellyn Lightsey
Wailuku, HI 96793
lightseyl@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. My partner of 39 Years and I wish to marry in our home state, Hawaii. This is a matter of civil rights; marriage is a civil institution, not a religious one. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kainui Rapaport
Honolulu, HI 96821
kainuiare@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: SUE FELT
Kailua Kona,, HI 96740
suefelt@earthlink.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Also with a reminder about separation of church and state. Those mentioning religious or Biblical reasons for denying same sex couples the rights they deserve **SHOULD HAVE NO VOICE**. They should keep their religious convictions about behavior to themselves...such as those that do not approve of dancing, or caffeine, or gambling... The marriage equality has no effect on those protesting, no one is going to make them marry a same sex person. Get them out of the argument!! 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Daton Gomes
Makawao, HI 96767
Debgalvez13@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Shaina Kauai
Waianae, HI 96792
shaina.kauai@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. Same-sex marriages should have equal rights. Marriage is defined as two people who join together, hand-in-hand, through holy matrimony. Holy matrimony was intended for man and woman to unite in front of God; however, religion and personal beliefs have created numerous amounts of arguments and disagreements. Many religions preach against homosexuality, emphasizing how sinful it is. There are Bible verses about homosexuality; but there are also Bible verses on adultery, fornication, lying, stealing, and so forth. To God, sin is equal no matter what a person does. But God gave us one simple command; He commands us to love. No matter what a person does in his or her life, just love; judgment should be left to Him. Arguments about who is right or wrong have stirred so much anger throughout the world; no one seems to know the truth. Christians today and throughout history has categorized homosexuality as unnatural.

. Logically, if two people who have mutual feelings of love and intimacy for each other, then it is natural; therefore, two people of the same sex who share love and intimacy is natural. An example of an unnatural state would be cloth

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Samuel Grunblatt
Honolulu, HI 96822
swiftyfoots@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sarah Vinson
Kapolei, HI 96707
Nae6262@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. In a society where we strongly value the separation of church and state, it is disheartening that many in opposition of SB1 seem to hang their entire arguments on religious beliefs. For

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am an ordained Southern Baptist minister whose roots reach back to Kohala, Hawaii, in the mid-1800s, currently employed as a full time hospital chaplain on a neighbor island. My three sisters and I were born in Wahiawa, and raised by a loving, deeply religious, Christian family. Our parents are well kn

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Danette Kong
Kahului, HI 96732
danettekong@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am an ordained Southern Baptist minister whose roots reach back to Kohala, Hawaii, in the mid-1800s, currently employed as a full time hospital chaplain on a neighbor island. My three sisters and I were born in Wahiawa, and raised by a loving, deeply religious, Christian family. Our parents are well known to the Southern Baptist community in Hawaii. After one of my sisters "came out" to our family in 1979, I set my sights on pursuing a Masters Degree in counseling, in the hopes of one day helping LGBTs change their orientation. While in seminary, I read all the books I could get my hands on which addressed the issue. I studied the Bible in its original Greek and Hebrew, as well as numerous scholarly studies and interpretations. The more I sincerely sought answers, and the more I prayed for guidance, the more I believe God led me to discover I was coming at it from the wrong angle. I began to sit down with my sister, her friends, several of my classmates from high school and college, members of my church, and others who were gay and lesbian -- and REALLY listen to them. At the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, I was given the privilege of working with HIV-positive patients, and soon recognized that the relationships I witnessed between several gay couples exceeded the commitment and love I saw in many heterosexual marriages. It was a journey of a decade before I could finally "come out" as a straight advocate for LGBT rights, including same-gender marriage. And I have never wavered in my decision to do so. I have been told there was discussion of rescinding my ordination when I testified before the legislature in favor of same-gender marriage back in the 1990s. There are all sorts of theological reasons I could give you, but mainly, I'm writing because I want you to know that not all Southern Baptists or members of other conservative churches go along with what their leadership and other members believe. Many are actually leaving their churches because of this issue. My mother, two of my sisters, and I now live on Maui, where one sister has lived for the past 25 years, and her husband is a retired judge. Rather than get involved in discussions that we know would prove fruitless, my mother and I have made the choice to attend a church of another denomination here. Our love for, and pride in my lesbian sister, and God's biblical message of acceptance and love for ALL people are central to our personal beliefs. Mom's main caregiver is actually that sister, who lives with her partner. I think it's truly lovely to recognize that things have come full-circle in a couple ways: 1) Back in 1953, it was illegal

for Mom and Dad to get married in her home state of Mississippi, due to anti-miscegenation laws. In fact, her parents pulled her out of seminary when they found out she was in love with a non-white boy. True love eventually won out. 2) After my sister came out to Mom in 1979, her friends were always welcome in our home. Some actually came to live with my family after being kicked out of their own homes and disowned by their parents. Mom always baked them their only birthday cakes. In some Christian circles a frequently asked question is, "What would Jesus do?" As far as I'm concerned, Mom gave (and continues to live) the truest Christian response to homosexuality I have ever seen or witnessed. If the government and my very religious maternal grandparents had continued to maintain their anti-miscegenation laws and attitudes back in 1953, it is highly likely that I would not exist to be able to write you this letter. It is my strong belief that no one -- especially the government -- should be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Danette Kong 220-B West Kauai Street Kahului, HI 96732

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jeffrey Schwartz
Kula, HI 96790
Lanaidad@aol.comj

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: rick lecates
kahului, HI 96732
ricklecat@ymail.com

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lucas Morgan
Honolulu, HI 96825
lucas.morgan@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: James Berlin
Waialua, HI 96791
jimiberlin@aol.com

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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rachel Donahue
Kaneohe, HI 96744
droda_7@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mark Ebert
Kaneohe, HI 96744
mark.ebert@colorado.edu

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Scott Evans
Pearl City, HI 96782
wiz803@msn.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in total, complete and absolute support of SB 1. I'm sorry but I do not get the logic of the people who are against equality. Hundreds of children are being raised by gay parents in Hawaii. The haters keep saying "for the children". But they never explain why they think the children of heterosexual parents are entitled to the rights and benefits of marriage, but the children of gay parents are not. Don't they understand the enormous damage they are advocating for? **ALL THE CHILDREN OF HAWAII DESERVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS!** Why is this so difficult to understand?

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Marlena Willette
Honolulu, HI 96744
mwillette2002@hotmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Chris DeVlugt
Honolulu, HI 96744
cdevlugt2002@hotmail.com

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jocelyn Demirbag
Pukalani, HI 96788
demirbag@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ellen Balsley
Waialua, HI 96791
Ebalsley@aol.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tamara farnsworth
kapolei, HI 96707
tfarnsworth777@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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From: Eduardo da Bahia
Honolulu, HI 96816
shaman@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: nathalie sowers
honolulu, HI 96814
natsowers@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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From: Allen Hanaïke
Honolulu, HI 96817
ahanaïke@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing to urge your committee's support of SB 1. Kindly work towards passing this bill allowing marriage equality for any and all couples wishing to enter into and receive the benefits of a government recognized marriage. Mahalo!

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Dawn Althouse
Honolulu, HI 96822
dawnalthoue@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jessica Ciufu
Honolulu, HI 96815
Ciufu@hawaii.edu

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Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Eileen Cain
Honolulu, HI 96826
eileen@lava.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, The recent Supreme Court decision striking down DOMA affirms the right of all people to marry. I am writing in strong support of SB 1 for the following reasons: 1. **EQUALITY OF ALL HUMANS** To deny gay and lesbian people the right to have legally recognized committed relationships is to treat them as if they were sub-human. Our very humanness makes us all equal. Heterosexual people are not superior to homosexual people, and heterosexual relationships are not superior to homosexual relationships. 2. **EQUALITY OF ALL RELIGIONS and SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE** I am Buddhist. I do not subscribe to the religious beliefs of sects who claim that their scriptures lead them to practice discrimination. These religious beliefs cannot be imposed on the rest of us. The Legislature must continue to practice separation of church and state in order to avoid engaging in discrimination based on religion. 3. **COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS ENHANCE SOCIAL STABILITY.** Society should encourage and support committed relationships between adults, not try to block them. Those who oppose civil unions are engaging in three errors: 1. Circular definition of marriage - marriage is narrowly defined as a relationship between heterosexuals; then it is claimed that marriage cannot be extended to gay people by definition. Such circular reasoning is inherently illogical. 2. Arrogance rooted in the delusion of superiority It is arrogance that leads some heterosexuals to pretend that they are superior to homosexuals. It is the same arrogance that leads some men into the delusion they are superior to women. It is the same arrogance that leads some white people into the delusion that they are superior to people of other races. 3. Attempts to impose their religious beliefs on everyone else, violating our religious freedom. To sum up my views, it is precisely because of the sanctity of marriage that gay people should be allowed to marry. All human beings should be able to enjoy the sanctity of marriage because they are human. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: JW Kaeo Williams
Waianae, HI 96792
Jwkaeo.williams808@gmail.com

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From: Jacob McPherson
Hilo, HI 96720
jakemcpherson@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Alvin Toda
Pearl City, HI 96782
aet002@hawaiiantel.net

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From: Moana Meyer
Honolulu, HI 96815
livhawaii@yahoo.com

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From: Kelli Green
Honolulu, HI 96817
klgreen79@hotmail.com

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From: Naomi Tanaka
Honolulu, HI 96819
naomi_lisa_@hotmail.com

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From: Rebeca Martinez
Wahiawa, HI 96786
reb75@hotmail.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair.

From: Paul Sakamoto
Hilo, HI 96720
psakamoto808@gmail.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Betti Griffen
Kailua, HI 96734
bettirn@hotmail.com

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From: ave lambert
honolulu, HI 96830
chef.ave@gmail.com

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From: Dawn poopahunkin
Kaneohe, HI 96744
cr0zzroadz@aol.com

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From: Reka Domokos
Honolulu, HI 96819
rekuci@me.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rob Kvidt
Kalaheo, HI 96741
rob@techspokes.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1 to give me the freedom to marry my partner of the past 10 years and enjoy all of the rights of a married couple. My partner is 61 and I'm 56 years of age - our union is one to celebrate and will not damage or hurt society. Being gay is not a choice. Neither is the color of skin. Why is it not possible then to honor equality? For most of my life I've felt like a second class citizen without the freedom and benefits enjoyed by others because I'm gay. History reminds us when women could not vote because of gender, African Americans were segregated and Japanese Americans in WWII were sent to Internment camps. Why should we allow discrimination to continue? Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Shannon Furomoto
Wailuku, HI 96793
sfuromoto@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Donald Munro
Kaneohe, HI 96744
donm@lava.net

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: RICHARD GIARDINA
kaneohe, HI 96744
richard.giardina@gmail.com

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From: James Manville
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
jrmanville@hawaiiantel.net

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Hilo, HI 96720
jakemcpherson@gmail.com

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From: Lori Yamada
Honolulu, HI 96816
lorikyamada@hotmail.com

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From: Amy Stein
Kailua, HI 96734
steina003@gmail.com

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From: June Dillinger
Honolulu, HI 96816
junedillinger@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Adrian Amb
Honolulu, HI 96814
Scriptura.conversa@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: June Dillinger
Honolulu, HI 96816
junedillinger@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tom Piergrossi
Keaau, HI 96749
tompiergrossi@me.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My husband and I were married in 2008 in CA, after 13 years together, now 18. Now that our marriage is recognized federally, it is ridiculous that our marriage is not recognized here where we have lived for the past 4 years. The hatred I have seen here, rivals the vitriol we faced with prop 8 in CA. All the courts have found no rational reason to deny us equal rights. Our love hurts no one. Please pass this legislation and right this long fought wrong. 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.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Camille Chong
Honolulu, HI 96826
ccnalu@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: RICHARD GIARDINA
kaneohe, HI 96744
richard.giardina@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Monica Gordon
Holualoa, HI 96725
Monicagordon114@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Yvette Corpuz
Waipahu, HI 96797
smiley__8894@yahoo.com

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lisa Anderson
Honokaa, HI 96727
atsargirl@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Equality means equal. Equality should know no race, color, religious affiliation, sex or sexual orientation. Those kind of labels only seek to divide us. We are the human race. If we are truly equal, as the constitution states, then there is only one decision you can make and that is to provide marriage equality to all couples. To deny some couples the right to marry while allowing others to marry is not equality, it is division. I hope Hawaii stands for equality, not division. Love knows no race, color, religious affiliation, sex or sexual orientation. Hawaii should be beyond labels that only divide us and move forward to unite all of Hawaii's ohana. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Pamela Brachmann
Hana, HI 96713
nodogtracks@gmail.com

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From: Bentley Wade
Hilo, HI 96721
bentley.wade@gmail.com

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From: Peter Flick
Pahoa, HI 96778
Harrisonlofts213@yahoo.com

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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Karl Turley
Honolulu, HI 96818
turleykarl@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Grace Caligtan
Honolulu, HI 96817
graceintelligence@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. In a place such as Hawai'i, this understanding of aloha must be understood and upheld. The choice to make a lifetime promise of love and commitment belongs to everyone. The state should not play a role in obstructing this choice or creating categories of commitment that imply marriage between a man and a woman is more valued than any other type of union. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on our family and loved ones. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Domenica Sattler
honolulu, HI 96821
domenica_s@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Greg Knudsen
Honolulu, HI 96825
knudsen123@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I've read many comments on the issue of gay marriage. Two views, paraphrased below, impressed me deeply: • Does the acceptance of homosexuals increase human suffering or decrease human suffering? Acceptance clearly will decrease human suffering. Is the purpose of religion – and legislation – to increase human suffering or decrease human suffering? Clearly, it is to decrease human suffering. • All children are God's creations. Therefore, until God stops blessing parents with homosexual children, we should care for and protect all of God's children as equals. This month, my wife and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Marriage equality does not threaten our "traditional" marriage in any manner. Please support marriage equality in Hawaii. Aloha, Greg Knudsen

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From: Kanuji Parmar
Honolulu, HI 96815
Kanujiparmar@gmail.com

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Julie Wirtz
Kapaa, HI 96746
Julie@KauaiOfficiant.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As a humanist minister, I am a very busy Marriage and Civil Union performer on the island of Kauai. I also provide funeral and family services to those who wish to focus on human values, rather than biblical values of days gone by. I have officiated over a thousand weddings and dozens of civil unions just in the past few years. I see the love and commitment in the eyes of gay couples, just as profoundly as in straight couples. Love is love. Commitment is commitment. Gay marriage doesn't take away from straight marriage, it validates the institution of marriage. Period. In human history, we have not yet found a better way of life than sharing it together in a love that is lasting and responsible. To know that you can always count on your partner/spouse come what may, because of that legal and social binding agreement, adds a strength and security to the marriage relationship. Social and legal recognition for the Civil Unions has been important this past year, but it is NOT marriage, and it is so important to make that dream a reality. Why go only part way? We are missing out on serving the needs of a large slice of the population, albeit a bit in the minority. Most of the marriages I perform are for visitors, but many of the civil unions have been for island residents, Hawaiian descent or otherwise. Why should visitors travel to Hawaii to have a Civil Union when gay couples can travel to another state to become legally married instead? Many of the Civil Unions I've performed have been for couples who have been in committed monogamous relationships for 25 years or more, and they delight in the opportunity to get social recognition for their beautiful partnership. These couples come from all walks of life, doctors, lawyers, aeronautic engineers, entertainers, hotel housekeepers, business owners, etc., etc. Besides denying the security, benefits and happiness to committed gay couples, just think of the amount of revenue the State of Hawaii is losing by not offering Full Marriage Equality in this time of change? If approximately 10% of the population is gay, yet has been denied the right to marry all these years, many of those who have been together 10, 20, 30 years will come to Hawaii to tie the knot, if we are a front runner in Marriage Equality. That means revenue that we would not get if another attractive destination state offers Full Marriage Equality before us in this time of rapid change. Many gay couples are DINKs (Double Income No Kids) and can afford to spend a lot of money in a state that welcomes them. They can easily go to New Jersey instead. If so, we miss out on being that welcoming state, and also the

attached revenue Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's citizens and visitors. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: yong Wilson
honolulu, HI 96815
yongwlsn20@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert Parke
Honolulu, HI 96822
robertgparke@yahoo.com

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From: Adele Rockett
honolulu, HI 96814
adelerockett@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jamie Satterfield
Honolulu, HI 96823
Jamienicole808@hotmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Nora Schubert
Honolulu, HI 96822
noraschubert@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am the mother of four children, one of whom is a proud, out, and active member of the LGBT community. My children are all equal to me and they should be equal under the laws of our state. My three daughters have protections and benefits under the law but not my son because he is gay. I am equally proud of all of my children and expect that that the laws of our state and nation to afford each of them equal protections, opportunities, benefits, and support. My son should not have to live in another state in order to have equal protections under the law. 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, my daughters can enter into marriage but my son cannot. A civil union is not equal to marriage. 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. In my family, my son's coming out publicly in a national forum has given strength to others in our family to be true to themselves and come out with the support, acceptance and understanding of family. My son's coming out has also enhanced the dialogue in our family for openness and acceptance which has not been an easy task. My maternal and paternal family have very strong ties to the Catholic Church. My mother, aunts, and cousins are alumni of Sacred Hearts Academy and my father, uncles, and cousins alumni of Saint Louis High School. Religion is a personal choice. Marriage equality is a civil right. While many of the churches here in our state and nation do not support marriage equality, Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church has acknowledged that "We have learned much about homosexuality in recent years. We now know that being gay isn't a choice, but something one is born with. If our Lord decides that someone should come into this world a certain way, who are we to judge his choice?" The churches do not represent or speak for the law but they

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Puanani Rogers
Kapaa, HI 96746
rangien2010@yahoo.com

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From: Blaine Fergerstrom
Honolulu, HI 96818
zztype@alohatown.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I received a spam message from a same-sex marriage opponent to Rep. Chris Lee, begging him to honor the church position of one man, one woman in marriage. I thought you would appreciate my reply to the wannabe spammer and anti-equality person, and Rep. Lee. Enjoy!: ===== Aloha Representative Lee, I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Patterson in his spam email to you, me, and who knows who else, from earlier this afternoon. (I received TWO copies of his lovely unsolicited email! Lucky me.) Marriage should be restricted to one man, and one woman, as prescribed by the church. Good for them. Go in peace, my brothers and sisters, and enjoy your marriage. Woe be to the abominations which do not share the appropriate biological apparatus to qualify for the blessings of Jesus which allows for two people to love and care for each other. HOWEVER! I also strongly believe in equal treatment under the law, and the separation of church and state. To that end, what I advocate is for THE REMOVAL OF ALL SPECIAL PRIVILEGES GRANTED BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS UPON MARRIED COUPLES. There, all fixed. Everybody equal. End of argument. Church gets to keep its sanctified marriage, and the GOVERNMENT GETS OUT OF THE MARRIAGE REGULATION BUSINESS. The church gets to grant all the special privileges within their power (and pocketbooks) upon married couples. Everybody else, suck wind. But likewise, no special tax deductions for married couples. No special privileges for large families of six, eight, ten, or more people, who happen to be married. They'll have to apply for welfare, food stamps, and Section 8 if they want any relief from the government, beyond what their church can supply, just like everybody else. Oh, you want visitation privileges when your married spouse is in the hospital? Sorry, equal treatment under the law. You're not allowed unless you are family. You're married? OK, but what does that mean, under the law? Nothing. Sorry. Please present your birth certificate at the door to prove you are related by blood, not church decree. Simple, huh? Isn't it much better like this, where nobody gets special treatment? Yup. One man, one woman. You've got each other, but other than that, you're on your own, just like everybody else. Aloha, Blaine Ferg

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Samuel COX
Kaneohe, HI 96744
revsamuelcox@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: harold palmer
honolulu, HI 96817
caneman808@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Richard J Laue
Koloa, HI 96756
rjlauepoli@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: JOSEPH FDNDEUR
WAIANA, HI 96792
HAWAIIULULANI@AOL.COM

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Virginia Cantorna
Wailuku, HI 96793
vcantorna@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am in strong support of Marriage Equality. I am a licensed psychologist, registered nurse, Christian church board president, and have gay clients, friends and family members. I had two gay friends who were long-time partners. One was admitted to the intensive care unit fighting for his life. The other was forbidden to visit and disallowed to make medical decisions for his partner because he was "not family." Imagine someone else, such as a parent who disowned you, making plans for your critical treatment! Stories such as this compel me to support same-sex marriage. I believe in the highest quality of life for ALL people. Civil marriage will give same-sex couples the same economic security, protections and peace of mind that are enjoyed by heterosexual married couples. The state and federal benefits include: - Ability to visit or make medical decisions for an ill or incapacitated partner. - Access to employer-provided health and retirement benefits. - Bereavement or sick leave to care for a partner or child. - Children's access to health benefits and inheritance from both parents. - Children's right to maintain a relationship with the nonbiological/adoptive parent in the event of the death of the other parent. - Joint insurance policies for home, auto, and health. - Access to partner's coverage under Medicare and Social Security. - The ability to sponsor one's partner for immigration. I want those who now enjoy a legal marriage to imagine not having these rights and benefits. Unthinkable, right? It is unfair to place marriage equality to the public for a vote. Remember that there are many gay and lesbian individuals who are afraid to publicly show favor for this bill because of the stigma and discrimination attached to coming out as gay. As well, young children of gay couples do not have a voice in this fight for their rights and privileges. Please be the voice for those who are silenced. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard and for your kind consideration. Dr. Virginia "Virgie" Cantorna
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amanda Naranjo
Honolulu, HI 96816
onelovealoha@gmail.com

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From: Shayna Lonoae'a Alexander
Pearl City, HI 96782
shayna.lalexander@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Frederica Banning
Honolulu, HI 96815
rickie331@msn.com

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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Norman Matsuzaki, Jr.
Pearl City, HI 96782
nmatsuzaki@clearwire.net

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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. Article I Section 23 of the State of Hawaii Bill of Rights reserves solely the freedom to marry to opposite-sex couples. Based upon this classification, Section 23 violates the central meaning of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The right to marriage equality is so important that it is implicitly guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. When Section 23 was passed in the late 1990s, it expressed a political and religious will that oppressed same-sex couples and those of a different sexual affiliation. They were not seen as equals to straight men and women even in the "eyes of the law." Our society has changed, even if the religious community refuses to acknowledge that we are more understanding, compassionate, and humane to those different from us. Civil rights cannot be legislated just as a state cannot by law prohibit interracial marriage, because such a statute violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Our rights are measured in the rights of others. Many are family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and fellow citizens. We have an obligation to respect each other for the common good. We must show that we have the "will" to safeguard the rights of minorities and the vulnerable from tyranny and oppression. Will we reserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness solely to opposite-sex couples? Let us show that we live with "aloha" every day of our lives. That it has meaning and value to us as it does to our host culture of the Hawaiian people. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Angelica Kawewehi
Pahala, HI 96777
balorenzo2010@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Aaron Mickelson
Papaikou, HI 96781
Aaronmic@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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From: Stephanie Lay
Honolulu, HI 96813
stephanielayfitness@hotmail.com

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From: Shawna Okami
Honolulu, HI 96819
imakos@hawaii.rr.com

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From: s anne england
honolulu, HI 96815
londonsown219@aol.com

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From: Sofie Castacio
Aiea, HI 96701
Wester_sofie@hotmail.com

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From: Amy He
Honolulu, HI 96818
amyhe950623@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Byron Gangnes
Honolulu, HI 96813
gangnes@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing to ask you to support SB 1. All residents of Hawaii deserve the same dignity and respect under the law. As the parent of a lesbian daughter, I know the particular challenges that gay and lesbian citizens face. My daughter is a bright, capable and loving person who wants to participate fully in the life of her community. She and other gay and lesbian couples cannot do so as long as we deny them the basic right to live in a committed relationship and to share in the same benefits and responsibilities that come with this. Susannah was thrilled to be able to marry her wife Laura in Minnesota on August 1, when marriage became available to all people of the state. But her right to equal treatment--and the rights of all Hawaii citizens--depends on our state and others also ratifying this fundamental right. I hope that you will vote in favor of SB1 to ensure that all families have the same critical protections, and I hope that you will talk with all of your colleagues in the legislature to let them know how important this is to us. Securing equal rights for same sex couples is the defining social justice issue of our time. Please be leaders in the struggle to finally make those rights a reality. With your support for equality for ALL residents of Hawaii, we can make Hawaii an even better place to live, work and raise our families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kealoha Sugiyama
Hawi, HI 96719
acallforlove@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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From: Noelle Stevenson-Milner
Keaau, HI 96749
aliibeach@aol.com

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From: Thaddeus Winter
Honolulu, HI 96826
tjwinter2003@msn.com

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From: Gina Hunter
Holualoa, HI 96725
Half_pint44@yahoo.com

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From: Vania Ito
Honolulu, HI 96813
vaniaito@gmail.com

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From: Kyla Ozoa
HONOLULU, HI 96819
kbozoa@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Kyla Ozoa, I am 24 years old and I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Hawaii will always and forever be my home. Having the opportunity to marry the one you love, in the place you call home, is something I feel everyone deserves. Yet, I don't have that option. As a young girl, I have always dreamed of my wedding day, as many young girls do. But not many young girls have to face the reality of "You can't get married". I know I am not the only person that has had to feel this way. Even today, there are children trying to understand how the world works, and why they are shunned from society. Your support for marriage equality will help with the discrimination problems we have now. It could also help many children see that they aren't weird, or perverted (as I thought of myself). It will help give them self-worth, and a sense of support from Hawaii. When the day comes, I would love to marry my one true love, my soul mate. I would love to know that it will happen for me. Leaving Hawaii, my home, to get married has been a hurtful thought. Seeing those belonging to Hawaii and leaving just to be with the one they love or even their family is also very disappointing. I strongly urge for your support for SB1. It's not just voting yes to words written on paper. It's helping, loving, and maybe even saving a life and family. Sincerely, Kyla Ozoa

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Chai Blair-Stahn
Honolulu, HI 96822
chai.blairstahn@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am a gay man living in Hawai'i and I believe marriage is a fundamental civil right that all US citizens should be given. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Brooks Bays
Honolulu, HI 96816
bgbaysjr@commspeed.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. In the interest of brevity, I won't cover all the arguments "for." This is just a personal note in favor of extending the rights and responsibilities of civil marriage to all consensual adult couples, be they of the same sex, or of different sexes. I am a man who was lucky enough to find my one man, Jim. We were together while richer and poorer, in sickness and in health, forsaking all others as we loved, honored, and cherished, until Death did us part. If ours was not a marriage, then I don't know what one was. And yet we were strangers before the law in our own home. Please don't let this injustice and inequality continue. Please grant everyone the freedom to marry the person they love. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Karl Hensel
Kihei, HI 96753
Lavakarl@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Linda Kuo
Honolulu, HI 96817
Linda@DUHawaii.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Paul Harper-O'Connor
Wailuku, HI 96793
pharperoconnorhi@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I strongly urge your support for marriage equality in our state. This is no longer a moral issue, but a matter of civil rights and intentional discrimination. The lack of access for same-sex couples in Hawaii is an outright denial of access to federal rights. The recent US Supreme Court ruling have validated this and states are choosing to either acknowledge their obligation of inclusion of same-sex couples in the institution of marriage or await being named in lawsuit challenges that are strongly anticipated to rule by recent rulings as unfounded. Many in the community remain ignorant to the facts around same-sex marriage and assume that my partner and I are considered "married" under state and federal laws already - as they see us a committed couple; however this has not yet been attained. Hawaii has floundered on the issue of marriage equality for many years and it is more than time to stand on the right side of the issue. My partner of over twenty-four years and I DESIRE and DEMAND equal standing in the eyes of the law, as well as having the rights, respect, dignity, and responsibilities as our married friends and families. I ask you to pass marriage equality in Hawaii NOW and allow our keiki to see that they can have faith in our elected legislators and government officials. 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. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Wendy Kick
Honolulu, HI 96816
hikicksstudio@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As a person born with both sex organs, am I allowed to marry a man OR a woman? And my friend who was born with neither- is it an "any" or "none" situation? What I mean to say is, gender is as black and white as your average sunset, and building laws around it is as foolish as trying to judge for yourself who is going to heaven and who is going to hell. Please, let's make some smart decisions and drop the shenanigans. Our forefathers were wrong about plenty along the way- It is our duty to them to make corrections as we move forward. And by the way, the harm that comes from continuing to deem gay marriage as lesser is that society continues to believe it, and that's where your beaten kids, school shootings, suicides, and rapes are coming from more than most of the time... You're perpetuating a cycle of abuse and second-citizenship in America, and it's just not ok. Please do your part to improve our world- You're lucky enough to hold this power, don't waste it. This is not a vote on your personal ethics... it's a vote on what America, the land of freedom and equality, deems fair. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Beth Carbone
Honolulu, HI 96816
elizabeth.chambers@sbcglobal.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Aarin Gross
Kaneohe, HI 96744
aarin.gross@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sean Casey
Honolulu, HI 96816
seanmcasey@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Be on the right side of history! 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Roxane Stewart
Hilo, HI 96720
rstewart99489@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Benjamin Miller
Kapaa, HI 96746
Newparadox@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Christi Higa
Wailuku, HI 96793
cashiga@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kimberley Haines
Honolulu, HI 96825
kxh@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. Personal message: Please pass SB1. After spending time listening and sign waving at the State Capitol today, Oct. 28, I have not yet heard any good reasons why the bill should not be passed. Hopefully fear and ignorance will not hinder the passage of this bill and will bestow rights and benefits upon us, that all couples should have, regardless of gender. I respect and appreciate all who have tried so hard to move SB1 forward. I can only wish that my partner of 34 years could be here to witness its passage. Thank you again. Kimberley Haines

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Penina Afamasaga
Kapolei, HI 96707
nafamasaga@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. The best part about being a citizen of the United States and a Hawaii resident is the freedom that was given to us. My heritage didn't start in the United States, it started on a different island, but my grandparents wanted to give my mother a better life with more opportunities. My mother was sent to Hawaii to begin a new life that would eventually open up a whole new world for her. A life

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Aubrey Ahulau
HILO, HI 96720
ahulauhao@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Zoe Vorsino
Honolulu, HI 96825
zvorsino@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sandra Wimmer
Honolulu, HI 96816
sandywmmr@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jonathan Fatu, Jr.
Lihue, HI 96766
jonathanfatu@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing to you in strong support of SB 1. What makes a family? Is it marriage? More specifically, is it only marriage between a man and a woman? If so, then what about single parents? Moreover, what is marriage? Is it defined by two individuals of the opposite sex whose goal is to reproduce? Should we ban same-sex marriages because they cannot reproduce themselves? If that is true, then what about couples who are infertile? Should we exclude elderly couples and infertile couples from having the ability to get married in addition to banning same-sex couples from getting married? Simply put, there is no argument, other than religious arguments, that provides any reason to ban same-sex couples from getting married. Advocates of same-sex marriage look to have the state recognize these marriages, so that they may receive the same rights and benefits that all opposite-sex marriages already enjoy. Religious institutions and businesses are specifically exempt from being forced to conduct same-sex marriage ceremonies, according to SB 1. So no one will be directly affected by the passage of marriage equality. Advocates of marriage equality are not looking to force any institution, organization or individual to conduct same-sex marriages. We are looking for equality, and the promise of a secular form of governance to be upheld. Hawai'i already has a variety of families ranging from single parents, to parents of the same-sex, in addition to parents of the opposite sex. There are people who get married even though they are not planning, or cannot even have, children. And SB 1 does not force anyone to have anything to do with same-sex marriages. So why vote against it? The authors of the U.S. Constitution forbade any religious test for public office, and even forbade Congress from ever passing any law that held one religion denominational over any other religion or belief. Do the right thing. Uphold the U.S. Constitution and secular governance. Vote for family. Vote for marriage equality. Vote for equality and justice. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amy Asselbaye
Honolulu, HI 96821
amyasselbaye@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Please make sure the Legislature makes good use of the special session by passing SB 1. I believe that the legislature should pass SB 1 to make sure that basic rights we should all enjoy are not denied to certain individuals based on their sexuality. After all, our government has decided through our system of laws that marriage is ultimately a legal contract denoting certain status and rights in our society. It is inherently unfair that an individual in a gay or lesbian relationship wouldn't have the opportunity to those same rights. And, no one should be forced into a diminished status like a "civil union" simply because of who they are and who they love. To support marriage e

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Cu Ri Lee
Waipahu, HI 96797
cu26lee@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Perry Armor
Hilo, HI 96720
perry.armor@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. This is a civil rights issue. It should NOT have to wait to be put up to a popular vote. It is a simple question of equality for all citizens of this state.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Barbara Franklin
Honokaa, HI 96727
barbara@island-law.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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 and who it will grant a license to. 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rocky Leeper
Pahoa, HI 96778
rockyleeper@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Angela SUAN
Kapolei, HI 96707
annsuan@hotmail.com

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Don O'Reilly
Volcano, HI 96785
eugenesblues@gmail.com

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From: Cynthia Chiang
Lihue, HI 96766
cchiang@pphi.org

RE: SB 1
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From: Guy Harrigan
Honolulu, HI 96815
gharrigan@me.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: David Glasgow
Kapaa, HI 96746
dave@dejesusarchitecture.com

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From: R C Blake
Kapaa, HI 96746
rcblake@mac.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rusnell Pascual-Kestner
Honolulu, HI 96822
rpkest2@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Judith Cremarosa
Kailua, HI 96839
stardance@earthlink.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Marriage is the recognition of a relationship for legal, financial, and personal reasons. Everyone deserves the right to have their lifetime partnership recognized. This is a civil right. If someone disagrees due to their religion, then they can marry who they choose. But to impose their religion onto a civil right is not respectful of each person's right to happiness. 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ross Rasmussen
Honolulu, HI 96817
ross2752@mac.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing to express my support of SB 1. It would be unthinkable to express our aloha by denying the basic right of marriage to many of our family members because it makes people uncomfortable. I am a white man who is married to an asian woman. Not permitted years ago because people thought it unnatural and it made them uncomfortable. Now, I look around my neighborhood and there are all kinds of families. It really doesn't matter. I shuddered when I saw on the news that those who oppose this bill chanted, "Let the people decide". We already did that once, and that was a huge mistake. We mustn't let bigotry disguised as religious indignation deny basic rights to all people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: COLE SADAMOTO
HONOLULU, HI 96817
HILOHIGH@AOL.COM

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jill Ekar
Hilo, HI 96720
the.ekars@live.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Members of the LGBT community are important in our communities. Our LGBT loved ones volunteer time with keiki and donate time and money to conserving the wonderful natural resources we have here in Hawaii. They pay taxes and put their hearts into making this world better, even when this world does not always show that love back. It's time to recognize these human beings; they are not second class citizens. Please take part in helping create equality, and showing our love and aloha for our own community members. They are US. Mahalo nui for your consideration of this important matter. We must do what we can to help end discrimination. Jill Ekar

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michael Waddell
Wailuku, HI 96793
mwaddell808@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Todd Peterson
Honolulu, HI 96813
todd@toddpeterson.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sherri Kinoshita
Kailua, HI 96734
sherri.kinoshita@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Akemi Bischoff
Kailua, HI 96734
akemi710@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Patricia Blair
Kailua, HI 96734
Patriciablair@msn.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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. What better example for children! 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. I write this as senior heterosexual. Discriminate no more! 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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From: Dyan Mitsuyama
Honolulu, HI 96819
dyan@mitsuyamaandrebman.com

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From: Todd Sligar
Honolulu, HI 96819
toddsligar@ymail.com

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From: Jessica Agsalda
Honolulu, HI 96814
jagsalda@gmail.com

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From: Patrick Taomae
Honolulu, HI 96813
pytaomaeaclu@hotmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: The Rev. Ron Williams
Kaneohe, HI 96744
ronw@cchonolulu.org

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I, The Rev. Ron Williams, Senior Minister of Community Church of Honolulu, a United Church of Christ congregation, 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.

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From: Kunani Dreier
Hauula, HI 96717
kunaned@gmail.com

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From: Amber O'Reilly
Kaneohe, HI 96744
amberkor@aol.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Joel Johnson
Aiea, HI 96701
Johnson.joel.808@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Steven Prieto
Honolulu, HI 96822
raku27@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. I just wanted to take another moment to "thank you" for all of your hard work on behalf of Marriage Equality. I know that it has been a long and sometimes difficult struggle for all of you. Your courage and leadership are very much appreciated. Richard and I have been together as loving committed partners and soul-mates for almost 35 years. We've had our civil union here in Hawaii, but it still doesn't quite seem like marriage especially because as two retired federal employees our benefits are not transferable to a surviving spouse. To me, it is a basic question of fairness. No need to make it any more complicated,.... really. Again "MAHALO" for being there for us. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Katherine Uehana
Waipahu, HI 96797
kmuehana@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michael Peyatt
Kapaa, HI 96746
kauaibound@prodigy.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Gerald Lai
Mililani, HI 96789
gerald@funghawaii.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Legislators, Some of the Christian churches are espousing anti-gay, anti-civil rights, anti-human rights propaganda. They proclaim that homosexuality is a sin, therefore gay people should be discriminated against, and not granted their equal civil rights. Even the Pope says he himself and everyone are sinners. By the same logic, then everyone should be denied equal rights. The Christian church has an abysmal historic record when it comes to Civil, Human, and Religious rights. For centuries the church has persecuted people of other faiths. The Jews, the Muslims, Hindus and other non-believers. Witness the banishment of Jews and Muslims from Spain in the 15th century. Witness the persecution of scientists like Galileo & Copernicus, and the Spanish Inquisition with its torture and burning at the stake of all non-believers and heretics. For centuries, slavery existed throughout the world, and the Christian church condone it. Even St. Paul defended slavery. The Christian church likens itself to the defenders of morality. What was so moral about the Thirty Years War, when Catholics and Protestants were murdering each other in the hundreds of thousands, and destroying much of Europe, in the name of their religion. Where were these Christian defenders of morality when Jews, homosexuals, Slavs, Gypsies were rounded up in Nazi Germany, sent to concentration camps, gassed, and burnt in the crematoriums. Did the Christians, the Catholics, defend the rights of the Jews and others in Mussolini's Italy and Franco's Spain. No, they were complicit in aiding the extermination of millions people during the Holocaust, before and during World War II. To this day, there are still people in the Christian church, who continue to promote intolerance and discrimination. Instead of being the leaders and in the forefront for civil and human rights, they are the most vitriolic opponents of civil & human rights. I do not know how they can brazenly call themselves Christian, when they have so much intolerance and blood on their hands. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Please pass this bill to extend the civil and equal rights to all of all Gay people and their families.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Dave Jorgensen
Wailuku, HI 96793
dave@tonytlaw.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. One of the biggest issues I have with the opposition we have been hearing to a law that would provide basic equal rights to all citizens of Hawaii is: Why is the legislature even considering not taking action to amend the laws of this state based on what a few extremists say is what their church and what their bible say should happen? Isn't that the textbook definition of a violation of the principle of separation of church and state? They do not speak for me or a majority of the people, and their church and their bible have no right to control my life. I have many, many friends who are in same sex relationships and I cannot imagine any legitimate basis for their rights to be treated exactly the same as any other couple to not be honored and respected. Please DO THE RIGHT THING and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Henry Sandoval
Honolulu, HI 96813
henrysandoval@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Janna Young
Honolulu, HI 96822
Jannayoung@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. My partner and I have been in a loving, committed relationship for 6 years. We have also been engaged for 3 years. We have unfortunately had to indefinitely postpone our wedding as my partner is a citizen of Canada and the current laws do not allow me to sponsor my partner. When DOMA was repealed, the Supreme Court determined same sex couples should be entitled to immigration benefits. For this benefit and all of the other legal benefits that are awarded to those married, I am in need of the passage of SB1 so we can have the ability to start a secure family life, a civil liberty which we should, but do not have at this time. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Stephanie Rodrigues
Pearl City, HI 96782
srodrigues73@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Annie AuHoon
honolulu, HI 96813
annieauhoon48@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: David Moskowitz
HONOLULU, HI 96830
davemoskowitz10@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sifan Kahale
Pukalani, HI 96768
sifan.kahale@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My partner and I are planning to get married here. We have lived in upcountry Maui for 5 years and are planning on retiring here. I strongly support SB 1. Show that Hawaii is really about 'aloha'. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Sifan Kahale

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Hossein Farman
Honolulu, HI 96817
hossein_farman@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert Cence
Honolulu, HI 96816
bob@cence.net

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Gina French
Kaneohe, HI 96744
ginafrench@me.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Anthony Alvarado
Honolulu, HI 96815
aalvarado_232@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. I don't want to be second class citizen because I am gay. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Paul Klink
Honolulu, HI 96830
Paul@paulklink.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As a licensed Marriage Officiate by the state of Hawaii is very uncomfortable when same-sex couples ask me to marry them and I have to tell them that I cannot. Aloha means inclusivity not exclusivity. Allowing anyone to be married will return Hawaii back to the spirit of Aloha! 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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michael Peyatt
Kapaa, HI 96746
kuaibound@prodigy.net

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lily Haggerty
Captain Cook, HI 96704
lilyypad@aloha.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

I am really proud of Hawaii for taking the bull by the horns and doing what it takes to make SB1 happen. Blessings to you all for having the courage and determination to make it possible for all the good people of our State to have equal standing under the law! 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.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Helena Cence
Honolulu, HI 96816
helena@cence.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tamara Li
wailuku, HI 96793
everything_grl@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Scott Foster
Honolulu, HI 96819
fosters005@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chairs & Members, As a 70-year old Gay man and resident of Hawai'i for the past 1/4 century, I write in strong support of SB-1. Until his tragic car accident 4 years ago, my partner of 20 years had lived near normally since childhood with mild learning disabilities. A car accident (a driver crossed the center line and hit him head-on) and the resulting back surgery with implanted Titanium rods has greatly exacerbated his mental challenges now including Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and his short-term memory has dramatically deteriorated to perhaps 5 minutes. He often forgets what he's doing while he's doing it and he spends hours a day looking for lost car keys, a beer he just opened, the razor he was in the process of shaving with, his cell phone, where we are going when driving and on and on. Point being, my life partner can never again have a normal life and will always need intense caregiving. He's 45 and my great worry at 70 is that should I proceed him in death, he will be put out on the street. Not all Gay people are well off and since his accident we have lived literally from one check to another from my modest Social Security (SS) income and from my small business as he can no longer work as a well-paid licensed truck driver. In reality, he can never work again because of his now-major mental challenges. While the passage of SB1 will not immediately take care of my SS concerns, it will bring Hawai'i into compliance with the recent Supreme Court decision which has triggered the many new federal benefits such as Gay couples being able to file joint income tax, etc. Many important aspects of these amazing changes remain up in the air and my partner and I are still anxiously waiting for answers on SS. Ultimately, Congress may need to weigh in to change the language in the SS laws. In any event, 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 -- as I have with my now frail partner. 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kevin Cochran
Kapaau, HI 96755
kcochran2u@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Frank Espanto
Captain Cook, HI 96704
fespanto@hawaiiintel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to pledge your legal commitment and devotion to another individual, whether a man or a woman, should be a basic freedom. My partner and I have been in a committed relationship for 33 years. We have been together longer than any of my three sisters and their husbands. To think that because I do not have the legal right to marry my partner, if something happened to one of us, the remaining partner may not have the "right" be at their bedside in a hospital. While this may never happen, the possibility exists. A legally married couple would not even have to worry about such a thing happening. Gay and lesbian couples wish to 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. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Edna Pascual
mililani, HI 96789
kuromi3222@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lyle Herman
Honolulu, HI 96816
dryleherman@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Paige LeMaster
Honolulu, HI 96822
plemaster89@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Paul Hanson
honolulu, HI 96814
hansonstudioz@gmail.com

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From: David Gardner
Lahaina, HI 96761
Dbg1111@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Hallie Sykes
Lahaina, HI 96761
hallie_erin@yahoo.com

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From: Charlette Harmon
Waipahu, HI 96797
cgharmon@msn.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Marlowe Hyer
Kihei, HI 96753
mauimarlowe@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Dwayne Dawson
Hilo, HI 96720
Sdawson@tmt.org

RE: SB 1
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Phillip Arnold
Honolulu, HI 96830
parnold@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person I love and have been together for the past 35 years as of November 9th, is a basic freedom that we should not be denied. I fought for my country in the Vietnam War 1968-69 for the same equal rights that I am now being denied. That is not "pono"!!! I wish to marry my partner of 35 years and receive the Federal benefits. 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.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michael Scott Kalani Chong
Honolulu, HI 96819
kalanichong@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic human freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. That union deserves the same social benefits openly celebrated and financially gained by heterosexual couples. 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 "religious" among us, apparently feel this is pono and that God allows them the divine right to discriminate in His name. As a Catholic, this offends and sickens me. Many a dictator in world history have traveled this slippery slope to justify their fears, their insecurities, their hypocrisy. This is unacceptable and a threat to the fabric of goodness in humanity. At what point will these "lovers of God" start chastising other "threats" to society and will we allow them the authority to dictate our destiny based on their paranoia and insecurities? 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. Yet here some of us are trying to reverse that reality. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. The political function of rights is precisely to protect minorities such as gay individuals from oppression by majorities. Individual rights are not subject to public vote as a majority has no right to vote away the rights of a minority. The fears, discrimination and hatred that those "religious" testify would occur if SB1 was passed, actually IS the reality that I and many other gay individuals and their ohana have to breathe everyday. Status quo hatred and inequality should not be allowed to prosper any further. And religion and its freedoms should remain separate from matters of the State. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michael Goodwin
Kapa`a, HI 96746
kgoodwin@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
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From: Aaron Kapp
Hilo, HI 96720
hiloagent@gmail.com

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From: Robert Boyack
Honolulu, HI 96815
robertboyack@aol.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Aj Jaeger
Kailua, HI 96734
beyondthebeach1@mac.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. When my parents married in 1957, they were breaking the law for Love. Hawaii is full of families of these mixed marriages. We need to be the leaders in taking the next step and let our brothers and sisters also Marry whomever they choose. It's not about religion or race or sex. 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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: James Sugg
Honokaa, HI 96727
jims@suggarts.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Anne Lee
Honolulu, HI 96818
hawaiianfossie@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert Hauff
Honolulu, HI 96822
rhauff@hotmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: William Miller
Kapaa, HI 96746
fatherbill@stmichaels-kauai.org

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From: Karen Akiba
Papaikou, HI 96781
kakiba@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom and RIGHT 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.

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From: Richard Mindar
Honolulu, HI 96815
rmindar@yahoo.com

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From: Lauren Pohano
Pearl city, HI 96819
Leinani_91@yahoo.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Makakaualii Rego
Honolulu, HI 96826
Makakaualii@yahoo.com

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From: Margaret Gray
Honolulu, HI 96826
graymgt@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Many years ago, when I lived in Europe my first partner had a brain tumor. I was not allowed to see her the morning of her surgery as I was not legally considered to be next of kin. I don't want that to ever happen again with anyone I love. Last December I had the great pleasure of becoming a naturalized citizen of the USA. I wanted to be part of a country that stands for equality - where everyone has an equal chance regardless of race, religion, background or economic status. I took the oath of allegiance in the belief that one day I would be able to marry the person I love in the state that I have chosen to now call home. Please don't let me down. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Makakaualii Rego
Honolulu, HI 96826
Makakaualii@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Bob Anderson
Kailua, HI 96734
kailua5@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. It is time to give equal rights to all Hawaii residents and their children.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Hannah Hall
Honolulu, HI 96826
Hannaloha@yahoo.com

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tim Terzi
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
timbabyface@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: MiSuk Lee
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
milee33@gmail.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Paola Rodelas
Honolulu, HI 96822
paolarodelas@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance I enthusiastically and strongly support SB 1. I am a straight Christian woman who believes that members of the LGBTQ community should have the right to marry. There is absolutely no definitive evidence in scripture that shows that God considers homosexuality a sin. Even more importantly, I believe in the separation of church and state. The church has absolutely no place in legislative decisions. Many people opposing SB 1, particularly the Christian community, say that this should be left up to the people to decide and people should vote. This is exactly what the majority was saying when there were calls to end anti-miscegenation, Jim Crow laws, segregation, and more. It's simple: this is a civil rights issue. All couples, gay or straight, should have the right to marry. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jeffrey Priela
Aiea, HI 96701
jpriela@outserve.org

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert Kincaid
Makawao, HI 96768
bob.kincaid78@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I have been with my partner for 6 years, after 3 years together we had a domestic partnership ceremony. The ceremony took place at our Unitarian Church and we had over 140 people in attendance. The room was filled with love, compassion and joy as our friends and family watched us exchange vows. However we do not have full benefits because of state laws. We currently live in Makawao, HI and have been here for two years. We've build an amazing ohana and serve the community by being board members of www.mauipride.org. We want to have the same rights as everyone. I applaud you for taking the stand on the right side of history. This issue is about Civil Rights. The Government isn't in the marriage business, they are in the business of providing marriage certificates. As for the churches, those that want to support and marry same-sex couples have the right to do so. 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: John Herberger
Kula, HI 96790
manaaloha@aol.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Toraya Basilliali
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
toraya_b@hotmail.com

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jake Smookler
Paia, HI 96779
djsmook.smookler@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. It hurts me to see friends that I've known for a while having to LEAVE their home soil and get married on the mainland or internationally. Think of the income Hawaii would have on Allowing LGBT marriages to take place here. There would be TONS of tourists coming into the state to get married! Should SB1 get shot down, Hawaii would be LOSING out on a lot of potential income. 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. Aloha and mahalo once again!

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tess Bevernage
Honolulu, HI 96821
tessbevernage@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: James Kuloloio
Wailuku, HI 96793
opio808@hotmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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. I have heard in the Senate testimonies by opponents that the special legislative session is being ram rodded and rushed. This has been talked about for twenty years and civil rights should never take twenty years to be implemented. Opponents are also saying to let the people vote. We the voters of Hawaii did just that in 1998 where we gave you the legislature the right to legalize same-sex marriage in the future. This is 2013 and the future is now. And we now want you to make that determination. Lastly, I was born and raised here. I live in Maui with my partner of 22 years who was also born and raised here. The assertions being made that we as locals should fly outside of our own state to marry and receive benefits places a burden on us and our right to marry here in the place of our birth. We are not second class citizens and so I encourage you to respect our civil rights based on the U.S. Constitution and not the Bible. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ana Murray
waimanalo, HI 96795
beachhousehawaii.comana@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Naomi Pualani Abraham
Honolulu, HI 96813
nabraham@deloitte.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I have been with my Ku'uipo or life partner for over 35 years, and would love to enjoy the freedom of marriage afforded to all others, except same sex couples. Please do the right thing and let your hearts and your na'au tell you that equality for all should supercede prejudice and religious beliefs. As a Native Hawaiian, our Kanaka Maoli have lost so much, please don't let this once in a lifetime opportunity, "til death do we part" slip away. So I ask you again, Please pass SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, you know it's the right thing to do. :) Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. Naomi Pualani Abraham 999 Bishop Street Suite 2700 Honolulu, HI 96813 .

TO: Joint Committee on Judiciary and Finance

Representatives Rhoads and Luke, Chairs; Representatives Har, Nishimoto and Johanson, Vice Chairs

To Judiciary and Finance Committee Members

HEARING DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

I will not testify in person.

I have communicated several times with the Hawaii Senators and Representatives over the summer, with many of the reasons for Hawaii to provide marriage equality, including the federal tax decision, marriage benefits for military couples, the outcomes for children of same-sex parenting families, and the recent New Jersey court decision.

When my late husband (we were married in Canada), Bill Woods, started working on this issue in 1989, resulting in the initial suit in 1991, it was to accomplish many of the things that come with marriage equality, eliminating the discriminations that existed.

Over the past decade, many have worked hard to gain non-discrimination in public housing, public accommodations, and employment. It is important these protections be maintained as Hawaii proceeds with the step of making federal benefits and responsibilities available to ALL Hawaii citizens wishing to enter into a recognized marriage.

While the religious exemption in SB1 provides for exemptions to the Public Accommodations law **unless** the religious facility is available to the general public **and** “for profit” - the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has noted that it might be good to further clarify “for profit”, possibly with language referring to the need for submission of GET forms for income. But even though the current language of SB1 provides “wiggle room” for religious organizations to work around the law, I can accept the existing language of SB1 as originally introduced.

I support SB1 as written, **which maintains the principle of religion not mandating politics, and politics not mandating religion.**

Lance Bateman
3070 Holua Place
Honolulu, HI 96819
Daytime phone: 808-372-5323

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Gary Passon
Kihei, HI 96753
gary@alohaaku.com

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Position: Strong Support

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From: john koch
honolulu, HI 96826
bulviwoodson@gmail.com

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From: Cherie Espinueva
Wailuku, HI 96793
Pooh_a39@hotmail.com

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From: S. Rabe
pearl city, HI 96782
Lovingitandlivingit1@gmail.com

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From: Sasha Santiago
Kailua, HI 96734
prdynasty@hotmail.com

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From: Lorena Goya
Kihei, HI 96753
lorenagoya@yahoo.com

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From: Laura Grote
Waikoloa, HI 96738
LauraAGrote@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Debra Crowe-Kuwaye
Kailua, HI 96734
dcrowekuwaye@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Cody Moniz
Honolulu, HI 96813
cmoniz@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sally Kimura
Kamuela, HI 96743
malu10@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kelly Mitchell
Honolulu, HI 96825
Honolulurealtor@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Beyond "strong" support. Unconditional. These are humans. History repeats. It's time to make this right. 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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ray Pace
honolulu, HI 96822
raypacewrites@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sharon Walker
Honolulu, HI 96817
producehealth@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Shayna Ontiveros
Pearl city, HI 96782
ontiveros1986@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amanda Suckow
Honolulu, HI 96818
Amanda.suckow@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: stagg yamaguchi
honolulu, HI 96821
stagg2xist@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Dean Taba
Honolulu, HI 96822
deantaba@earthlink.net

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kristina Jenkins
Kailua, HI 96734
kristinanoelani@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I believe that freedom to marry, support, care for, and provide for the person you love is an essential 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. Please pass marriage equality for all! What an exciting time this is -- I am proud to be sharing my support for this bill that will establish equal rights for all families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Much aloha, Kristina

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Barbara Weber
Honolulu, HI 96818
barbwbr@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert Kirk
Pahoa, HI 96778
punabob@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Te'sha Martines-Melim
Honolulu, HI 96816
teshalepoop@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amy Vasconcellos
Honolulu, HI 96825
amyvasco@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tom peter Sorensen
Captain cook, HI 96704
Woodtailors@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Angus Whyte
Pahoa, HI 96778
anguswhyte@mac.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jay Jurick
Honolulu, HI 96812
jayjurick@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. I happen to love a woman of Asian descent. What if I was told (as was the case in many states when I was young) that the law prohibited us to marry? Would that be right? Would it be right if the majority thought it was? No. Please ensure that we protect the rights of the minority here. The U.S. Supreme Court has already done so. You just need to take care of our beautiful state. 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. I am an ordained minister in my church and I have performed numerous wedding ceremonies here in Hawaii, where I have lived since 1986. This is not a religious issue. This is a civil rights issue. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Aloha, Jay

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kamuela Werner
Honolulu, HI 96822
kamuelaw@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Todd Hurst
Honolulu, HI 96817
thurst85@email.phoenix.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kristelle Aisaka
Aiea, HI 96701
kraisaka@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Marriage equality is not an issue of difference. It is not an issue of religion. It is an issue of basic human rights and having the decency to stand up for our brothers and sisters who are currently not afforded the same privileges. It is an issue of people in our families being in relationships that are not acknowledged under the law, that deserve the same recognition and legitimacy. Marriage does not create love, commitment, or fidelity between two people. Those things exist regardless. This is about giving them back the right to call it what they want, just as the rest of us do. I am proud to have grown up in Hawaii. I am proud to be from a place that so strongly values diversity, that has taught me so much about inclusion and acceptance and belonging. I carry it in my heart. I carry in my heart a family that has always loved me, and will continue to love me, regardless of who I choose to love. I carry in my heart a family t

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Geoffrey Hajim
Papaikou, HI 96781
hajim@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Not only will it bring in millions of extra dollars in income to the State (everyone wants a Hawaii wedding), but also 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.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kristen Damico
Kihei, HI 96753
kristy.damico@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kimberly Malloy
KailuaKona, HI 96740
kimpaka5@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sharon Blanton
Kaneohe, HI 96744
sharonblanton@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rachel Okoji
Honolulu, HI 96821
rachelokoji@enviroriskhawaii.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Daniel Seto
Honolulu, HI 96816
dkkseto@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Todd Simmons
Honolulu, HI 96825
tsimmons@hpu.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I've listened respectfully to the arguments in recent weeks made by our opponents on this issue, even when their arguments have been patently disrespectful to me, my husband and our children. I've listened to them characterize my life and my family as second class, dangerous, unworthy of marriage protection and undeserving of a special legislative session. I know you've heard them, too. I'd ask you now to set their concerns aside. For they have nothing to do with my marriage or those of others similarly situated around Hawai'i. I've been married since 1997, and as you know, the only way that my relationship will be fully protected and afforded all the rights and responsibilities of marriage is for it to be recognized as such by you and your colleagues. As you know, nothing in this bill will have any impact on heterosexual relationships, on churches or on those who wave signs on street corners, seeking to be given the right to decide whose relationships will and won't be recognized. It will, however, have a life-changing impact on those of us who have waited a lifetime for a place at the table. As a father of two amazing sons, as the husband of an educator and as a university vice president, I ask you to join with your Senate colleagues in extending marriage to gay and lesbian couples. The time for equality is here, and I ask that you accept the responsibility that history has given you to take this historic step forward for Hawai'i. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Todd Simmons

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Debra Pompadur
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Evergreen@HawaiianTel.biz

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ann Freed
Mililani, HI 96789
annsreed@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Adalizie Santiago
Wahiawa, HI 96786
lizielizie@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lisa Hamilton
Makawao, HI 96768
zozikes@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Those who say that voting against this bill is a vote for families are wrong. Families consisting of adults, children, pets will all still be here in Hawaii regardless of how the vote goes. No legislation can kill the love that people feel for one another; no legislation can make it shameful or wrong to love whomever it is we love. Ever. Voting for SB 1 simply gives legal rights to all adults in committed relationships... the right to marry and receive everything the law grants those who currently have the right to marry. It's that simple. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ashley Lorenzana
Honolulu, HI 96816
AshleyLorenzana@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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From: Marie Martel
Honolulu, HI 96813
marie.martel@xerox.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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From: Nancy Kern
Honolulu, HI 96822
nkern5@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Krystal-Carrie Gaitos
Kapaa, HI 96746
kcgaitos@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Aloha! I am writing in strong support of SB 1 and hope that it gets approved that allows everyone, without discrimination of sexual orientation, the right to marry. As the saying goes, Love is Love, no one can control how they feel whenever they are in love and therefore, they should be allowed to take things to the next level. If being a person who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or a transgender is prevented from marrying whom they please because the law forbids it and there are people against it, then no one should be allowed to marry because there are many heterosexual relationships and marriages that many people are against because they feel they aren't right for the other or have other reasons such as being abusive, addict, etc.. We are all humans that live in a country that is known for freedom therefore we should be able to marry who we want. From my personal experience, I am a proud lesbian soldier of the United States of America and am currently engaged to the love of my life of 6 years. We are both from Hawai'i and are waiting for this bill to pass to finally get married in the state where we are from. Why should we travel across the Pacific Ocean just to get married and not have all of our Ohana present when there are heterosexual couples marrying left and right on our Aina and we can't even do that? They are humans as am I, we breathe the same air and we have the same basic features; so why can they but we can't? I am serving for our country, even if I am not deployed, I pay my taxes, I have volunteered many hours of my times through numerous community services that range from Habitat for humanity, American Red Cross blood drives, community sports, food drives, helping the less fortunate, etc.. I know there aren't half of those heterosexual people who did half as much as I did but yet they are allowed to do the one thing that I truly want and we all live for that I can't. Now that is unfair and disrespectful that goes against what Hawai'i is known for, "The Aloha State." 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. Plus, Hawai'i is a known tourist attraction, yet a dream wedding area, so we should allow anyone the ability to marry in Hawaii; it would even boost our tourism economy. Before being gay started being a problem, Hawai'i was always known as the Aloha state that's why we have the symbol of the Rainbow on our license plate that everyone see daily. With that, the color of the rainbow is the prime icon of the LGBT community so Hawai'i was the main advertisement that portrayed happiness and

freedom. 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. 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. There are people who oppose of Gay marriage because they have their own personal issues which are basically because they are uncomfortable with it because it hasn't been a norm back in the day. However, in this generation now, there are more and more homosexuals coming out and being introduced to the world because it is part of the society today. In addition, there are a few who will say that it is a sin to be gay and to marry someone of the same sex. However, in respect to religion and stating that gay marriage is a sin, divorce is a sin as well and we allow that. So what is the difference beside not being comfortable around gay people? There are straight people who are uncomfortable with other straight people, so why do we still allow straight marriage if we can't allow gay marriage? It is not like gay people are having special treatment such as monetary funds or being first in line at the stores or anything; so why is it a problem with who we marry? As stated throughout this testimony, we are all humans, we are all family that makes up Hawai'i therefore, we should be treated with equality and allowed the right to marry. Thank you for taking the time in reading my testimony and I strongly support SB1 for everyone in Hawai'i to be equally happy in everything they do Krystal Gaitos

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert James
Lihue, HI 96766
randyrich@sbcglobal.net

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Natasha Dator
Honolulu, HI 96822
Ndator@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Nina Ki
Honolulu, HI 96821
k10ninaki@gmail.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Dawn Powell
Kihei, HI 96753
mauibound2@yahoo.com

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From: Cortney Silva
Kaneohe, HI 96744
cortneyks@gmail.com

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From: Seneca Klassen
Honolulu, HI 96822
seneca@lonohana.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Joan Levy
Kapaa, HI 96746
joan@joanlevy.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am a licensed psychotherapist practicing in the state of Hawaii on Kauai. I am also a couples therapist. In my opinion marriage is a social agreement that helps families stay together. It has nothing to do with gender and everything to do with love and commitment. In my personal professional experience, I have found that often times gay couples are more committed than heterosexual couples. I haven't seen evidence of any kind that demonstrates any reason for gay couples not to be allowed to be married and sanctioned by the state. 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.

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From: Chad Durgan
Kihei, HI 96753
chaddurgan@mac.com

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From: Raymond Rivera
Honolulu, HI 96814
54rriverajr@clearwire.net

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From: Audrey Wong
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Audwong@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Riane Cardenas
Honolulu, HI 96817
rashley.cardenas@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Bradford Lum
Honolulu, HI 96822
hawaiianbl@yahoo.com

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From: Jonathan Botticelli
Kea'au, HI 96749
jrbotti@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The option to marry is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay couples deserve marriage for reasons identical to 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 no longer be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. This practice ended in 1967 when the last anti-miscegenation laws were overturned. None of us deserves to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love, for any reason. My partner and I have been together, living as a married couple, for over 17 years. We share a life together and have for nearly two decades. In this time, I can guarantee that our partnership has not hurt one single person on this earth. To say that our relationship has the ability to bring harm to "traditional marriage" is ludicrous. Gays tend to stay together far longer than many straight marriages, over 50% of which now end in divorce. For those that believe same-sex marriage will hurt straight marriages, look to your divorce rate and answer the question of how that hurts marriage. If they want to strengthen marriage, try outlawing divorce rather than trying to exclude me from having the same legal protections they are allowed! Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amanda Maehara
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Leahigr110@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Corey McCullough
Kamuela, HI 96743
mcchapin@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Darryl Moses
Hilo, HI 96720
dntmoses@msn.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: CINDY AU
HONOLULU, HI 96816
trakerx@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: marion geruschat
captain cook, HI 96704
mgerusch@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jennifer Camacho
Keaau, HI 96749
jcbear08@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jennifer Ryan
Honolulu, HI 96818
nj2vabeach@msn.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lisa Grove
Lanai City, HI 96763
lgrove@groveinsight.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Our family strongly abides by the Golden Rule and it is something that guides our Christian faith. I cannot say to a gay and lesbian couple that their love, their commitment, their willingness to stay through thick and thin is not as deep and enduring as mine and my husband's. Nor can I support leaders who say to these couples that it should be illegal to marry the person you love. A civil union is not a compromise and it is not marriage. Please support the freedom to marry. It is time for equal treatment. Love is love and it belongs to everybody. Mahalo for reading this. Please do the right thing. Aloha, Lisa Grove

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Douglas Mikkelson
Hilo, HI 96720
dougmik@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michelle Jones
pukalani, HI 96768
followurbliss.jones@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My words: Please pass this bill and move it towards passing in Hawaii so me and countless other citizens of this state can marry the ones we love and are committed to. This is a basic civil right and it won't be equal until all of us have this same right. thank you in advance for your yes vote. 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.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Carrie Johnson
Princeville, HI 96722
design@andarta.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Please allow me to marry my true love. We are in every way the American family... hard working, loving, stable, giving to the community... we have been together much longer than most heterosexual couples... We love our civil union, but are still penalized on taxes and other fronts for the lack of a simple word... Please, in all charity and fairness, help us. 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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lynne Youmans
Honolulu, HI 96822
lynneyoumans@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. The Hawaii Supreme Court recognized that basic freedom years ago only to have its decision recognizing every citizen's equal right to marriage overruled. It is time for our state to reaffirm the principal that all of our citizens deserve to be treated fairly and equally. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Vetea Ribet
Paia, HI 96779
Vetea_ribet@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Teriimana Moo
Honolulu, HI 96816
manamoo@mac.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My family in Laie are against SB 1 for fear it will violate their religious right to worship. Unfortunately, they are so consumed by religion, they cannot see their discrimination in their personal businesses. Some are event planners, wedding photographers, caterers who all refuse to service gay events or celebrations, especially gay marriages. This discrimination needs to stop beginning with SB 1. These same people are filing for tax deductions and using other government benefits as they operate their personal business in Hawaii. SB 1 will support their right to religious worship and help enforce the violation of this discrimination. I ask you to please vote in favor of SB 1. Do not let this opportunity to right wrongs pass you this session. Thank you.
Mana Mo'o

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lisa DeHart
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Lisaanndehart@aol.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Patricia Boland
PAAUILO, HI 96776
bpboland@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Doug Gray
Kihei, HI 96753
DougGr8@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Valerie Smalley
Honolulu, HI 96826
cherub42004@msn.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Joanna Amberger
Wahiawa, HI 96786
joanna_amberger@hotmail.com

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From: Craig Tennant
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764
Blueview@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Henri Casanova
Honolulu, HI 96816
henric@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. In my case, I had to travel to Washington state to marry my life partner, away from our home, away from our friends, away from all that is dear to us in this special place that is Hawaii. It is high time Hawaii joins the rest of the states that allow marriage among two people who love each other, regardless of their sexual orientations. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: David Villagomez
Honolulu, HI 96814
david_j8@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Laurel King
Kaneohe, HI 96744
laurelk@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My partner and I have been living together for 33 years, 20 years in the Aloha State. We adopted and are raising our 2 beautiful young sons here. We have been blessed with wonderful family and friends, but are still treated as second-class citizens when it comes to being able to marry in the State of Hawaii. Please end this discrimination in this special session. 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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rachael Lund
kihei, HI 96753
tesbo71@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Adrian Matanza
Kailua, HI 89101
adrian.matanza@hrc.org

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Emily Kandagawa
Hauula, HI 96717
ekandagawa@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. As marriage is a civil institution granted to religious and non-religious alike, it is clearly NOT a matter of religion to be voted on; it is a matter of civil rights to be protect and guaranteed without discrimination. 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. Hawaiians have established thousands of years of precedent on accepting LGBT people as valuable and contributing members of society in these islands. The government in Hawaii today 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. We need to practice the aloha we preach. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Carol Ann Newbolt
Honolulu, HI 96815
Cnewbolt@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Alika Chee
Waipahu, HI 96797
alika.chee@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Anna Delacruz
Aiea, HI 96701
iamaadcruz@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am 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. People get married for different reasons, some of them for the wrong ones. Either they were forced or they got pregnant, but why do we allow them to marry even if there's no love in it? One main reason: they're man and woman. We allow them to marry even if they defeat the the main reason why two people should marry: LDVE. We allow them inside the church and face GOD and tell LIES. So why don't we just give everyone the freedom to marry someone they truly love, make their vows that truly is from their hearts and create a family. Hawaii defines family as ".. bound together and members must cooperate and remember one another." Which we can find on most same-sex couples. So i do think hawaii should legalize same-sex marriage so our people doesn't have to leave their home (hawaii) and get married somewhere where it is legal. I am pretty sure we all want to get married somewhere were we really want it to because we want it to be memorable and if same-sex couples want to get married in this beautiful and very romantic island then there should be no reason they can't, nor someone to dictate them not to.

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.

Whitney Acoba
Kahului, Hawaii 96732

October 29, 2013

House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear House of Representatives:

Hearing Date: October 31, 2013;

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 and Urge to VETO the SB 1

My written testimony represents the deep love and affection for all people. I want to declare that I am opposed to S.B. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, and strongly urge to VETO this S.B. 1 Bill. It is contrary to the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and the Hawaii State Constitution to overthrow the established constitutions, which was written under the inspiration of God wills, who is our supreme law giver. I uphold the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, and Hawaii State Constitution. In addition, I uphold, Defense of Marriage Act that defines marriage is between one Man and one Woman, which aligns to God's laws in defining marriage, which stated in Genesis 1: 27: God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. I know that Heavenly Father created Adam and Eve, whose is our first married couple and parents on earth. Therefore, Heavenly Father has defined marriage, between one man and one woman, and has set the pattern for all generations to follow.

We must remember our deep rooted ancestry's lineage, who stood for truth and righteous in the sight of the God. Our State Motto: "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina i ka Pono". "The Life of the Land is perpetuated in Righteousness." Thus, the State of Hawaii and the United States are set-apart in the sight of God from the rest of world, to be selected and consecrated for holy purposes to bring to pass much righteous for our children, and our children's children, and future posterity. "And I will make of thee a **great nation**, and I will **bless** thee, and make thy **name** great; and thou shalt be a blessing" (Holy Bible. Genesis 12: 2).

We must remember our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is our lawgiver, who is greater than ourselves, who gave us life, created the heavens and earth in which we live in.

Therefore, we must remember that we need to reflect, ponder and ensure that our views, beliefs and values adheres to the eternal laws of God. God's laws supersedes man's laws.

Trust in the LORD with all thine **heart**; and lean not unto thine **own understanding** In all thy ways **acknowledge** him, and he shall **direct** thy **paths**" (Proverb 3:5-6).

"When the leaders adheres to God's Laws the people will prosper: All blessings are based on eternal laws (D&C 130:20–21). Because God wants his children to find joy in life (2 Ne. 2:25), he grants blessings to them as a result of their obedience to his commandments (D&C 82:10), in answer to a prayer or priesthood ordinance (D&C 19:38; 107:65–67), or through his grace (2 Ne. 25:23). However, when the leaders disregards God's laws the people suffers, therefore, people iniquities are answered upon the heads of their leaders Mosiah 29:31" (www.Ids.org).

"Mosiah 4: 9: Believe in **God**; believe that he is, and that he **created** all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all **wisdom**, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not **comprehend** all the things which the Lord can comprehend" (Book of Mormon, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). Please Pray for Guidance. Moroni 10: 4....."ye shall ask with a **sincere heart**, with **real intent**, having **faith** in Christ, he will **manifest** the **truth** of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost" (Book of Mormon, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

I strongly opposed and urge to VETO is SB 1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013, and adhere God inspire words in the Proclamation of the World: Sincerely: *Donna Ann Imilani Agor*

THE FAMILY

A PROCLAMATION TO THE WORLD

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY AND COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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. : This proclamation was read by President Gordon B. Hinckley as part of his message at the General Relief Society Meeting held September 23, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:13 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: hanaeaki@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
Adrienne Akiona	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. The proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 is inadequate in protecting my rights and the rights of the people. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Adrienne T. Akiona 1429 Mona Loop Hilo, HI 96720

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:50 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sunphlower3@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
Lorelei Albert	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 the same sex marriage 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. This bill dramatically effects society, communities, schools, and churches and should NOT be decided in a special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session so the people of Hawai'i can decide. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Lorelei Albert Ewa Beach, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:28 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: aanakamoto@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
Alisa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am not sure if you all are going to read every one of our testimonies but if mine is one of them that is read I just ask that you let us the people make the choice. But what really is in my heart is after watching Olelo last night I felt for you all. To sit there for hours and hours to hear the same thing said over and over. I just pray for you all ... Father God please give the committee the wisdom to do what is right. That our future is placed in their hands. That they think of how their choice will affect the people of hawaii and our future families. These people were voted into their positions by us the people and we have our trust in them that they will make the right decisions. I ask that you give them the strength to endure this situation as I am sure there is great burdens on their shoulders. I ask that you fill their hearts with peace and love. I also ask that we the people fill our hearts with peace and love to the committee. You are a great God! Please protect them from what is not of You! So please let us make our own choice of our future!

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Aloha,

My name is Amber Alvarez and I was born and raised on Hawaii Island in Honokaa. I am a Catholic and I am in strong support of SB 1. I am currently a college student at Chaminade University and have been living here on Oahu for 3 years. As a member of the LGBT community I urge you to pass this bill. Growing up I learned that there was a separation between church and state, but now I find that area is an intertwined mess. Marriage is a religious and sacred sacrament, that's a fact. But once the government tied federal and state benefits to the religious marriage it no longer became just a church thing.

I have recently become engaged to my partner of 2 years. She is a retired, disabled, combat veteran of the Army. Since DOMA was overturned we were hoping that we would be able to receive the benefits married couples get. Unfortunately that was not the case. Because only part of DOMA was overturned and not all of it, there are still many benefits that my partner and I cannot receive, even if we went out of state to get married legally elsewhere and returned. The VA benefits, which my partner receives, were not in the part of DOMA that was overturned. We basically get cheated out of hundreds of benefits because we cannot get legally married in our home state.

Being a gay Catholic is very difficult. It's a dance that I have mastered. Know when to say too little, know what words to use, know when to say nothing. I have had to oppress myself for my own safety. For so long I have struggled with the pain in my heart. I did not choose to be gay. I did not choose to be oppressed. I did not choose to be ostracized. Who would want that? I did choose to be catholic, to value human life, to live Christ-like and be compassionate, loving, caring and merciful to those who condemn me. I have been bullied, yelled at, harassed and emotionally beaten by the choice I made for being Catholic. But through church teaching I am taught to forgive.

I urge you to stop this pain, this hurt, this oppression that so many in the LGBT community face in our Aloha State.

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 am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session.

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,
Angela Woods
Pahoa, HI

October 29, 2013

House Hearing
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St
Honolulu, Hi 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 the special House Hearing this Thursday, October 31, 2013

Although I am opposed to this bill, I even more strongly think that this should be put to the people for a vote, not decided by legislators. This is too important of a bill, as it will change society as we know it, forever. I do not believe that marriage is a civil right, nor has any court said that it is, including the supreme court. Let the people decide how to structure a constitutional amendment so that there will be lots of input to make sure that our religious freedoms are not trampled on. I think that this Hearing is making a mockery of our democracy by rushing this bill through without considering the will of the people. If people knew how this will affect our education system, our churches, and many other organizations, they would not want to pass this bill. According to the news, on Monday, 60% were against and only 40% were in favor and it still got passed? What are our elected officials doing? If this bill is passed on Thursday, I will do everything in my power to see to it that those who passed it will never be elected in this state again!

Thank you,

Dorothy Antolin
Registered Voter



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:18 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kaymie.arendale@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
Kaymie Arendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Equal Rights of minorities are NOT appropriate to be put to a vote by the majority. I grew up in Hawaii in a Pentecostal home--the farthest religious right of all. But my home was not filled with messages of what others should NOT do. My home centered around love. How fortunate for me that when I came out to my parents, they accepted me. They didn't merely tolerate me, they embraced me. I am a professional in the healthcare field, and I contribute to Hawaii. I care everyday for individuals who need understanding, compassion, and kindness. I simply want Equal Rights. Thank you, again, for allowing this opportunity to submit testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:06 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: deborah.arendale@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
Deborah Arendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1. I appreciate Hawaii's efforts to bring equality to all citizens of this state. While opponents largely base opposition on what the Bible "says," most people do not realize that the FIRST time the word "homosexual" was translated as such was in 1947. Prior to that time, the word homosexual was NOT in the Bible. It wasn't until the early 1970's that several translations also adopted the use of the word. It wasn't until after people unsuccessfully attempted to use the Bible to maintain slavery, keep women submissive and obedient, and stop interracial couples from marrying that the focus turned to using the Bible to discriminate against people who loved those of their same gender. Equal Rights are NOT a religious issue, and religion should not be used to thwart equality. Homosexuals in Hawaii are teachers, lawyers, doctors, executives, entrepreneurs, nurses, service industry workers, counselors, law enforcement officers, judges, and legislators. Moral, decent people who contribute to society. Moral people who are committed to ensuring that all of Hawaii's residents from keiki to seniors are well-nurtured and protected. Again, thank you for making Hawaii the Aloha State by passing this bill!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:53 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: armacost5@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Curtis Armacost	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. Edna MP. Armacost Ewa Beach, Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:41 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: armacost5@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Curtis Armacost	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. Curtis R. Armacost Ewa Beach, Hawaii

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October 29, 2013

To our elected leaders,

I am writing regarding SB1, Equality for all. I am writing to support Hawaii making it possible for those who are in any relationship of love, to be able to marry. It wasn't long ago that people of different races, cultures or religions could marry. Those ideas were deemed wrong, and the correction has been made. Gays and lesbian couples should be afforded the same civil rights as those who are heterosexual. Allowing marriage does not take anything away from those who receive the rights and benefits of marriage. It does no harm to anyone.

I, myself, am a happily married woman, married to a man. I have a child that was adopted out of foster care, who is of a different race than me or my husband. Again, not too long ago, that would not have been allowed by law. My family is unique and filled with a deep love for one another. Love is just love. My husband is twenty years younger than I, and I have had to deal with ignorance of people, who assume, he is my son. My son is 9 years old, and I have been asked if he is my grandson. I am 47. Too many people have ideas in their heads about what is "normal." But our family is whole, filled with love and we want to support those who want to commit to a loving relationship.

I would like to point out that we attend church (Calvary by the Sea Lutheran church in Aina Haina) regularly. Our church supports and loves all who enter, without judgement. Our weekly programs state, "ALL ARE WELCOME." Jesus said that we should love our neighbors, as we love ourselves. Those who oppose the marriage of people who are different, are not Christian. They clearly have hate for themselves and feel threatened by anything outside of their definition of "normal, moral or right." It is up to God to decide and judge our actions in this life.

Be that as it may, this is really not a Christian and religious argument. Our constitution clearly says there should be separation of church and state. This is exactly the type of situation the constitution meant to deal with. It also states, "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL." But denying some the rights and benefits of marriage, clearly means that we are not created equal. Women, minorities and children have always had to fight for equality. They still do in many aspects of our society. Our world, and specifically, Hawaii, will not be a better place, unless we treat EVERYONE, equally...men, women, children, rich, poor, those of color, those without and anyone I may have missed.

Do the right thing, and show courage in making this situation pono! It is not a Christian issue, a moral issue, a money issue...it is a human issue. Be human!

Thank you for taking the time to read and reflect on this important issue of equality. Hawaii has always been a place of tolerance. Let's not change that now!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Mahalo Ke Akua,

Respectfully Submitted!

Trina Arrant
125 North Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 375-5940
bowman1966@hotmail.com



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:38 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: awaicheryl@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
cheryl awai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I humbly request that you let the people vote and protect our children and our religious freedom.

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Thank you for your continued passion and care for Hawaii overall. As a constituent, and a voter, I respectfully ask you to represent the majority of the people, even if it differs with your personal beliefs. If conscience prevents you from supporting the majority, then consider abstaining from the vote or stepping down from office.

I believe citizens seeking equal rights and benefits be it Federal or otherwise, can achieve it without redefining marriage and still enjoy whatever kind of relationship they desire.

Current marriage law prohibits near relatives from marriage and also prohibits more than one marriage partner at a time. If equality for all is the goal, then the law should reflect true equality for all and be unrestricted to any class so that anyone including near relatives and multiple spouses can marry if they so choose.

Please vote No for Same Sex Marriage.

Sincerely, Malama pono,

Kahu Keoki Awai



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:56 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sbarcarse@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
Stanford Barcarse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill as it is contrary to my fundamental religious beliefs and feel it will harm our children, families and society. This bill does not protect religious institutions and individuals from being forced to support same sex marriage.

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 4:10 PM
To: House Special Session
Subject: FW: Bill #SB1 (Written Only)

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

From: Bruce Baumgartner [<mailto:bruce@cclihue.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:06 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Bill #SB1

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 am unable to attend personally, but I want my voice to be heard and counted with the majority of citizens of Hawaii that are NOT in favor of this bill passing.

I am a pastor of a growing church in Lihue on the island of Kauai. I do not believe this is a civil rights issue at all. Same Sex partners already have a Civil Union rights and responsibilities. This is an issue of the definition of marriage, but the implications and results of this decision go way beyond giving Same Sex partners the title of married.

If this bill becomes law, it will fundamentally change the education of our kids in what most would consider perversely detrimental ways, along with restricting the freedoms of our churches, and lowering the morality of our society, which has become to ruin of all past civilizations.

I know there is a supposed exemption clause for non-profit religious organizations, but with the equal access laws already in place, church

will be forced to limit many of their services and community outreaches to "members only" in order to avoid being labeled as a public access organization, which could force us to open our facilities to same sex marriages, as well as other offensive activities and functions that go against our values and morals, and are actually contrary to our purpose as a church.

PLEASE vote NO on this bill. Allow the people to make these type of moral decisions. Remember, you were elected to represent the people not to ignore and oppose them. The majority of Hawaii's residents still support traditional marriage. At some time in the future, if the majority wants Same Sex Marriage, then you can support that decision, and yet we will still count on you to consider the implications of that decision and would ask you to make sure the bill is fair to all the citizens of Hawaii.

This bill is NOT good for Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Blessings,
Bruce A Baumgartner
3385 Unahe St. Lihue HI 96766
bruce@cclihue.com

Calvary Chapel Lihue
P.O. Box 3404 Lihue, HI 96766
cclihue@gmail.com

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.

My name is Katherine Benson and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Sincerely,
Katherine Isabelle Benson

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Katherine Benson and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Katherine Benson

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

I would first like to thank you for serving the people of Hawai'i. We are truly in need of great and moral people who are not afraid to stand for the rights of the majority and for morality.

I would like to address how this "EQUALITY" issue has been played as a smoke screen to pass a law that would do more damage than good. I have a lot of ground to cover in a short time so please excuse my formatting. I will use an outline form to make all of my points easier to address and see.

I AM OPPOSED TO 'THE SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW'.

This law is not about equality, because it impedes on my rights as a heterosexual. Equality is for everyone, it does not single out any particular group, it is the right of different groups of people to receive the same treatment, and it is fairness. The proposed law does not provide this to all groups of people.

1. **Religious Beliefs being Denied** - This proposed law does not allow my right of "freedom of religion". It has been proven in other states that have had the "same sex marriage law for some time now that religious freedoms are no longer allowed. Anyone who voices their belief to be opposed to homosexuality has been arrested for "hate crimes". These are law abiding citizens, parents, grandparents, people who are what we consider our "professionals" who would otherwise never see the inside of a court room except for possibly family court matters. Homosexuality has been going on for generations; however, marriage is a moral sanctity that has always been between a man and a woman starting back with Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.
2. **Parental Rights Being Removed** – This proposed law does not allow me or anyone opposed to homosexuality our parental rights to raise our children based on our beliefs and our traditions. It has been proven in other states that have the "same sex marriage law" passed and in place, that parents who want to "OPT" their children out of the sex education classes are being arrested for "hate crimes". Again, law abiding citizens being persecuted for their beliefs. I don't want a government that is going to tell me what I can or cannot teach my children. My children belong to me and I should be able to teach my beliefs and traditions to my children without the intervention of the government or some Coalition group with their own agenda. I don't go around demanding that their adopted children be taught about my beliefs and customs. We are supposed to be living in a country that practices a democracy not a hateocracy.
3. **Lack of Housing Accommodations** – Currently in the state of Hawai'i we already have a strained market on housing. The low income housing coupons are no longer available, the lists are shut and the affordable housing units are filled to the brims with closed waiting lists as well. The cost of our housing in Hawai'i is the highest in the nation and we currently don't have enough of it to go around as it is and if it is available the cost is out of reach. Allowing this bill to pass would encroach even more on our already tapped out housing availability because it will bring an influx of gay couples or lesbians to Hawai'i driving up the costs of housing rentals and home sales even more and crippling families already having difficulty in surviving.
4. **TRAFFIC ISSUES** – Traffic in Hawai'i is the worst in our nation, it has been reported nationally. Traffic in Hawai'i begins between 5 to 530 am through to approximately 930am and starts again around 330pm through to 6:30pm Monday through Friday. This traffic situation is crippling our state causing parents and working people to be stuck on our highways for at least 2-3 hours of their day (wasted time). For this reason our state government thought that installing a rail system for only a portion of our state would ease this traffic situation. Unfortunately, all of Hawai'i will be paying for this system for years to come. If they made highways one on top of the other, it would have been cheaper and they would be well on their way by now. This would have been more feasible because if there was an accident, one highway could be closed and the other would be able to

- house the rest of the traffic. But these issues are not heard by those with agendas. If this law is passed, our traffic situation will not get better with more people entering our state, there will be more cars, more traffic, people used to driving at high rates of speed and cutting in out of traffic showing no Aloha. The congestion is already unbearable, road rage will increase.
5. **Health care costs will rise** – We are currently going through a health care over haul, another government bright idea. Unfortunately, the health risks involved with homosexuality have been documented by the American College of Pediatricians showing a number of health care issues with high costs that we are going to incur. The costs for Aids prevention and Herpes prevention will be a factor. Australian studies have shown that 93% of lesbians reported having sex with men and women and lesbians were 4.5 times more likely than heterosexual women to have had more than 50 lifetime male sex partners carrying the risks of STD's. There are also physical injuries caused in same sex relationships that are unknown to heterosexual couples. There are also high rates of psychiatric illnesses including depression, drug abuse, suicide attempts among gays and lesbians. Studies show that monogamous relationships are rare in GLB relationships. Treatment to gender confused students is condemned by the same sex marriage coalition. The American College of Pediatricians disagrees with the coalition based on scientific determinations stating that "the etiology of homosexual attraction is determined by a combination of familial, environmental & social influences. While Homosexuality attraction may not be a conscious choice, it is changeable for many individuals. Declaring and validating a student's same-sex attraction during adolescent years is premature and may be harmful. The JUST THE FACTS brochure that the coalition provides is based upon statements of endorsement of adolescent homosexuality by the coalition organization, and not upon citations of evidence-based research. Regardless of an individual's sexual orientation, sexual activity outside of a monogamous, heterosexual, married relationship is unhealthy and ill- advised".
 6. **Education being compromised** – Our education in Hawai'i is already in a lot of trouble. Our measuring up to those abroad is nothing to praise. Our children in Hawai'i has been long neglected in the education department. If this law is passed our children will be even worse off with confusion and being caused unnecessary thoughts about their sexuality. Sex education should be taught by the student's parents at home based on their beliefs. This is not an area that should be compromised. As stated in the Health care section of this writing, the American College of Pediatricians state that declaring and validating a student's same-sex attraction during their adolescent years is **premature** and **harmful**. It further states, that this can cause depression and suicide something our children already face without this education being forced upon them. Our religious beliefs will be denied, if this law is passed. This is coming from a greatly accredited organization not just an opinion from a coalition group. In other states, this material of man and man and woman and woman sex is being discussed even in elementary schools. Please do not let this happen here in Hawai'i. There will be a lot of parents being arrested and having criminal records to follow them through their life time.
 7. **Homelessness** – Currently our homeless state is becoming unbearable. The state has not been able to get this issue under control. With more people from the mainland pouring into our state with or without the means to survive, this population will surely grow. It is rumored that other states have been giving their homeless one way plane tickets to Hawai'i to live. Just as the affordable housing issue of RCA's in the mainland where affluent towns sell their RCA's to poor towns so that they can keep their communities affordable housing free, we don't want to be their dumping grounds. With people pouring into our state from the mainland states to be married here in Hawai'i, don't think that we won't become the melting pot of one way gay couples or lesbians.
 8. **Freedom of Speech** – Our freedom of speech is being attacked. If this law is passed then our freedom of speech will be removed. In the other states where this law is in place, people expressing their right as a parent or expressing their belief regarding homosexuality are arrested for "hate crimes". If you are passing someone on the sidewalk and they are doing something that is identified with homosexual behavior and

you comment on this behavior, you will be arrested for a "hate crime". You may think that this is far reaching but unfortunately with this group of people, they are outlandish in their behaviors, they are over the top with their actions and they stop at nothing to offend or provoke someone so that they can prove that they are hated against. But there is no accountability to them for their actions or statements made to heterosexuals. Where is the equality?

All of these items that I have only touched on will result in a lot of immoral activities and behaviors state wide. The Pride Day Parade will change dramatically from rainbow floats to rude and crude acts of intimacy on their floats for all to see, including children. When you go to public parks for picnics with your children or grandchildren, you will be subjected to the public displays of affection of 2 men or 2 women. Our theatre shows will become inundated with perversional content. Stores with sex toys will be popping up a dime a dozen all over town along with bars and clubs. They will be popping up in your town and mine. From Small towns like Kailua, Hawai'i Kai, Kapolei, Kaneohe, you name it, the sky is the limit for these entities. Our representatives should realize **just what you are saying "yes" to**. Because once you vote "yes" you will not be able to stop what will be taking place here amongst all of these great people who supported you in the election process to voice their opinions not your own. What do you think will become of our beaches? We are currently embracing a large population of Asians visiting our islands; do you think that they will be approving of our acceptance of such openness in our society? You talk about a bad economy, you won't know what hit us when the Asian communities look for elsewhere to go because our beaches are full on with used condoms, sex toys and open gay activities everywhere. Our economy will suffer.

As I held up signs this past weekend in my neighborhood, I waved and smiled to everyone that drove by. Those for leaving the "vote in the hands of the people" either waved or blew their horns. However, those who are for same sex marriage, drove by yelling hateful things to me and the children that were holding signs, some flipped their middle fingers up at us, and some people drove extremely close to the sign holders trying to create an atmosphere of intimidation. These are hateful actions yet they are excused because they feel that hate is being shown to them through our smiles and our hand waves. Does something sound wrong with this picture? Yes, it does! Please don't be fooled, the bible says don't be foolish but in everything be approved (paraphrasing)/

Please take a stand to oppose "Same Sex Marriages" in Hawai'i for the people of Hawai'i, we will stand strong with you. You hear the people's voices; they do not want this for our state. Please show the people of Hawai'i, not the mainland people, that the people of Hawai'i can put their trust and continue to put their trust in those they placed in power and that their trust is not displaced. Please do your research as I have about the hate crimes and hate charges that have and continue to take place against mothers and fathers trying to protect their children from the immoral education in both public and private schools, because once the law is passed, it is the law for all. Your family values and traditions are at risk. Our crime rates will soar due to the drug sales that come along with this group and the assaults of gays on gays. We have no idea what kind of "monster" we are truly contending with because it is covered in a neat box called "Equality". Please do not be misled by this label.

Cordially,

Doreen Braz
Hawai'i Resident and voter



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:22 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kshirai@live.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
Kacie Cabarloc	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00am 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 this testimony to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I believe that the people of Hawaii should be able to vote on this very controversial matter and it is not something that should be taken lightly. One week is not enough time to come to a decision on such a sensitive subject that affects the entire state. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Kacie Cabarloc Hilo, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:56 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: derekc@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
Derek F Cabarloc	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Date: Oct. 29, 2013 Karl Rhoads Chair Judiciary Committee Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads, Luke and members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees; As a concerned citizen of the state of Hawaii, I am submitting my testimony against SB1, which would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too weak and too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy. The additional cases would increase the burden in our family court system, which is already overtaxed and often unable to meet the needs of our families. As it is now families often have to wait several months for their cases to be addressed. Allowing out of state non-taxpayers can only cause more burden to our family court system. On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage.....as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent. These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time. The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii. I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people Sincerely, Derek F. Cabarloc 1560 Kikaha St. Hilo, HI 96720

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convening of the public hearing.

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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.

Derek F Cabarloc

Hilo, HI 96720

October 29, 2013

The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00am

I will not be present to deliver my testimony

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

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

My name is Mernette Cardejon, I am a registered voter and lifetime resident of Hawaii. I am opposed to S. B. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I am opposed to this bill for two reasons.

First, the special legislative session will not allow adequate time for discussion and not provide an opportunity for an amendment. Re-defining marriage will not just affect the federal tax status but it will affect the basic unit of society, the family. This re-organization of the family will have long lasting effects that deserve thorough research and thoughtful discussion. The Super Ferry did not receive the proper research and discussion and caused a huge failure and expense to the state. The people of Hawaii deserve to have the time for research and consideration on an issue that would affect them.

Second, and simply put there is no need for this law. Civil Unions became law in the state of Hawaii on January 1, 2012. Civil Unions provide Family Rights, Medical and Death related rights, as well as state tax rights. This venue already provides rights for any couple regardless of sexual orientation if they choose to enter into a Civil Union. Civil Unions provide legal rights without infringing on any first amendment rights of others to the free exercise of religion. There is simply no need to re-create the "wheel".

In closing, I oppose S.B.1 because the special session does not provide adequate time to address the issue and Civil Unions already provide couples legal rights.

Thank you,
Mernette Cardejon



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:55 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: unkobishop@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
Patrick J. Cardines	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Petition Statement 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 in the Same-sex marriage bill 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. Sincerely, Patrick Cardines

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:49 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: tutu.wanda@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
Wanda Cardines	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 in the Same-sex marriage bill 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. Sincerely, Wanda K.A. Cardines

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:59 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: shinobu@sfhilo.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
shinobu Carmichael	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am highly against same-sex marriage and I do not want this bill to pass. I don't want my children re-educated by school, being encouraged to learn about homosexuality at all. Churches, schools, businesses are needed to be protected and should not be affected by it. It is wrong and it is wicked. I am strongly against it!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:07 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: hayleycerit@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
Hayley Cerit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: 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 law of the land, the Constitution. I support equality for all thought as protected by the 1st amendment in the Bill of Rights. I am opposed to any law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech." This law is fundamentally a power grab of the state over religion This issue is not about gay vs. straight. It is all about the power of the state to mandate over civil liberties and freedom. The definition of marriage is beyond the power of the government constrained by a Constitution to decide. It is more correct to eliminate all mention of marriage in law than to decide how it is defined. Two individuals can define their relationship any way they choose. It is, however, a violation of Constitutional law to confer legal benefits to one definition or another. That process creates political "groups" and goes against the spirit of lawful individualism under the Constitution. For most of the history of the United States, marriage conferred no government endorsement, and thus was freely defined by individuals. Government benefits due to a marital choice, are not guaranteed, and if anything, is discriminatory against all those who choose to be single. Let's uphold the law of the land so we can move on to creating true peace and prosperity in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Hayley Cerit Honolulu, HI 96815

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Hearing on SB1 Relating To Equal Rights
Committee on Judiciary/Committee on Finance
10/31/13 10:00 am

Chair Rhodes, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Har, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson,
members of the Committee on Judiciary and members of the Committee on Finance,

Subject Relating to Equal Rights.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on this important topic. Although I am not able to be present in person, I feel strongly about this issue. I am a fierce advocate of equal rights. However, I oppose SB1 Relating To Equal Rights. The proponents have made it appear as if this were a matter of civil rights discrimination. Unfortunately, if passed this bill stands to threaten civil rights (particularly the freedom of religion and the freedom of speech). Therefore, the question becomes whether it is a right for same-gender couples to receive the protections of marriage at the expense of other protected classes that will be adversely effected by this bill. Marriage equality supporters claim that the intention of this bill is to to expand the misuse of a loophole in the existing tax laws at the expense of the original intent of these laws.

* JUSTIFIED DISCRIMINATION: Discriminating against minorities is acceptable as long as it is not related to their membership in a protected class. For example, discriminating against a welfare applicant because that person is in the top 1% of wage earners is perfectly legal even though that person is technically a minority. I will explain herein that homosexuals are not excluded from marriage because of their sexual orientation.

* PROTECT TITLE: Title protection has been a very important for social workers. When people hear that title, they assume the bearer has attended school to become qualified to use it, but without title protection, a high school dropout with no experience could call him/herself a "social worker". What does the title of "marriage" protect? Marriage throughout history has been used to ensuring the propensity of the family. One way it has done this was through the production of healthy heirs. Marriage between opposite gender partners allows childbirth, or the production of heirs. There have been no examples where a child has been produced through sexual contact in a same sex couple.

* PROTECT CHILDREN: Illegitimate children have been seen as a burden on society. Accidental conception is possible in opposite gender couples (even when one partner is considered sterile), but not in same sex couples. This is why it is so important to encourage opposite gender couples to enter the institution of marriage through incentives even when childbirth is not planned. Same gender couples do not require the same incentives, because there is no possibility of accidental offspring. Back when it was hard to get a divorce, marriage prevented children from falling into this category. The government needs to encourage these relationships or foot the bill for caring for unhealthy offspring. Tax incentives encourage couples to commit to each other and their offspring through marriage.

* ADOPTION NOT SAME AS BIRTH: Some have argued that same-gender couples can adopt. As an adoptive parent, I can testify that adoption is not the same thing as having your own children. My children feel connected to their birth parents and are much more interested in the accomplishments and history of their genetic ancestors than their adoptive ancestors even though we have not introduced them. This means that the parental relationship where both parents are not genetically related to the children will always be a "second class" relationships (to use a term popular among marriage equity supporters) whether the couple is married or not. The government has many incentives to encourage adoption. I defer the decision about encouraging adoption in civil unions to your sound judgement. The important thing is that children with biological parents who love each other are more likely to be healthy, especially emotionally.

* According to Governor Abercrombie, the reason for this special session is so same-gender couples can receive 2013 tax benefits. These benefits were not intended for them. The marriage equity proponents need to lobby the federal government to recognize civil unions if they want these benefits extended to them rather than trying to get these benefits through a back door maneuver.

marriage.txt

* The State of Hawaii has already granted same gender couples all of the protections of marriage that are under the state's control through civil unions. This bill seeks to interpret federal law. That is the Supreme Court's job.

* Marriage equality advocates argue that it is not fair that 80 year old women are allowed to marry when they cannot produce children. Just because there is a loophole does not mean that we have to expand the loopholes to fit a greater portion of the population. An astute lawyer can find loopholes in most laws. Does this mean all laws should be thrown out, or at least made so general that they lose their meaning?

* In states where same-sex marriage has been passed homosexual supporters have introduced curriculum in schools glamorizing their divergent life-style. Parents are not allowed to opt their children out of this recruitment. The case brought against EHarmony clearly displayed the intentions of the homosexual supporters to me. There were many websites offering similar services, but homosexual advocates sued to force EHarmony to offer the services also. EHarmony bases their services on science. They could not assume that results that proved valid for traditional couples would also be valid for same-gender couples. And, as I stated before, their were other sites providing the services already.

In conclusion, I do not support titling the relationship between same gender couples as marriage to satisfy the greed of a few individuals who happen to belong to a (recently) protected class. Their hidden agendas have been demonstrated in states that have incorporated same-gender marriage. It is not an equality issue, it is a matter of title. Same gender couples do not fit the prerequisites for the title of marriage, namely, the ability to produce healthy children naturally (even accidentally). It is also a wedge that homosexual supporters in other states have used recruit members. All laws have loopholes, and not all of them can be closed, but that does not mean that we should allow more people to qualify for the loopholes (just as a social justice advocate who dropped out of high school may claim to be a "social worker"). Please oppose the destruction of the marriage institution and support marriage's role in history and society by keeping marriage between a man and a woman. I am sorry I was unable to be present at 10:00 am to attend this hearing, Please consider my opposition to this measure despite my absence.

Mahalo,

Jared Chantrill, private citizen and constituent
Honolulu

To whom it may concern:

As I was watching and listening to the people who were at the Senate Hearing giving their testimonies for all those hours, I really felt for the majority of the people who worked so hard to be there and to gather all those signatures and testimonies to hopefully convince the Senate to kill this same sex marriage bill. When I found out that they passed it and will now go to vote in the Senate, I'm thinking, why are they wasting the people's time, money and efforts. Sounds like they already made up their minds to pass this bill.

Is this going to happen in the House as well? It's just a waiting game for now but hopefully the House will do the right thing and not follow Senate's lead.

I will always call Hawaii my home and no matter what happens, I will submit to my authorities and leaders in the US Government, State and my county of Kauai. The people put you in office so that you will listen and protect our concerns. Please do the right thing and listen to the majority of your constituents! Either kill the bill or let the people vote!

Thank you for letting me share with you!

Sincerely,

Randy R. Chinen

Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii 96752

I understand that the Government (you) upholds the law of the land. Here in Hawaii the law of the land is that the life of the land would be perpetuated in righteousness. The challenge can be made that we are no longer Ancient Hawaii and this motto no longer applies but it depends who you ask. I wonder what our ancestors must be thinking as we decide the fate of our religious and equality rights. Are we the descendants of righteousness? I pray for you my brothers and sisters as you make your decisions. I stand in agreement with righteousness and conclude that division has no part in it. I love a man based on his/her created being because the origin of our being cannot be denied. We have focused on the morality of our being and that cannot be done in our own hands because we are created and not creators. Divine law has always been described as the best law that cannot be interpreted for good measure. I trust that Divine law would resonate in your hearts. Our true spirit and conscience always lets us know what is right and wrong, our convictions leads us to discern between good and bad. It's not about what we think is pono or not, it's about what we know it is. Our ancestors understood what it meant to be Good people and the royal bloodline has given us a legacy to look back on that has overwhelmingly supported the heart of a people. Our aina is saturated in righteousness; let us not uproot the things that are holding our people together. Trust in your heart, lean not on your own understanding, let the convictions of your heart lead you in the way that you should go. Malama pono beloveds. Decide in peace and harmony.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:33 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: blc888@icloud.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
Bee Leng Chua, PhD	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 the history of Hawaii 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. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. B.L. Chua Honolulu, Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:53 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: reviespejo@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
Revelyn Cimbaluk	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 Christian and I know marriage is only between one man and one woman. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenou and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Revelyn Cimbaluk Honolulu, HI 96825

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:42 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: stevecimbaluk@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
Steven Cimbaluk	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 Christian and I support marriage between one man and one woman. 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. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenou and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the oppportunity to testify. Steven Cimbaluk Honolulu, HI 96825

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Testimony for House Hearing on SB1 - 10/31/2013 @ 10:00am

Karl Rhoads, Chair of Judiciary

Sylvia Luke, Chair of Finance

House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

Re: Testimony in opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

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

In 1998 the people of the State of Hawaii voted for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. 71% of Hawaii's voters (285,384) voted against same-sex marriages. In 2009 the people of Hawaii voted against Civil Unions but during the 2011 Legislative session, the Legislature overruled the voters of Hawaii and passed Senate Bill 232 which was then signed by Governor Abercrombie on February 23, 2011. Here we are, two years later and this is still an issue.

Twice the voters have said NO to Same-Sex marriage and/or Civil Unions but the Governor and certain members of the Legislature, being strong-armed by a very vocal minority of people, have now called a Special Session to pass a Same-Sex Marriage bill in Hawaii.

I am an organist and occasionally I am asked to play for a wedding. I also have a photography business, and although I do not specialize in wedding photography, on occasion I am asked to shoot a wedding. Based on my religious convictions, I do not wish to play for a same sex marriage ceremony or to photograph a same sex wedding ceremony. Nowhere in the proposed bill is there any protection for musicians, photographers, florists, bakers, wedding planners, printers, etc. who decline to offer their services based on their religious convictions. If this bill is passed and I decline to play for a wedding or shoot a wedding on the grounds of my religious beliefs, I am at risk of being sued for Discrimination. Nowhere in this bill is there protection for my First Amendment rights.

If you want to redefine marriage, please let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment. Do not repeat what was done in 2011 and pass a law that is not wanted by 70% of the people of Hawaii. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided.

I ask you to please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years, and the way we thought we defined it in 1998.

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow them to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Goldie Cross

Kalaheo, Hawaii



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:20 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: lynn.vasquez@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
Alyn Vasquez-Dela Cerna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members, My name is Alyn (Lynn) Vasquez-Dela Cerna, I am a mother of soldiers, and a police officer. A grand mother and auntie to many. I am opposed to this Bill SB1. Mahalo and God bless you all. Alyn Vasquez-Dela Cerna Aiea, Hawaii

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Dear State Representatives,

As a registered voter in the state of Hawaii, I avidly take part in the democratic process. I have also helped many of you in your bids for office over the years.

I beseech all of you to let the issue of same-sex marriage be given to the voters of our great state of Hawaii on the next ballot. Let the people decide!

My wife and I have been supporters of many of you and your efforts for office over the years. You must not ignore the voices of your people. We demand to be heard. It is not for you to decide for us issues that are this important.

I hope that you will keep the people who support you in mind when you take this next step. We pray that you will do the right thing and allow the issue to be decided by voters on the ballot. After all, this is America ... land of the free, home of the brave! Let us exercise our Constitutional rights to VOTE once again on this subject. Then and only then will we all know that this is a decision, of the people, by the people, for the people.

For the sake of your respective supporters, current, former, or future, please do what is right. We can't seek approval from the world if we are truly men and women after the heart of God. God bless you and your families!

Sincerely,

Alfred E. Dela Cruz
98-1089 Komo Mai Drive
Aiea, HI 96701
(808)486-2484

Dear Representatives,

My name is Austin C. Dela Cruz. I am thirteen years old. I attend Kamehameha Middle School. I can't wait until I'm old enough to vote.

Please don't vote to approve same-sex marriage in Hawaii. You have to think about the children - US - the future generation and what this will do to change things for us.

Please ask God what you should do before you rush to vote. Let my mom and dad and other moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas, brothers and sisters VOTE.

Sincerely,

Austin C Dela Cruz
98-1089 B Komo Mai Dr
Aiea, HI 967014
(808)551-0868

Dear State Representatives,

As a registered voter in the state of Hawaii, I take the democratic process very seriously. It is both a duty and a privilege to be able to vote as we do. From the time I was of legal age to vote, I was registered and have voted.

I beseech all of you to let the issue of same-sex marriage be given to the voters of our great state of Hawaii on the next ballot. Let the people decide!

My husband and I have been supporters of many of you and your efforts for office over the years. You cannot ignore the pleas and voices of your supporters just because our view is different than yours. Remember, without many of the people whom you are voting contrary to their belief systems, you may not be in the positions you are right now. We exercised our privilege and duty to vote which helped to get you into office, now let us once again, exercise our privilege and duty to vote on this very serious issue. It is not for you to decide for us.

I pray that you have allowed yourselves time to think and pray about the issue at hand. We pray that you will do the right thing and allow the issue to be decided by voters on the ballot. After all, this is America ... land of the free, home of the brave! Let us exercise our Constitutional rights to VOTE once again on this subject. Then and only then will we all know that this is a decision, of the people, by the people, for the people.

For the sake of your respective supporters, current, former, or future, please do what is right. We can't seek approval from the world if we are truly men and women after the heart of God. God bless you and your families!

Sincerely,

Amy K Dela Cruz
98-1089 Komo Mai Drive
Aiea, HI 96701
(808)486-2484



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:38 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: robbiediaz@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ronnie Diaz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please OPPOSE SB1, this bill should be chosen by the people. I am worried about the consequences that my son and soon to be daughter will face. Let it remain as God said in His word, 1 man + 1 woman. Thank you!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:12 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: healthyjuan@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
juanita van domburg	Individual	Oppose	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 Unfortunately I will be unable to testify in person, however I would like my opinion expressed. I am in opposition to the same sex marriage act which you have named the marriage equality act. Since time on this planet began marriage has been the union between a man and a woman. It is not discriminatory . It is the definition. In the legislatures attempt to provide"equality" to one group, you are in fact discriminating against all religious organizations. The safeguards are not enough to protect us from many of the same problems that MA residents are experiencing since same sex marriage has been legalized there. Please do not pass this bill.I am a registered voter and I will certainly be following the voting results of this bill. Do not change the definition of marriage. Sincerely, Juanita Van Domburg Resident of Mountain View HI 96771

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:59 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: donohomd@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
michael donohoe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I cannot believe this is even up for vote. It should have been taken care of by now, but it has not. Please do the right thing for every one and pass this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:18 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: jjdoria@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
Jennifer Doria	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: 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! I strongly feel that if this bill is passed, there will be social and political pressures to sway the community to disregarding their beliefs, in fear of being casted out and in trouble with the law. This bill does not protect the people, specifically wedding vendors, from exercising their right to refuse service because their belief will be threatened by fear of being sued or fined, and attacked by equal rights activists. This bill is a direct threat to our safety and threatens our beliefs. This bill also disregards the values of the people. In Genesis 19: 24-29, the Bible tells us that when the people accepts what is defined as wicked (not the person, but the sin/behavior), as the norm, their city will be destroyed. This is our Christian belief. We love all people and believe in the equality of civil rights, but NOT in marriage, because it is our belief that marriage is ONLY between one man and one woman. The gift of marriage is the right shared between one man and one woman. This is a belief shared by millions of people. If this bill is passed, others will believe that polygamy, incest and other unnatural acts going against God's law and the law of the land. Our children will have social pressure to believe this is right. They will use the example of this bill and the sinful acts will continue. Please do not view this plea as an act of hate. We love all people as Jesus does. And as Jesus says, we do not condone or vote for sin. We want to protect marriage. Please (also) give us protection to practice our faith freely without fear of being sued, ridiculed and hated against. With all other social disagreements, passing this bulk as is will further separate us, and I will no longer have faith in our government, like many of us, unless given the right to vote. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and honoring our freedom and listening to the people. Jennifer Doria Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

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convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:16 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: pauldulan@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
Paul Dulan Jr	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. Paul Dulan Jr

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:55 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: rherekson@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
Randall Erekson	Individual	Oppose	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 am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Being opposed to SB1 I have been called "mean" and other negative things. However, I am only continuing the battle that started more than two hundred years ago when our founding fathers fought the Revolutionary War for freedom. Among the rights that they fought for was religious freedom. I am sure that the founding fathers were called many negative things by those opposed to freedom. I proudly stand with them no matter what labels others attach to me. I give a cry for "FREEDOM" including religious freedom. Prior to Henry the 8th religion was separate from government. He combined religion under his reign to manipulate marriage. Before that time the church had sole authority over marriage. Today it is time to finish the separation of church and state. Marriage is a religious service the same way baptism is a religious service. Take government out of religion. 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, Randall Erekson

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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October 29, 2013
House Judiciary and Finance Committee
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

Aloha mai e na alaka'i o Hawai'i (Greetings leaders of Hawai'i),

I am Trina A.L. Esene, and I represent myself (a Native Hawaiian), my 4-year-old son, my husband, and my 'ohana from Wahi'awa, O'ahu. Although I will not be present to give this testimony, I want to share my opposition of SB1 and any attempt to redefine "marriage" here in Hawai'i. While I support and love those who choose to live homosexual lifestyles, marriage is a union of man and woman for the primary purpose of populating this earth and rearing children.

Have you thought about how legalizing "same-sex" marriage will affect you and your family? Hypothetically speaking, say you have a 5-year-old son or grandson in our school system. If "same-sex" marriage is legalized in Hawai'i, that child (your descendent), in all their innocence, will be implanted with knowledge about "same sex" marriage by people other than you. In all honesty with yourself, would you find it acceptable for your 5-year-old son/grandson to receive such promotion of ideas? And where does it stop? In Sexual Education class, your teenager will be given graphical information about homosexual intercourse. Will you also be fine with that?

Besides the obvious concerns above, the combination of time, money, and attention to "same-sex" marriage is pushing much more pressing social issues on the side. It seems almost discriminatory and lacking-of-proper-prioritization to be giving so much special attention to "same sex" marriage vs. getting dirty and solving our state's homelessness, single mothers on welfare, poverty, cuts to education, housing, security, domestic violence, drug and alcohol use, littering, etc. This special session begs to ask "why is "same-sex" marriage so important in comparison to all other issues?"

Saying "yes" to "same-sex" marriage (or "Marriage Equality") is actually discriminating against those who choose to live transgendered/queer. Please think carefully when you are proposing something called "Marriage Equality." You want to allow for "same-sex" marriage while leaving trans/queer individuals unaddressed. Did you say you were looking out for the equality of all people? If you don't address trans/queer in this bill, be ready to address it at some point in the near future, as well as people's desires to marry animals, inanimate objects, and multiple partners. It would be discriminatory of you not to address this. Your desire is for equality, correct?

Another thing to consider since this is a primary reason being brought up. Why should marriage be necessary to accessing benefits? Shouldn't all citizens equally be given access to benefits regardless of if they are married or not?

Bottom line, and beyond our limited human comprehension -- altering the definition of "marriage" equates to choosing to willfully defying The Creator of All Things, God. To possibly have to live under Hawaii's

defiance of our Akua...disappointing. All I know is that I, along with my family, am losing faith in Hawaii's leaders. But lucky for you, I trust that God will work all things for His good and for the good of those who love Him.

If possible, because it may be beneficial to exercise a statewide vote which may help both sides swallow the outcome better, please allow the citizens of Hawai'i to vote on this issue. Redefining "marriage" cannot be taken lightly. We do not view it lightly. If we live in a true democracy, you will allow the people to make their voice known by casting their votes.

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. Praying you continue to be encouraged and enlightened during this process.

Me ka ha'aha'a (Humbly),
Aolani Esene | 2139 Pu'u Place, Wahi'awa, HI 96786

Aloha mai e na alaka'i o Hawai'i (Greetings leaders of Hawai'i),

I am Trina A.L. Esene, and I represent myself (a Native Hawaiian), my 4-year-old son, my husband, and my 'ohana from Wahi'awa, O'ahu. I oppose SB1 and any attempt to redefine "marriage" here in Hawai'i. While I support and love those who choose to live homosexual lifestyles, marriage is a union of man and woman for the primary purpose of populating this earth and rearing children.

Have you thought about how legalizing "same-sex" marriage will affect you and your family? Hypothetically speaking, say you have a 5-year-old son or grandson in our school system. If "same-sex" marriage is legalized in Hawai'i, that child (your descendent), in all their innocence, will be implanted with knowledge about "same sex" marriage by people other than you. In all honesty with yourself, would you find it acceptable for your 5-year-old son/grandson to receive such promotion of ideas? And where does it stop? In Sexual Education class, your teenager will be given graphical information about homosexual intercourse. Will you also be fine with that?

Besides the obvious concerns above, the combination of time, money, and attention to "same-sex" marriage is pushing much more pressing social issues on the side. It seems almost discriminatory and lacking-of-proper-prioritization to be giving so much special attention to "same sex" marriage vs. getting dirty and solving our state's homelessness, single mothers on welfare, poverty, cuts to education, housing, security, domestic violence, drug and alcohol use, littering, etc. This special session begs to ask "why is "same-sex" marriage so important in comparison to all other issues?"

Saying "yes" to "same-sex" marriage (or "Marriage Equality") is actually discriminating against those who choose to live transgendered/queer. Please think carefully when you are proposing something called "Marriage Equality." You want to allow for "same-sex" marriage while leaving trans/queer individuals unaddressed. Did you say you were looking out for the equality of all people? If you don't address trans/queer in this bill, be ready to address it at some point in the near future, as well as people's desires to marry animals, inanimate objects, and multiple partners. It would be discriminatory of you not to address this. Your desire is for equality, correct?

Another thing to consider since this is a primary reason being brought up. Why should marriage be necessary to accessing benefits? Shouldn't all citizens equally be given access to benefits regardless of if they are married or not?

Bottom line, and beyond our limited human comprehension -- altering the definition of "marriage" equates to choosing to willfully defying The Creator of All Things, God. To possibly have to live under Hawaii's defiance of our Akua...disappointing. All I know is that I, along with my family, am losing faith in Hawaii's leaders. But lucky for you, I trust that God will work all things for His good and for the good of those who love Him.

If possible, because it may be wise to exercise a statewide vote which may help both sides swallow the outcome better, please allow the citizens of Hawai'i to vote on this issue. Redefining "marriage" cannot be taken lightly. We do not view it lightly. If we live in a true democracy, you will allow the people to make their voice known by casting their votes.

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. Praying you continue to be encouraged and enlightened during this process.

Me ka ha'aha'a (Humbly),
Aolani Esene | 2139 Pu'u Place, Wahi'awa, HI 96786



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:08 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: samuelafakatou@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
Katinia Fakatou	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I'm opposed to same-sex marriage and people should have the right to vote on the issue. God created this earth and put a man and a woman to because of the life of all his children to be nurtured by a family of a father and mother, not two mothers or fathers.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:12 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: fay.23@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
olini falatea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose same sex marriage. By giving them the right to marry you are taking away our freedom of religion. It is wrong. Let us vote. We depend on our representatives to represent us right and sadly they are not doing so. They have forgotten that we put them in office and made promises to us that are not being kept. The majority showed up last night. The majority has spoken but are not being heard. This is my testimony!

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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: **Please oppose 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.

Many states have adopted legislation that re-defines marriage to include same sex couples and according to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a \$6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship.”
- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.

These incidents are occurring in states whose legislation includes robust and specific protections for First Amendment rights. The Hawaii Bill SB1 contains no such protection. It contains a religious exemption, but it is far from adequate to protect the religious freedom and the freedom of speech for individuals, and does not protect religious facilities.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to **oppose SB1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

(Wayne A. Frank
Kea’au, Hawaii 96749

House Judiciary and Finance Committee

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 29, 2013

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 a special meeting on October 31, 2013.

Traditional marriage and religious liberty are among the most cherished and historically vital elements of society, and both deserve careful protection. My opposition to this legislation does not reduce my regard for all people, including individuals who choose to live by other values. It does confirm my conviction that traditional marriage and robust protections for religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, not politicians. **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,

Tambra Fry

Tambra Fry
P.O. Box 1207, 18-7895 Kolika Rd.
Mountain View, Hawaii 96771

testimony.txt

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.

Zachary Fu
Pearl City, HI 96782

testimony.txt

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jill Fu
Pearl City, HI 96782

testimony.txt

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brian Fu
Pearl City, HI 96782

testimony.txt

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.

Jeremy Fu
Pearl City, HI 96782



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:19 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: wfunk888@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
William D. Funk	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The issue of same sex marriage is less about granting rights and protections to a self proclaimed minority but more about an underlying hatred of those who view homosexuality as abhorrent. If SB1 was only about SSM then why are punitive measures injected into the bill against religious institutions that object to doing same sex ceremonies? SB1 expresses a deep rooted prejudice against religion and is disingenuous. It should be removed totally from consideration in its ENTIRETY. Its underlying tone of hatred is indeed abhorrent, against the Hawaii Bill of Rights and the US Constitution.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:33 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: gabrielledavis121@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
Gabrielle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I humbly request that the issue of same sex marriage be put to a vote by the residents of Hawaii. I feel that this issue is too important for it to be decided by a short special session. I feel that this is an issue of momentous effects on Hawaii life and communities, therefore the citizens should have a voice and a say in the matter. Please allow us to have a word in this matter by allowing us to vote. After all this is a democracy and we the people should decide on allowing same sex marriage or not in out state. Thank you for your time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:00 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: dane_ganes@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
Dane Ganes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing this simple note in support of equal rights as it pertains to same sex marriage. I am well aware of the paranoia this has caused in many people. However, I believe that sometimes the RIGHT decision, may not be the POPULAR decision. This is one situation where I believe the RIGHT decision is to support the passing of this bill. There are some situations where I can accept the PEOPLE's deciding on what happens (i.e., the president, the governor, senators, taxes, etc.). This is one situation that I believe the PERSON and not the PEOPLE will make the best decision for the PERSON. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My God loves me and loves all, whether we agree with each other or not.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:16 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: joe@greenapplehawaii.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
Michel Gedeon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Stop this special session

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:09 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: Gerald_family@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
Sharon Gerald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Our family strongly opposes the same-sex marriage act. There are too many repercussions that will affect our families and schools. The Department of Education will reflect what the law says and our children are being affected.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:15 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: veronikageronimo@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
Veronika Geronimo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: After more than 16 years, the United States Supreme Court has overturned the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act. Now it's time for Hawaii legislators to move quickly and pass marriage equality in Hawaii!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:07 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: ulua2@juno.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
Iris Ginoza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I feel that the rights to marriage belongs to one woman and one man. I also feel that even if you don't agree, it should be given to the people to vote on. It doesn't matter how you word it, it still should go to the people to decide. Let the people vote on marriage. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:20 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: dgrace1955@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
douglas grace	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: 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 God help us.

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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 thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Eric Habenick

October 28, 2013

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

From: KORI HAMADA

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

Hearing Day & Date: Thursday, Oct. 31st

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Kori Hamada

Becky Hamilton

Princeville, Hawaii

Date: October 29, 2013

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I 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.

Sincerely,

Becky Hamilton
Princeville, Hawaii



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:48 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: ladytazz57@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
Tanya Hegarty	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the same sex marriage. I believe in the traditional marriage of man and women according to God's laws. I want to protect not only my ohana but all the children of Hawaii to be taught the right way of living. I do not want my children learning in school that same sex is a choice you can make. It is a freedom to make a choice. Government does not have to place a law to make a wrong choice of same sex a civil right. It is ridiculous and Governor Abercrombie to call an emergency session is also a waste of time and money. There are more important issues that is an emergency like homelessness, people losing there jobs, homes, finances and health. Mahalo, Tanya

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:30 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: christielynnx7@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
Christie Henderson	Individual	Oppose	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 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. I will not be appearing in person to give testimony, please accept this correspondence as my testimony. 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, Christie Henderson Hilo, HI

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convening of the public hearing.

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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 ask that you vote against the proposed Bill #SB1 in the best interest of the children of Hawaii. There has not been enough research on the impact of how this bill will affect our Keiki. I have heard of numerous states that have passed the same sex marriages and it has forced their schools to teach children about how to have safe sex with partners of the same sex. This is not normal and should not be encouraged. It goes against the morals and values of what this country was built on. I am for fairness, but very opposed to having our children exposed to this type of education. This is only the tip of matter; the long lasting effects will be terrible. The government and the people that are in office at the time of such bills are destroying our country; it's time for a change. Stand up and fight for the lives of our children, don't be making your decision based on what you think will win you votes back into office. Think about your own child or niece or nephew and what it will be like in 3-5 years. The exposure that they will be forced to learn about. Stop it now!!! Or put it back to the people to vote and see what the majority really wants, not just those with louder voice that shout equality and make you feel that they are being treated unfairly. Our rights as normal people, people with values and traditions that this country were built on have been stripped left and right by the government. Nuff already...

Sincerely,
Sherry L. Kalaniopio
P.O. Box 1790
Kamuela, HI. 96743

October 29, 2013

Hawaii State House of Representatives

Dear State of Hawaii Legislature,

My name is Mia Pasi and I strongly oppose the passing of the SB1 bill. Please listen to the voice of the people indicating their strong opposition to this bill.

The union of marriage instituted and ordained of God indicates that marriage be between a man and a woman. Societies become what we create within the four walls of our own homes and unfortunately, if you take a look at society now – it's become what it is today BECAUSE of failure to obey THIS law. Even though we've opposed it, we've had to accept the passing of civil unions, have had to educate our families – but how much more will we have to subject ourselves and our families to? How much more will we need to tolerate? With choosing to pass this law, whose rights are REALLY being infringed upon?

Ultimately, with the passing of this law, doors to our homes are forced to be open ultimately allowing strangers to dictate the way that the family is raised instead of how we WANT and CHOOSE to raise them. I acknowledge that I cannot force the way someone else chooses to live, but if I want to protect what goes on within the walls of my home, I have to strongly oppose this bill. Family is the ONLY way we can better society; please don't rob us of that right with the passing of this bill. I stand firm in my request – PLEASE DO NOT PASS BILL SB1!

Mahalo,

Mia Pasi



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:43 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: hrhsf@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka SisterFace)	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in Strong Support of SB 1. Aloha Hawaii State Leaders I see here today & of course know there are many differences in our world & people, cultures. We all look different, we all go thru different life's & times good & bad. Rich or Poor, President of the United States or unemployed, hard laborer, retired, religious or not at all. " We Are All Equal under the United States Constitution & many many humans have died & suffered to have there rights as human, as an American." I know many of you Leaders & Our Governor are all ready for "Full Marriage Equality" & Equal Rights in a whole. You must all be harsh & very real with your peer leaders being swayed by outside radical interest. You must push thru True Equality & to even Call Out! those leaders publicly who do not support & let there constituents know the facts... There are many LGBT people & supporters who don't cause a big scene here in Hawaii like many us loud activist here today. People should know what leaders are truly Bigoted & not in there Districts. These religious crazy radical types with huge amounts of funding coming in from out of state & teaching hate under the Churches name scare me as an Ordained Minister. What are bigoted Hawaii leaders teaching hate to future generations who just get away with hate crimes & bullying gay kids or LGBT parents kids. We have children for heavens sake that are being abused by State Leaders in essence, because. There allowing promoting In-Equality treating LGBT like 2nd class citizens... There are so many rights and protections a LGBT parents need to help there families. We must think of the next generation of children and future minds, artistic, possible scientist & leaders. The Supreme Court Has Spoken... Obama & the Federal Government, County Clerks & Federal Judges are doing more for LGBT Equality now then a state like Hawaii. That led the way with Equality, We were the first state to start this not trend, but Human Right to love, the aloha, the ohana I have learned... to give access benefits, a better life. It is for all Government to separate Church & State, let us remember this leaders. Please Please be on the right side of history. We are not just an example for our own country anymore. We are an example of Americas Freedoms & Liberties, Civil Rights not Tyranny. As an Ordained Minister, a Drag Diva Minister, you heard me right as many of you know already. I have been fighting since 1986, I was a kid for Civil Rights & Equality for LGBT community on the east coast. I & many others want to help be a whole part of a whole new business in Hawaii, a new Equality, the right to Unite / Marry LGBT couples & loved ones. Help them receive there fair just of federal protections granted by the Supreme Court. Your casted polls & there fraudulent numbers are just flat out wrong. Even though the good ones are awesome for the states outlook, it's future. I believe after living in W.D.C. & most areas on the East Coast. The numbers are going to be shattered every year now with Full

Marriage Equality being established in Equality States. also as a Minister, I no longer believe in "Civil Unions" I used to, but now. The Supreme Court has spoken, My heart has spoken to me. There are Clerks in Counties across our Country now giving out Marriage License because there hearts spoke to them. There are Federal Judges telling Governors, To step aside & overruling. I was thinking this needed to happen here, Honolulu is a county right, but. Now we all are here... Debating, arguing with pure bigots, pleading, begging even for our right to Marry, my right as a Minister to Unite LGBT. My point is, many many LGBT Ministers exist & I know & I have felt the hate alone, just for being a gay loud Drag character Ordained Minister. All the small businesses that cater to weddings, ceremonies etc. & I can't Marry LGBT, but I can only Marry Straight folks & I guess Aliens from another galaxy. This is a major obstacle for my way of making a future, for making future income, for myself as a minister to be 1/2 of what I am. I sure would never say no to marrying a straight couple or any couple, ever. I tell you LGBT Full Marriage Equality is Hawaii's way of making big future income that is always needed here in Hawaii. Making new business in Hawaii from in state & major out of state tourism in LGBT weddings & all the businesses that go along with that. We as Hawaii, you all know are Americas true Paradise. Hawaii will most definitely be a major leader in LGBT wedding destination & new source of income for the state & small businesses around the islands, hotels & jobs even being created yearly directly form LGBT weddings. Even for all the haters & bigots, they will even feel the flow of income from LGBT, the possibilities are endless for LGBT Wedding Tourism. You all as leaders know it is your jobs to protect people from radical churches & out of state organizations from running our State of Hawaii Gov. from abroad sources. Churches & hate groups funneling in money to our State of Hawaii leaders just to keep there vote, its Bigotry. You all should please not put too much in any State Bill to protect churches that use there tax free funds raised from the public to promote hatred &. Some how be protected from a law suite they bring upon themselves for being bigoted & not marrying or letting LGBT use there facilities if public funded church spaces etc.. I Hope you all can do everything in your powers to get Full Marriage Equality, our Civil Rights through on this Special Session called by Governor Neil Abercrombie. I as a constituent, a human, Praise so many of you leaders making the better choice & using your hearts to know what true Equality is for your people, us humans, small & large businesses future & families in our State of Hawaii. Please Stand... with Equality, Civil Rights and the people of Hawaii and & Pass, Full Marriage Equality My Blessings, Mahalo Ordained Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka) Minister SisterFace 2499 Kapiolani Blvd. #3303 Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

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October 31, 2013

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

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

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

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

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 28, 2013, 10:30a

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.

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, 
Clayton D. Tremaine Jr
PO Box 994
Mountain View, Hilo 96771

October 28, 2013, 10:30a

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.

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For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely, 
MaryAnn P. Tremaine
PO Box 994
Mountain View, HI 96771



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:04 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: waleka@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
Kurt Walter Jarrett	Individual	Oppose	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 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, Kurt Walter Jarrett USMC Veteran, Husband, Father, GrandFather P.O. Box 322 Mountain View HI 96771

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:50 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mapuana.waleka@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
Darcine Jarrett	Individual	Oppose	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 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, Darcine Mapuana Jarrett Wife, Mother, GrandMother P.O. Box 322 Mountain View HI 96771

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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

First and foremost, I believe in loving others and treating them with kindness and respect, even those who may be different from you. I believe in freedom of choice. I believe everyone has the right to be heard. People have the right to be informed and to vote on laws affecting them.

One of our most treasured guaranteed rights is freedom of religion. Even if you are NOT religious, you should be concerned when people are persecuted or punished for exercising that right. If that right is taken away or infringed upon, what's next? How far will it go? How many other rights will we lose?

As written, the same-sex marriage bill would force some people to do things contrary to their beliefs or be punished by fines and lawsuits; opening up a Pandora's Box of further possible abuses. In my opinion, that makes this a civil rights issue for everyone. I am in no way trying to force anyone to live my standards or trying to deprive anyone of their rights. But I expect the same courtesy from others regarding MY rights.

I am a registered voter. Please represent me and vote "No" on this bill.

Sincerely,
Jean Nodacker
Pahoa, HI



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:12 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: jkladines3@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
Jeena	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. Jeena Ladines Pearl City, Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:39 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: bksj22@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
Kendra John	Individual	Oppose	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. 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. Thank You, Kendra John 1709A Kinoole Street Hilo HI 96720

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Aloha,

I would like to address my concern regarding gay marriages in Hawaii. I am a true believer in the laws of God given to us to maintain Righteousness in our Land. We want to be blessed not cursed. I don't know where your faith is concerning God and religion, but I do believe if we allow these kinds of sinful acts, our Land, our people, those who do not have a heart for God will suffer the consequences, I know that this sounds very harsh, but Senator it is true... God's word does not return to Him void, He is not a God who lies. If you read the Bible, there are numerous accounts of man's disobedience towards His laws, therefore severe judgment & punishments took place. If we allow this impurity to be permitted in our State, it will just be a matter of time, the land and its people will suffer the consequences. It is written, for the wages of sin is death. The spirit of the land will die. No more will we be called the Aloha State, there will be so much hardship, the spirit of Aloha will be no more... people will become bitter, tired and will eventually lose hope.

I would like to share a scripture if I may find in II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then shall I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.

These rights that the gay movements are requesting are an abomination to God. It is unclean... God and His ways are pure, and when there is purity there are

blessings. We as true believers of Christ are watchmen; we pray and intercede for our land and our people. It is because of the prayers of the Faithful Christians, that the wrath of God has not yet come to our land.

Please Senator, on behalf our children, our future, please do and say whatever you can to put a stop to this curse, let your voice be heard. Please do not compromise, remember King Kamehameha III established this motto back in July 31, 1843, he stated, "the Life of the land is Perpetuated in Righteousness". He meant these words to last indefinitely. Please do what is right. We must stand for Righteousness sake!

O God help us, have Mercy on us!

Sincerely,
Darnelle Jugran

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.

Sondra B. Jung



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:00 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kailamelika@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
kaila	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I'm not against people who are gay but as a mother of a young boy I do not like the fact that this law would be introduced to kids in the classroom. That is completely inappropriate and confusing for little innocent children.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:27 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: skqbi@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
Gordon K Kalaniopio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose Same Sex Marriage and want my vote to counted. The people of Hawaii should be deciding this not a handful of those in government. Vote for this bill to be put back for the people to vote on - that's equality.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:10 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kj_aolahiko@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
Kalima	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. Kalima Honolulu, Hi 96818

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:46 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: real22deal@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
Kamuela	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:45 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: real22deal@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
Kamuela	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:44 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: real22deal@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
Kamuela	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:03 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: gmkang@bigfoot.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
Gary Kang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: to the House Representatives: I am also against this bill on many reasons including 1) belief that marriage should be between a man and a woman 2) this will encroach on our 1st amendment rights 3) That a special session was called, especially when it could have been handled during the regular session 4) this will open the door for lawsuits against churches, business and individuals spurred on by the ACLU and GLSEN 5) Cause real division between Hawaii's people 5) Open the door where public employees (especially teachers) will have to teach something that goes against their beliefs 5) There hasn't been any real discussion nor studies as to the effects of this 6) In testimony yesterday one senator on the state Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee didn't know that (State Attorney General David)"Louie acknowledged that gay couples in Hawaii can qualify for federal tax benefits by marrying in other states, but would not receive other federal benefits they would be eligible for if Hawaii were to legalize gay marriage." (quote from today's Star Advertiser). If that senator only found out during testimony proves that there hasn't been enough discussion on this 6) I don't believe that this is a civil rights issue as many have stated.

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From: Judiciary Special Session
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:44 PM
To: House Special Session
Subject: FW: Written Testimony (Written Only)

From: Angela Kansou [<mailto:akansou@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:34 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Written Testimony

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

As a concerned, voting 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.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:48 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: niki Kashner@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
Nicole Meadows Kashner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:40 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: skeahi@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
Mr Shannon Keahi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe in equal benefits for same sex couples, but strongly oppose redefining traditional marriage. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:28 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: skeahi@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
Mr Shannon Keahi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I believe in traditional marriage between a man and a woman because it is how I was raised and was taught by my elders.

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Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Special Session of 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Judiciary

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luka, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

State Capitol Auditorium

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

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 1
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports S.B. 1, which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

S.B. 1, also known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, ensures equal protection under the law, as provided by the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to couples of the same sex seeking to marry. That this issue is being debated at all is a testament to the strength of the Constitution, which provides for free speech and representational government.

The Marriage Equality Act provides all couples, regardless of gender, the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities. It is a fairness and equality issue that harkens to the civil rights movement that sought to protect individuals against discrimination over race, gender, national origin, color, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, and disability.

Opponents of S.B. 1 want legislators to “let the people decide.” However, without fully understanding the broader ramifications of the injustice that occurs when discrimination is permitted, the “people” may act and vote based solely on emotion rather than reason. If, in 1964, Congress had chosen to put the Civil Rights Act to a vote of the public, discrimination against people of color, women, religious minorities, and immigrants may still be prevalent and widespread today. To be sure, enforcement of the Civil Rights Act continues to leave room for improvement, but without the law, discrimination would be far worse, and the U.S. would be a far less civil nation.

It is a simplistic, though somewhat appealing, argument to “let the people decide.” It implies democracy; it implies fairness. But in this country and in our state, we have a representational government. The President, Congress, our Governor, and our Legislature are elected to consider the best interests of all the people—often despite their own personal beliefs—in making their decisions and must consider legislative proposals in light of other documents, such as the Constitution, to guide their deliberations.

The Hawaii State Constitution is clear when it states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State on account of sex. The Legislature shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provision of this section.” (Article I, Section 3)

Moreover, in 1998, the people of Hawaii voted in favor of amending the State Constitution to give the responsibility and power to the State Legislature to define marriage. It is only appropriate that the Legislature acts now in the interest of fairness and equity.

The words engraved on the U.S. Supreme Court building are a fitting reminder for justices charged with upholding the Constitution, and for all others: “Equal Justice Under Law.” Justice demands that same-sex couples be permitted the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as opposite-sex couples. To do any less would further permit discrimination. In striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits to same-sex couples, the U.S. Supreme Court paved the way for states to do the right thing.

By doing so, the State Legislature will allow for same-sex couples to marry and enjoy not only federal and state benefits but benefits conferred in collective bargaining agreements to spouses. These benefits include medical and dental coverage, funeral leave, family leave, and retirement benefits. Union contracts that specifically promote “no discrimination” are forced to exclude from spousal benefits anyone, regardless of gender, who is not legally married. Ironically, if S.B. 1 is not passed, couples of the same gender will be recognized for spousal benefits only if they are married in another jurisdiction while couples of the same gender and unable to travel outside of Hawaii to be married will be denied those same benefits.

S.B. 1 also wisely preserves the rights and religious freedom of those who oppose same-sex marriage. The bill ensures that clergy and religious organizations will not be required to solemnize marriage between individuals of the same sex—unless the religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds for weddings by the general public for a profit. No one will be forced to perform the wedding of a same-sex couple if a religious or moral prohibition exists. However, if a religious organization rents out its facilities to the general public, those facilities are subject to rules on public accommodations and must be open for rent by a same-sex couple. We believe this is only fair. However, nothing in the bill diminishes the rights of anyone as long as all citizens are regarded without discrimination.

The ILWU strongly urges passage of S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 to make marriage gender-neutral. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important matter.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:34 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: leikeanu@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
Wendi Keanu	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: #SB1 Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act. We, William and WendiKeanu are writing in opposition of the Marriage Equality Act that will be discussed in your Special Legislature Session beginning October 28, 2013. This Bill will forever change the sacred marriage between a man and women and the importance of family unity. As well as changes to our community, teaching this forced practice in school and church community. This Bill is being forced upon my family and my religious beliefs. We strongly oppose this bill or any other bill that would carry the same verbage...Thank you for your time and hearing my testimony.

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

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 concerned that this bill is being fast-tracked through this special session without recognizing the voices of those who oppose it.

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. Have you not seen the thousands who turned out on Monday evening in opposition to this bill? Do you not recognize that this issue has deeply divided our community? It is also a fact that of the more than 4,000 pages of written testimony submitted for the senate hearing on Monday, 60% were opposed to this measure. How can you disregard the will of the people who are vehemently asking you to consider their voices in this debate and decision? 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.

Diversity is a strength that we have here in Hawaii, and yes, our gay and lesbian friends and family members deserve our respect and aloha. However, their desire for same-sex marriage equality should not infringe on the constitutionally protected rights of those who believe in traditional marriage between a man and a woman. Affording them the same rights will essentially change the definition of marriage in a legal sense and this will, no doubt, have an adverse effect on our society and negatively impact the religious freedoms of others. According to a study done in Massachusetts, since the legalization of same-sex marriage close to ten years ago, there have been troubling ripple effects in every sector of society including education, business, and religion. This bill will negatively impact generations to come and further erode the traditional family as the foundational unit of society.

In this debate over same-sex marriage equality, where is the balance between the competing claims of religious freedom and equal treatment? The current draft of the proposed same-sex marriage equality legislation fails to respect the rights of those who adhere to traditional moral values.

I have a right to worship as I believe, and my first amendment rights should not be trampled upon by others who believe otherwise.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kahele Keawe
P.O Box 5
Anahola, HI 96703



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:18 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kepani80@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
Kenji	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am a citizen of Hawaii, born and raised. I am a registered voter, a husband, a father, a county of Hawaii employee and a Christian. I stand firmly AGAINST this hasty and quick special session called to pass senate bill 1. The governor decided that in a mere 5 short days, we can determine the fate of Hawaii and all the repercussions that will come from passing same sex marriage? Really?! This bill does NOT adequately protect my religious freedom. While the gay people cry for their rights to be protected, I am standing up for mine. By passing this bill, you strip me of my religious freedom. What right do you have to impose churches to face the consequences of this bill, and furthermore, private businesses, run by Christians who DON'T believe in same sex marriage. Why can you force us to abide by what we DON'T believe? It has been pointed out to me that in these areas, this bill is flawed: (1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches. (2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling. (3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so. The Senate Bill Does NOT Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs: (1) The Senate bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles. (2) The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired. The Senate Bill Does NOT Protect Parents The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

You are NOT allowed to teach my children YOUR morals of same sex marriage. That is MY job to teach them. I insist that I be able to RESERVE the RIGHT to REMOVE my child from the school when lessons regarding ANYTHING that deals with same sex marriage. Teach my children math and reading, but DON'T you dare tell my child that same sex marriage is "normal". This bill is flawed in so many ways. Let us vote on this bill. Let me have a voice. Don't be my voice, when your voice may be different than mine. Don't assume I'm okay with this bill, because I'm not. Thank You, Kenji

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To the House Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

Testimony on SB1

My name is Dennis C.H. Kim and I would like to testify in opposition to SB1

I think I am the typical citizen in Hawaii: I am Hawaiian, Chinese, Korean, with a tinge of Rotuman. My extended family has married into every race. But the Ohana is the driving force that keeps everybody together. Our Ohana has Gay, Lesbian, and Straight people, we have Baptists, Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Methodists, Buddhists, Athiests, and Agnostics in our family. We have family gatherings all the time, and have never experienced any contention whatsoever based on our diverse beliefs. We revel in everyone's successes, and share their sorrows in times of need. We allow everyone to practice their religious beliefs according to their own tenants.

This bill will change all that. As you very well know, it is driving a wedge between people of faith who oppose this bill and those who support it. I have been talking to many of our legislators and feel that many are missing the point. They see this bill as a Civil Rights issue only. The reality is that it is also a First Amendment Issue. Only after people of faith made more noise did legislators consider the true religious impact rather than give it token consideration. For example, the Governor's bill and even the Senate bill only mention "solemnization of

marriage” whereas other states use “solemnization of marriage and celebration of marriage.” (See the Conn language, and other states which already have Same Sex Marriage) This protects the religious facilities used to celebrate marriage as in a wedding reception. There are others: What about religiously affiliated organizations set up to help their members and others in the community, such as Catholic Charities, LDS Social Services, etc. What about religiously oriented educational institutions like Hawaii Baptist Academy, Chaminade University, BYU-Hawaii, Sacred Hearts Academy, or the many preschools in our state, etc.?

What I would like to see is “Equality” and “Fairness” that goes two ways, not just one. The ideal for me is to enjoy the same religious freedoms that I currently enjoy following this session. This can happen in one of two ways: Kill the bill, or put in adequate religious protections for everyone.

Thank you for considering my testimony.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:33 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: roxanibus@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
roxy Kimokeo	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! Aloha Roxanne Kimokeo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:57 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: russkimura@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
russell kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please let the people vote. Support traditional marriage between man and woman

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:58 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: denise_kina@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
Denise Kina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha my name is denise kina, and I am a member of New Hope Hilo Hawaii. I oppose this bill because of my christian belief that God created man and woman to be one and multiply. I believe that those of same-sex will end up wanting more if the bill is passed. It was bad enough that the civil right bill passed and that those of same-sex relationships have gotten privileges just ad those of opposite sex relationships. It is also bad bad that if this bill passes what will become of the keiki o ka aina when their curriculum will change to incorporate those who have same sex parents. Also from my knowledge there will in the long run be bullied in school. How will the children of same-sex parents.address the situation. I have two beautiful children myself and for them to know and learn this in school is out of proportioned. I don't want my children to grow up bullying othersor be bullied on for having friends who have same-sex parents. I strongly urge you to oppose this bill. It will benefit us as well. I'm. strongly taking a stand to be heard as a citizen of the State Of Hawaii. and one of many who vote no on this bill. Thank You for your time to read this testimony and hope that you will change your mind.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:36 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mattkirk86@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
Matthew Kirk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I stongly oppose SB1. Please do not be forced to rush into making a decision on this bill just because Governor Abercrombie pushed the special session on the legislature just to push forward his agenda as a last ditch effort to get reelected next term. Please listen to the testimonies of all of the citizens that have testified. As you will see, there is a strong majority in opposition of SB1 and same sex marriage. So please listen to the people and vote accordingly.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:37 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mattkirk86@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
Matthew Kirk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I stongly oppose SB1. Please do not be forced to rush into making a decision on this bill just because Governor Abercrombie pushed the special session on the legislature just to push forward his agenda as a last ditch effort to get reelected next term. Please listen to the testimonies of all of the citizens that have testified. As you will see, there is a strong majority in opposition of SB1 and same sex marriage. So please listen to the people and vote accordingly.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:36 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mattkirk86@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
Matthew Kirk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I stongly oppose SB1. Please do not be forced to rush into making a decision on this bill just because Governor Abercrombie pushed the special session on the legislature just to push forward his agenda as a last ditch effort to get reelected next term. Please listen to the testimonies of all of the citizens that have testified. As you will see, there is a strong majority in opposition of SB1 and same sex marriage. So please listen to the people and vote accordingly.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:52 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

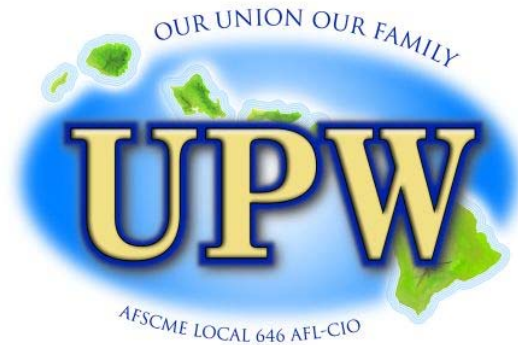
Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

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

Comments:

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THE HAWAII SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Interim of 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

DATE OF HEARING: Thursday, October 31, 2013
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Auditorium State Capitol

TESTIMONY ON SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports SB1 that 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.

Historically, labor has always fought for fair and equal rights for all. Workers' rights, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination are examples of social injustices that we as a society have faced. Today, we have an opportunity to address this important issue of marriage equality. Let us reflect on the significant social changes of our past and continue to work toward life, liberty, and justice for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:04 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: marshk59@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
Marsha M Krieger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Marsha M Krieger 24 Makani Circle Hilo HI 96720 Date: Oct. 29, 2013 Karl Rhoads Chair Judiciary Committee Subject: For In Person Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees; As a concerned citizen of the state of Hawaii, I am submitting my testimony against SB1, which would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too weak and too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy. The additional cases would increase the burden in our family court system, which is already overtaxed and often unable to meet the needs of our families. As it is now families often have to wait several months for their cases to be addressed. Allowing out of state non-taxpayers can only cause more burden to our family court system. On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage.....as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent. These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time. The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii. I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people Sincerely, Marsha M. Krieger

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convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:14 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: akemichan78@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
Kristin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To Whom it May Concern, My name is Kristin. I was born and raised in Hawaii, and I am a registered voter in the state of Hawaii. I am a Christian, a wife and a mother. I graduated from high school and college here in Hawaii. I am disheartened that our "leader" has chosen to blindly jump on the bandwagon of trying to legalize same-sex marriage here in Hawaii...just because all the other states are doing it and it "seems" like the right thing to do...that is taken from his response to an email I sent him. I submit this testimony to you, that I am AGAINST same sex marriage being legalized in a short 5 day special session. Just because our governor "feels" right about this issue, does not mean that the people of Hawaii feel likewise. Let the people's voices be heard. Be it known, that the majority of testimonies during the senate session from the PEOPLE of HAWAII was loud and CLEAR--we don't want this. The way this bill was written, while with good intent to "protect" clergy from performing a marriage ceremony, the religious freedom of our churches are still being violated. I don't like how this bill is worded. All churches, and church buildings should be exempt from not only performing a same sex ceremony, but holding a reception etc PERIOD. There should be no clause or stipulation as to whether the building is "only for member use" etc. It needs to be CLEARLY stated that any church and church building can DENY access to its building to same sex couples. The state does NOT have the right to open doors of conflict in this matter. Let the churches, and church buildings be 100% exempt from anything to do with same sex marriages free and clear...no stipulation, no clauses that we have to meet all 3 criteria etc. Churches don't want same sex marriage, so don't make us meet criteria in order to deny it. I also don't agree that personal and family businesses should be able to be sued if the turn down a same-sex couple from their business. If a person believes that same sex marriage is wrong, and they want to turn away business, they should have that right. Just as restaurants reserve the right to deny service to anyone---private business should have that same right, no questions asked. It's not right for government to force businesses to go against their personal beliefs and force them to serve same sex couples in fear of being sued. All businesses should have the RIGHT to REFUSE business to anyone they feel they cannot work with. Give them that right to choose who they want to serve, and not go against their moral belief. On top of all this, no one and I mean no one has addressed how this bill will affect public education. Everyone pushes that question on to somebody else. As a mother, I should know BEFORE HAND how this bill will affect public education. This is not a bill we pass just because "all the other states are doing it" and then find out afterwards what the repercussions are. These issues needs to be adressed BEFORE the bill is passed so that every parent knows exactly how this bill will affect public education. Can teachers cross dress to work? Can transgender kids use the bathroom of their choice? Will there be books allowed that portray 2 fathers or 2 mothers as "normal"? What will be taught? Will parents who don't

believe in same sex marriage have the RIGHT to have their child removed from class when these things are taught? Remember, it's MY job to teach my children values and morals, NOT YOURS. The DOE systems can barely get the children of Hawaii to pass their standardized tests, so don't go wasting time teaching about same sex marriage--focus on the curriculum standards not which VALUES and MORALS you feel like teaching my children. That's what church is for. But realistically speaking, how will this bill affect education? LET US KNOW NOW...NOT LATER. We want answers now BEFORE any bill is randomly passed because "all the other states are doing it" or because "it feels like the right thing to do". By passing this bill, you are infringing on religious freedom. Leave all churches exempt from anything to do with same sex marriage PERIOD. Address our concerns regarding public education NOW. Don't pass this bill in a hasty, irresponsible 5 day special session. Spell everything out (the expectations and consequences of this bill passing) for the churches, for the education system, for the public in black and white, then let us study this issue and let the people decide. Present this to us with clear understanding of the pros and cons of this bill passing and then put it to a vote. Stop lying by saying nothing will change, because by changing the definition of marriage, everything will be changing. If nothing will change by passing this bill, then don't pass it. You know very well that things will change by passing this bill. Religious freedom will be stepped on, public education will change--by teaching my children "the new society's morals"--or lack of it, as I see it. By passing this bill in a hasty and short 5 day special session is selfish of you. Present the facts clearly, and let us decide how we want the future of Hawaii to be. Don't let "power" get to your head. Give us, the voters of Hawaii, the right to decide the future. Thank you, Kristin

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:35 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: nkualii@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
Nora Kualii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It is my conviction that marriage is, in fact, a religious institution; a Christian one at that. The definition, as it was initially instituted, is between a man and a woman, and it is not for the government of any land to change it. It is not even an issue of a person's civil rights. Let's be specific about separating religion from the government and be also concerned about the rights of religious institutions as our constitution dictates. Please register my opposition to SB1. I say also, let the voice of the majority be heard by popular vote.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:07 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: shepkuester@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
Shep Kuester	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I believe that the legislature is going against the will of the people with this bill. Let the people decide on the issue of marriage as they did before. Polls can be manipulated, which means quoting polls in favor, or not in favor, of a measure is not justification to rush this very contentious bill through in a week. I'm asking you to uphold the process of democracy, which are being pushed aside on the topic of same sex marriage in Hawaii. Legal precedence is that once same sex marriage is given approval by the legislature, a vote by the people, even if overwhelmingly voting against same sex marriage, it cannot be rescinded. This contentious bill needs to be held until the regular session where it can be properly vetted, examined, and debated, as all other bills. The people deserve a voice on this issue beyond a short testimonial period in special session. This subject is too important to be "railroaded" through the legislature in a special session. Put this issue to the people to decide, as it was done last time. Same sex marriage affects the very basis of human society, the family. Do not take this lightly! Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Shep Kuester Keaau

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:09 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kyk.pkk@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
Paulette K Kurakazu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: this Bill circumvents the will of the people to preserve traditional marriage, this Bill does not defend religious groups from discrimination All legislators supporting its passage will lose the support of the majority!

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October 29, 2013

From: Heather Lafi

98-161 Kaluamoi Pl Apt A

Pearl City, Hawaii. 96782

Committee and Hearing: Committees on Judiciary & Finance Hearing on

October 31, 2013 at 10:00a.m. (JUD-FIN 10-31-13)

Measure Number: SB1

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

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

I am Heather Lafi, a resident of Pearl City and a member of Rep. Mark Takai and Greg Takayama. I am sad that Rep Takai who was formerly on the board of directors at my church, is now voting yes. It seems he wants to get into Congress and believes this will help him. It is sad because our children deserve better than this. It's sad that our representatives care more about a raise and a paycheck than our children getting same sex education in school and teachings on alternatives to sex which was ordained by God between a man and a woman. I have a 2 year old, 4 year old and 6 year old. I am thinking of their future as I write to you.

I am writing in opposition to SB1. I believe that the people should vote. It seems the government of Hawaii is trying to rush through something that has great implications on our society so that people don't have time to realize the repercussions in fear of what may result. As I have been watching the live testimonials online it seems that the majority are asking to "LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!" We want to vote. It seems that our voices are not being heard. I don't understand the point of testimonies if our representatives are not listening to "we the people" who you represent and who voted you into office. Please listen to the testimonies and see the thousands who have signed petitions to let the people VOTE!

I voted in 1998 for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. We, the majority of registered Hawaii voters felt then, and we still feel now, that for thousands of years the institution of marriage has been between one man and one woman and should stay so. Any attempt to redefine marriage as an institution MUST be taken to the people, as a whole, where we can exercise our

democratic rights. Please let the people, who you and your committee members represent, decide by a constitutional amendment. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided and we are not pleased!

Additionally, I oppose the bill because the religious protection clauses are inadequate for people of faith to exercise their First Amendment right of speech and religion. This has been dismantled in state after state that has brought in same sex marriage.

Thank you for listening to the people and letting us vote against this bill.

Mahalo,

Heather Lafi

VOTE NO AGAINST SB1! PLEASE LET THE PEOPLE OF HAWAI'I VOTE!

Mahalo,

Heather Lafi

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.

Joan Land

Aiea, Hawaii



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:15 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: relebrun3@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
Richard LeBrun	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. Richard LeBrun Honolulu, Hawaii

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October 29, 2013

Rep Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Rep Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep Scott Y Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Char
House Committee on Finance

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

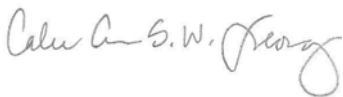
Dear Honorable Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

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.

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calee Ann S.W. Leong".

Calee Ann Leong
91-1781 Paeko Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

Aloha Kakou a pau,

My name is Zeni Zenobia Kehaunani Kimokeo Kapahulehua Iese. I am opposed to SB1. I am Kanaka Mauoli. The Hawaii State motto is: "Ua mau kea o ka aina i ka pono" meaning "this land is perpetuated in righteousness". From Ke Akua to na Kupuna to parents to children, as we live righteously we will be blessed abundantly. God (Ke Akua) created all the heavens and the earth. He created man to procreate with woman in marriage so happy, healthy families will fill this earth. Satan, on the other hand, wants to destroy what God has created. Same Sex Marriage is of the Devil-Satan. For all those who vote for SB1 know you are following Satan. A vote for SB1 does not follow the Hawaii State motto: "Ua Mau kea o Ka aina I ka pono". A vote for SB1 will bring much trouble upon this beautiful precious land – Hawaii. All my prayers and the prayers of many are with all those who have the deciding vote to make the righteous decision in the continued perpetuation of Hawaii. Just Know that Ke Akua (God) will continue to bless Hawaii and its people as we live righteously.

To-For-from A Kanaka mea ola (A Living Human Being in word-z) with name,

Zeni Zenobia Kehaunani Kimokeo Kapahulehua Iese

54-185 Hanaimoa St.

Hau'ula, AE God Kingdom

Hawai'i [96717]

Telephone number: (808) 293-5164

Email: ieset002@hawaii.rr.com

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 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,

Clayton Lowe

15-1915 33rd

Keaau, HI 96749



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:32 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: ljchun@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
Lori Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In the past, voters opted to allow the legislature to define marriage between opposite sex couples...no other authority to do otherwise was given by the people. Let the people decide.

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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 believe in equality for all since it is the foundation that this great country was based on. But, I also believe that most people feel as I do and are against this Bill. The legislature is going against the will of the people.

Like most people I work Monday through Friday during the day and I apologize for not being able to testify in person. I am opposed to one of the most important social issues in our history being decided virtually in one week during 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. I believe that the people who elected you should be given an opportunity to voice their opinion. This is democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Gregory Maesaka
Kailua, HI



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:40 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: pacifical@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
Ryan Malloy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:22 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: OccupyHiloMedia@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
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: please vote yes for equal rights

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:26 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: missc@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
Marleen	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. The proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 is inadequate in protecting my rights and the rights of the people. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Marleen I. Cabarloc 1560 Kikaha St. Hilo, HI 96720

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:25 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: catie.martin@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
Catie Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello Chairpersons, Vice Chairs, and committee members, I am writing today to voice my strong support of marriage equality. I feel it is my duty as an American citizen, and a citizen of the great state of Hawai'i to fight for the equal rights of all of our people. My bottom line is this: Everyone must get a license from the government to be married. If you must go through a government agency to be married legally, then it should be available to all adults, sexual orientation should not matter. Thank you for taking time to read this, Catie E. Martin

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:31 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: brienm@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
Brien Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's shameful that this is an issue at all. Everyone in this state, in this country, should already have the same rights regarding marriage and spousal/family benefits. Please, in the name of human rights and decency, pass this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:35 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mcj201@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
Matt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not allow same-sex marriage in Hawaii. Marriage is between a man and woman. If this law passes, it will backfire. The governor has no right to sign a bill this huge, this history making, without the vote of the people. If this law passes, will you force Pastors, Reverends, Priests, and so on to conduct same-sax weddings against their beliefs? What next then? Will you force Kamehameha schools to accept white students? Let white people own Hawaiian Homeland? America is a democracy, not dictatorship. Thank you and God Bless

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:28 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mcj201@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
Matt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I do not support same sex-marriage. I do not support what the governor is doing by taking away the right to vote. This is a democracy and We The People have a voice and the right to vote. I do not like the fact that not every official, including the governor, showed up on Monday the 28th of October. Please remember that we pay their salaries. We have the right by law as citizens of this great nation to vote for or against any law of any caliber. This law is too big to be debated and decided in just one week. We need more time and then it needs to be put on the ballot. There is more to this bill and law than just same-sex marriages. Please allow the right to vote as promised us by the constitution of the United States 1776 and the Constitution of Hawaii 1840. I appreciate your time. God Bless You.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:56 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mccormickfamily07@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
Elodie McCormick	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. Elodie McCormick Mililani, Hawaii

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Lucille and Stephen Meek

PO Box 982

Pepeekeo, HI 96783

Date: Oct. 29, 2013

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

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In this special session the legislative process is being crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. I know that this special session is a present fact; however you still have the freedom to vote no now with an agreement that the bill will be reintroduced in the regular session so that the people can have a full voice. I am certain voters on both side of the issue would be happy with this compromise. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been diminished. (For evidences see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share>)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full

voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Lucille and Stephen Meek

PO Box 982

Pepeekeo, HI 96783

Date: Oct. 29, 2013

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I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In this special session the legislative process is being crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. I know that this special session is a present fact; however you still have the freedom to vote no now with an agreement that the bill will be reintroduced in the regular session so that the people can have a full voice. I am certain voters on both side of the issue would be happy with this compromise. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

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We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full

voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:10 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: yong.melton@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
Yong Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The Honorable Karl Rhoads Chair, House Judiciary Committee The Honorable Sylvia Luke Chair, House Finance Committee Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB 1 I strongly oppose SB1 and it consideration during a five day special session. By its vey nature SB1 infringes upon religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment (U.S. Constitution) and Article I, Section 4 (State Constitution). . The special session is only be five days long and allows only two opportunities for public testimonies during committee hearings. Already, Senator Hee has disenfranchised most if the electorate by the rules that have been set for the session. Analysis of religious exemptions in the Governor’s draft same-sex marriage bill (dated 9/9/13) indicates the exemptions do not provide the same level of religious protection contained in legislation adopted by the 13 states and District of Columbia which have legalized same-sex unions—Hawaii’s exemptions are the weakest. The proposed Hawaii bill only specifies limited protections for religious organizations and facilities in connection with the state public accommodations law. Other states, such as Washington, specifically exempt religious organizations and their affiliates from the dictates of public accommodations laws. Of note, the definition of “religious organizations” for some states is detailed and inclusive, thus protecting a multitude of religious entities. However, the Hawaii bill does not define nor describe “religious organizations.” Delaware and other states specifically reference the U.S. and respective State Constitutions, and the importance of protecting religious freedom; the Hawaii bill does neither. Finally, but not inclusive of all of the dissimilarities, the short title of Vermont’s same-sex marriage law is “An Act to Protect Religious Freedom and Recognize Equality in Civil Marriage” and Hawaii’s proposed title is the “Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.” It is as if religious protections are an afterthought in the Governor’s bill and its passage a foregone conclusion. Any legislation which will transform all aspects of Hawaii’s society should be decided by the people of Hawaii; especially if it will infringe upon their constitutional rights and freedoms. Legislation regarding marriage should be developed in a constitutional process that guarantees the greatest transparency, the fullest debate, and the maximum participation of the electorate. Why is the Governor not allowing those most affected by his bill—the people of Hawaii—to vote on it? You have the power to stop this flawed legislation and flawed process. I respectfully ask that the House of Representatives kill the bill.. Mrs. Yong Melton Waipahu

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:06 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: danny.melton@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
Danny Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The Honorable Karl Rhoads Chair, House Judiciary Committee The Honorable Sylvia Luke Chair, House Finance Committee Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB 1 I strongly oppose SB1 and it consideration during a five day special session. By its vey nature SB1 infringes upon religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment (U.S. Constitution) and Article I, Section 4 (State Constitution). . The special session is only be five days long and allows only two opportunities for public testimonies during committee hearings. Already, Senator Hee has disenfranchised most if the electorate by the rules that have been set for the session. Analysis of religious exemptions in the Governor’s draft same-sex marriage bill (dated 9/9/13) indicates the exemptions do not provide the same level of religious protection contained in legislation adopted by the 13 states and District of Columbia which have legalized same-sex unions—Hawaii’s exemptions are the weakest. The proposed Hawaii bill only specifies limited protections for religious organizations and facilities in connection with the state public accommodations law. Other states, such as Washington, specifically exempt religious organizations and their affiliates from the dictates of public accommodations laws. Of note, the definition of “religious organizations” for some states is detailed and inclusive, thus protecting a multitude of religious entities. However, the Hawaii bill does not define nor describe “religious organizations.” Delaware and other states specifically reference the U.S. and respective State Constitutions, and the importance of protecting religious freedom; the Hawaii bill does neither. Finally, but not inclusive of all of the dissimilarities, the short title of Vermont’s same-sex marriage law is “An Act to Protect Religious Freedom and Recognize Equality in Civil Marriage” and Hawaii’s proposed title is the “Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.” It is as if religious protections are an afterthought in the Governor’s bill and its passage a foregone conclusion. Any legislation which will transform all aspects of Hawaii’s society should be decided by the people of Hawaii; especially if it will infringe upon their constitutional rights and freedoms. Legislation regarding marriage should be developed in a constitutional process that guarantees the greatest transparency, the fullest debate, and the maximum participation of the electorate. Why is the Governor not allowing those most affected by his bill—the people of Hawaii—to vote on it? You have the power to stop this flawed legislation and flawed process. I respectfully ask that the House of Representatives kill the bill.. Dan Melton Colonel, USMC Waipahu

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Hello,

My name is Harry Merryman; I stand in opposition to Same Sex Marriage (SSM) HB No. 1.

I am a Pennsylvania resident living in Hawaii because of my current duty assignment. As you may know I have no control over my assignment to this state. I will not however allow unjust actions take place before me without standing up against it, regardless of my state affiliation I still have a voice, because your decision effects the daily life of my family and the way we choose to live.

I defend freedom and democracy every day for every citizen. The beautiful thing about being an American citizen is we have a choice to decide who we are, whom we want to love. We deserve to live that life without fear of pressure or repercussion of a government for the lifestyle we choose to live. I do not feel we have the right to ban homosexuality, legally. However, I do morally oppose it, but my oppositions are just those, their mine. I do not force them on anybody else, nor should anyone else force their views on my family or me.

I stand in opposition for two reasons. First, my religious convictions prevent me from supporting this bill. Second, the impact this bill has on my children is disturbing.

I believe in the Holy Bible, and that the Bible is God's word, written for everyday life during at which the time it was written, for today and until the day of Pentecost. With that, there are numerous references opposing homosexuality and speaking of condemnation for that chosen lifestyle, along with other numerous lifestyles that contradict Christianity. Forcing these views in to our society are removing my freedom of speech and religion. My wife and I instill biblical values in our children and we reserve the right to choose how our children are raised, not the government.

Teaching my children these values in public school are simply unacceptable and as a parent I do not want my children to be exposed to this information. Children shouldn't be exposed to these values until the parent feels they are ready mentally and are mature enough to understand. The government should not have the ability to make that decision. Currently children are not taught about sexual preferences, and indoctrinating them in homosexuality implies they would have to accept that lifestyle as normal. If school aged, children are taught about sexuality of any form the parent should be informed, regardless of the child's age and regardless of the sexual orientation.

Passage of this bill removes my right and the right of my wife to choose to raise our children in the manner of which we decide. Please consider these concerns for your decision prior to casting your vote. If your decision is to vote "YES" please consider the ramifications of what it is going to have on the majority of the people and

consider the wording of the bill to not allow unequal results to come against those who are morally opposed to homosexuality.

I ask you to not to consider yourselves as blatantly irresponsible as Chair Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro and the majority of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. The voice of the people was expressed last night but most of the committee did not listen, to some point they were ignored. Some of the committee was asleep; the body language of Senator Hee was grossly disrespectful to nearly every citizen who expressed his or her concern.

I ask you to be the line of defense of the people of Hawaii; listen to the majority concern.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:50 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: rrmetcalf@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
robin metcalf	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please allow for true democracy on SSM. Let the people of Hawaii vote on this crucial issue! Mahalo, Robin Metcalf, Kailua

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:54 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: omusubi_ya@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
Charlotte MIKI	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support EQUAL RIGHTS SB 1. Everyone should have the right to get married whatever our sexual preferences are. By having equal rights, we would be teaching all children including children who are gay to be able to have hopes of marrying a same sex partner in the future and teach all that it is not wrong.

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10/29/2013

Joint Hearing on SB1-JUD & FIN

Aloha Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of this Joint Committee,

I submit this testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB1**, relating to equal rights. It is time for our community to move forward and progress into an era of change and equality. This issue is a simple issue of equal rights. Marriage should not be denied by members of this community who wish to do so, on the basis of their orientation.

I READ THE BILL. The concerns of religious people have been addressed in the bill and I believe the religious exemption is more than accommodating.

I ALSO SUPPORT THIS SPECIAL SESSION. I think that this special session is the right time to resolve this issue for two reasons. One, this bill needs to pass soon in order for same gender couples to be able to start receiving Federal benefits that opposite gender couples receive which usually kicks in at the beginning of the year. Second, getting this bill out of the way will ensure that other really pressing legislative issues can get the attention it needs in the upcoming session (just look at what happened to Obamacare at the Federal level).

THE COMMUNITY WANTS THIS. Although there are trustworthy polls that show a majority of support by Hawaii residents on this issue, civil rights issues such as this should be taken up by the legislative body. This issue has also already been acquiesced by both the Federal and State Supreme Courts as well.

Let us move forward on this issue to ensure that everyone in our community is treated equally with love and respect. Vote Aye on SB1.

Mahalo,

Megan Moniz

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

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

There is a reason minority rights are not determined by a popular vote, instead they are legislated by fair-minded, courageous legislators who have a deep respect for civil rights.

In each generation, it seems we face another crisis of civil rights and another crises of conscience. Each time we must face our preconceived notions, overcome those prejudices, and follow our better judgment.

Before I was born, my grandfather was sent to Honouliuli, and later to an internment camp in Colorado. During that same period, my father enlisted to join the 442nd to defend the nation that so unfairly interned his father-in-law, my grandfather. It is one reason I feel an obligation to support the civil rights of minorities.

I spent my career representing the United States overseas, sometimes in countries with far fewer protections of individual rights. We are ahead of many countries, but I recognize that our nation is still actively working toward the goal of equality for all.

As a woman and an Asian, I recognized there are other minorities who do not have the same rights I enjoy. I was able to meet and marry the man I love, though in a different time and place our interracial marriage would be illegal. I hope with the enactment of marriage equality, Hawaii and the nation will take a step closer to equality for all.

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

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.

KAREN MOON



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:12 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sean.mullaney79@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
Sean Mullaney	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 you to voice my very strong opposition to Bill SB1. The moral decay of our society will far outweigh any real or perceived gains made by you favoring SB1. I am concerned that not enough credence is being given to all of the negative consequences of your actions. The good of the people for the people, the majority who are opposed to SB1, should be your guide and override any personal political aspirations or hidden agendas. I ask 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 moral and social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week with severely limited due process 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 transform thousands of years of culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Finally, man cannot make moral what God has deemed immoral and He will remember those who try to do so. So will your constituents and your posterity. For your sake and my sake and the sake of our children, I urge you to vote NO on SB1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mr. Sean Mullaney Pearl City, 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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:32 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: jadem14@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
jade k mullaney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Sin even when legalized is still a sin. We cannot uphold laws of the land when those in office cannot uphold both the land and God's laws. I oppose SB1! Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:34 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: Idmuraoka@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
lyle muraoka	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Let the people decide what is the faith of their island. State Legislators are supposed to represent the whole people not only special interest groups. Also the same people who put you in office can vote you out of office. The majority of people want to vote on this issue. The demonstration on Monday proves what the majority wants.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:08 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mskelrod@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
Kawana Muse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To whom it may concern, I oppose this bill because marriage is defined by GOD as one man and one woman. This is not an issue that state or federal appointees voted into office by the people should be re-defining. The people have already spoke up on this issue in volumes and our voices should be heard as a deciding factor, since no one is listening to God! This session is done in secrecy; that's not true democracy. This will affect all family's on these islands not just those in the homosexual communities. God ordained marriage not man, he is the definer of this institution. This is a God thing. If there is a change that will affect all people the decision should be made from a vote! Jesus please help these islands if this bill is passed because we cannot separate our responsibility to the future inhabitants of this land because of the perversion of this society. God will not be mocked. Two locations Sodom & Gomorrah. Our country will be judged if we continue to disregard God's standard set in the Holy Bible. Open your eyes people. There should not have even been a special session on this issue that was just on a ballot. VOTE NO to SB1 Regards, Kawana Muse

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Date: Oct. 29, 2013

Karl Rhoads
Chair
Judiciary Committee

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

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

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

I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too weak and too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges.

I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy. The additional cases would increase the burden in our family court system, which is already overtaxed and often unable to meet the needs of our families. As it is now families often have to wait several months for their cases to be addressed. Allowing out of state non-taxpayers can only cause more burden to our family court system.

On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage.....as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of

the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent.

These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time.

The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii.

I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people

Sincerely,

Aaron Moke Stephens
Keaau, HI 96749

Date: Oct. 29, 2013

Karl Rhoads
Chair
Judiciary Committee

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

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

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

I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too weak and too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges.

I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy. The additional cases would increase the burden in our family court system, which is already overtaxed and often unable to meet the needs of our families. As it is now families often have to wait several months for their cases to be addressed. Allowing out of state non-taxpayers can only cause more burden to our family court system.

On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage.....as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of

the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent.

These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time.

The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii.

I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people

Sincerely,

Aaron Moke Stephens
Keaau, HI 96749

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

Re: **Please oppose 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.

Many states have adopted legislation that re-defines marriage to include same sex couples and according to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a \$6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship.”
- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.

These incidents are occurring in states whose legislation includes robust and specific protections for First Amendment rights. The Hawaii Bill SB1 contains no such protection. It contains a religious exemption, but it is far from adequate to protect the religious freedom and the freedom of speech for individuals, and does not protect religious facilities.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to **oppose SB1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A. Moke Stephens
Keaau, HI 96749



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:20 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: rnago@live.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
robert nago	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 in the Same-sex marriage bill 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 Sincerely, Robert K Nago

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:00 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: librarian96744@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
Naomi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB1. I support traditional marriage but beyond that I believe in religious freedom. I do not believe the language in SB1 will uphold that. I do not want to see a day where my child will be forced to learn about same sex marriage in schools when my religious belief does not support that. I do not want to see a day where our places of worship will be forced to conduct same sex marriages. Our country fought for the right to have religious freedom and now we are at a crossroads where we could lose it. Where is the logic in that?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:07 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: wanging@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
ni	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 indigenious 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. Ni Honolulu, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:07 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: wanging@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
ni	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. Ni Honolulu, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:11 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: nikkinu@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
nikki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please stop the same-sex marriage bill! Marriage is ordained of God between a man and a woman. Why would you want to "redefine" that? Do you fear man more than God? What would we be teaching our children if we promote same sex marriage, when we know that a child's best interest is to be raised by both a father and a mother. Also, my right to religious freedom is being infringed on if the bill doesn't benefit all parties! I don't support same-sex marriage and I also don't support mandating any institutions to perform anything against its belief or mission. Sincerely, Nikki Coyne Kihei, HI

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Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

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

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

I would like to express a "mahalo" for this opportunity to voice my opposition to SB1 relating to equality.

Same-sex marriage is uncharted territory for the people of Hawaii and we do not know all of the lasting consequences that will occur if this bill were to be passed. However, we do have history on our side and we can learn from other US states the results of same-sex marriage:

In California, laws were made to enforce acceptance of same-sex marriage, which falls under the idea of homosexuality, through a redefinition of gender and sexual orientation:

AB 1266, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2013, requires all K-12 public schools to permit biological boys in girls' restrooms, showers, clubs, and sports teams; and biological girls in boys' restrooms, showers, clubs, and sports teams.

SB 48, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2011, mandates that children from kindergarten through 12th grade, in all "instruction in social sciences," admire "the role and contributions of...lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans."

In Massachusetts:

Parker v. Hurley, 474 F.Supp.2d 261, 263 (D.Mass.2007); The suit was filed in 2006 after the Parkers' son, Jacob, brought home a book as part of the diversity book bag from his Estabrook Elementary kindergarten class in 2005.

The book, "Who's in a Family," showed various family types including a same-sex-headed household, as well as single parents and grandparents raising children. The Wirthlins' son, Joey, who was then in second grade, was in class on a day that marriage was the topic. At the time, a book on a prince marrying another prince was read to the class, "King and King."

I wish as well to appeal to your intellect:

If same-sex marriage were to be legal: taxpayers, consumers, and small business owners would be forced to bear the expense of subsidizing homosexual relationships-including their higher health care costs.

Schools would teach that homosexual relationships are identical to heterosexual ones; examples:

A lesbian who teaches 8th grade sex education in Massachusetts told NPR that she teaches her children how lesbians use "a sex toy" to have intercourse. If anyone objects, she says, "Give me a break. It's legal now." One father was *jailed* after protesting because his son-a *kindergarten* student-was given a book about same-sex couples.

One of the main reasons why the State bestows numerous benefits on marriage is that by its very nature and design, marriage provides the normal conditions for a stable, affectionate, and moral atmosphere that is beneficial to the upbringing of children—all fruit of the mutual affection of the parents. This aids in perpetuating the nation and strengthening society, an evident interest of the State.

Homosexual “marriage” does not provide such conditions. Its primary purpose, objectively speaking, is the personal gratification of two individuals whose union is sterile by nature. It is not entitled, therefore, to the protection the State extends to true marriage.

Respectfully submitted,

Israel Nitta



From: Judiciary Special Session
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:50 PM
To: House Special Session
Subject: FW: S.B. No. 1 Hearing Registration Number (Written Only)

From: Frances Nojiri [<mailto:fpnojiri@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:27 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: FW: S.B. No. 1 Hearing Registration Number

Please note: Since there was no e-mail address to submit written testimonies only as the Senate provided, I submitted it. So please accept my testimony as written only for I don't plan to give a verbal testimony.

Thank you!
Frances Nojiri

From: House Special Session No Reply [<mailto:hss456@capitol.hawaii.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:37 PM
To: 'fpnojiri@hotmail.com'
Subject: S.B. No. 1 Hearing Registration Number

To: Frances Nojiri

Your comments for S.B. No. 1 have been received. The registration number noted below indicates your place on the testifiers list for the October 31, 2013, Committees on Judiciary and Finance hearing. Please bring your number to the hearing so you will know your place in line. You do not need to sign in at the hearing.

For additional information or for assistance on the day of the Committee hearing, go to the special House information desk near the hearing room entrance.

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Registration Number: 514

October 29, 2013

Dear Chair Rhodes, Chair Luke & Members of the Judiciary & Finance Committee:

I stand in opposition to SB1.

I believe James Dobson from "Focus on the Family" says it best:

1. The legalization of homosexual marriage will quickly destroy the traditional family.

We've already seen evidence from the Scandinavian countries that defacto homosexual marriage destroys the real Mc Coy. These two entities cannot coexist because they represent opposite ends of the universe. A book could be written on the reasons for this collision between matter and antimatter, but I will cite three of them.

First, when the State sanctions homosexual relationships and gives them its blessing, the younger generation becomes confused about sexual identity and quickly loses its understanding of lifelong commitments, emotional bonding, sexual purity, the role of children in a family, and from a spiritual perspective, the "sanctity" of marriage. Marriage is reduced to something of a partnership that provides attractive benefits and sexual convenience, but cannot offer the intimacy described in Genesis. Cohabitation and short-term relationships are the inevitable result. Ask the Norwegians, the Swedes, and the people from the Netherlands. That is exactly what is happening there.

Second, the introduction of legalized gay marriages will lead inexorably to polygamy and other alternatives to one man/one woman unions. In Utah polygamist Tom Green, who claims five wives, is citing Lawrence v. Texas as the legal authority for his appeal. In January 2004, a Salt Lake City civil rights attorney filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of another couple wanting to engage in legal polygamy. Their justification? Lawrence v. Texas. The ACLU of Utah has actually suggested that the state will "have to step up to prove that a polygamous relationship is detrimental to society" — as opposed to the polygamists having to prove that plural marriage is not harmful to the culture. Do you see how the game is played? The responsibility to defend the family now rests on you and me to prove that polygamy is unhealthy. The ACLU went on to say that the nuclear family "may not be necessarily the best model." Indeed, Justice Antonin Scalia warned of this likelihood in his statement for the minority in the Lawrence case. It took less than six months for His prediction to become a reality.

Why will gay marriage set the table for polygamy? Because there is no place to stop once that Rubicon has been crossed. Historically, the definition of marriage has rested on a foundation of tradition, legal precedent, theology and the overwhelming support of the people. After the introduction of marriage between homosexuals, however, it will be supported by nothing more substantial than the opinion of a single judge or by a black - robed panel of justices. After they have reached their dubious decisions, the family will consist of little more than someone's interpretation of "rights." Given that unstable legal climate, it is certain that some self-possessed judge, somewhere, will soon rule that three men or three women can marry. Or five men and two women. Or four and four. Who will be able to deny them that right? The guarantee is implied, we will be told, by the Constitution. Those who disagree will continue to be seen as hate-mongers and bigots. (Indeed, those charges are already being leveled against Christians who espouse biblical values!) How about group marriage, or marriage between cousins, or marriage between daddies and little girls? How about marriage between a man and his donkey? Anything allegedly linked to "civil rights" will be doable. The legal underpinnings for marriage will have been destroyed.

The third reason marriage between homosexuals will destroy traditional marriage is that this is the ultimate goal of activists, and they will not stop until they achieve it. The history of the gay and lesbian movement has been that its adherents quickly move the goal line as soon as the previous one has been breached, revealing even more shocking and outrageous objectives. In the present instance, homosexual activists, heady with power and exhilaration, feel the political climate is right to tell us what they have wanted all along. This is the real deal: Most gays and lesbians do not want to marry each other. That would entangle them in all sorts of legal constraints. Who needs a lifetime commitment to one person? The intention here is to create an entirely different legal structure.

With marriage as we know it gone, everyone would enjoy all the legal benefits of marriage (custody rights, tax-free inheritance, joint ownership of property, health care and spousal citizenship, and much more) without limiting the number of partners or their gender. Nor would "couples" be bound to each other in the eyes of the law. This is clearly where the movement is headed. If you doubt that this is the motive, read what is in the literature today. Activists have created a new word to replace the outmoded terms infidelity, adultery, cheating and promiscuity. The new concept is polyamorous. It means the same thing (literally "many loves") but with the agreement of the primary sexual partner. Why not? He or she is probably polyamorous, too.

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Is that kind of censorship coming to the United States. Yes, I believe it is. Once homosexual marriage is legalized, if indeed that is where we are headed, laws based on what will be considered “equality” will bring many changes in the law. Furthermore, it is likely that non-profit organizations that refuse to hire homosexuals on religious grounds will lose their tax exemptions. Some Christian colleges and universities are already worrying about that possibility.

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11. The culture war will be over, and the world may soon become “as it was in the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37).

This is the climactic moment in the battle to preserve the family, and future generations hang in the balance. This apocalyptic and pessimistic view of the institution of the family and its future will sound alarmist to many, but I think it will prove accurate unless — unless — God’s people awaken and begin an even greater vigil of prayer for our nation. That’s why we are urgently seeking the Lord’s favor and asking Him to hear the petitions of His people and heal our land. As of this time, however, large segments of the church still appear to be unaware of the danger; its leaders are surprisingly silent about our peril (although we are tremendously thankful for the efforts of those who have spoken out on this issue).

This reticence on behalf of Christians is deeply troubling. Marriage is a sacrament designed by God that serves as a metaphor for the relationship between Christ and His church. Tampering with His plan for the family is immoral and wrong. To violate the Lord’s expressed will for humankind, especially in regard to behavior that He has prohibited, is to court disaster.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Nones

From Pearl City, Hawaii

October 29, 2013

Dear Chair Rhodes, Chair Luke & Members of the Judiciary & Finance Committee:

I stand in opposition to SB1.

I believe James Dobson from "Focus on the Family" says it best:

1. The legalization of homosexual marriage will quickly destroy the traditional family.

We've already seen evidence from the Scandinavian countries that defacto homosexual marriage destroys the real Mc Coy. These two entities cannot coexist because they represent opposite ends of the universe. A book could be written on the reasons for this collision between matter and antimatter, but I will cite three of them.

First, when the State sanctions homosexual relationships and gives them its blessing, the younger generation becomes confused about sexual identity and quickly loses its understanding of lifelong commitments, emotional bonding, sexual purity, the role of children in a family, and from a spiritual perspective, the "sanctity" of marriage. Marriage is reduced to something of a partnership that provides attractive benefits and sexual convenience, but cannot offer the intimacy described in Genesis. Cohabitation and short-term relationships are the inevitable result. Ask the Norwegians, the Swedes, and the people from the Netherlands. That is exactly what is happening there.

Second, the introduction of legalized gay marriages will lead inexorably to polygamy and other alternatives to one man/one woman unions. In Utah polygamist Tom Green, who claims five wives, is citing Lawrence v. Texas as the legal authority for his appeal. In January 2004, a Salt Lake City civil rights attorney filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of another couple wanting to engage in legal polygamy. Their justification? Lawrence v. Texas. The ACLU of Utah has actually suggested that the state will "have to step up to prove that a polygamous relationship is detrimental to society" — as opposed to the polygamists having to prove that plural marriage is not harmful to the culture. Do you see how the game is played? The responsibility to defend the family now rests on you and me to prove that polygamy is unhealthy. The ACLU went on to say that the nuclear family "may not be necessarily the best model." Indeed, Justice Antonin Scalia warned of this likelihood in his statement for the minority in the Lawrence case. It took less than six months for His prediction to become a reality.

Why will gay marriage set the table for polygamy? Because there is no place to stop once that Rubicon has been crossed. Historically, the definition of marriage has rested on a foundation of tradition, legal precedent, theology and the overwhelming support of the people. After the introduction of marriage between homosexuals, however, it will be supported by nothing more substantial than the opinion of a single judge or by a black - robed panel of justices. After they have reached their dubious decisions, the family will consist of little more than someone's interpretation of "rights." Given that unstable legal climate, it is certain that some self-possessed judge, somewhere, will soon rule that three men or three women can marry. Or five men and two women. Or four and four. Who will be able to deny them that right? The guarantee is implied, we will be told, by the Constitution. Those who disagree will continue to be seen as hate-mongers and bigots. (Indeed, those charges are already being leveled against Christians who espouse biblical values!) How about group marriage, or marriage between cousins, or marriage between daddies and little girls? How about marriage between a man and his donkey? Anything allegedly linked to "civil rights" will be doable. The legal underpinnings for marriage will have been destroyed.

The third reason marriage between homosexuals will destroy traditional marriage is that this is the ultimate goal of activists, and they will not stop until they achieve it. The history of the gay and lesbian movement has been that its adherents quickly move the goal line as soon as the previous one has been breached, revealing even more shocking and outrageous objectives. In the present instance, homosexual activists, heady with power and exhilaration, feel the political climate is right to tell us what they have wanted all along. This is the real deal: Most gays and lesbians do not want to marry each other. That would entangle them in all sorts of legal constraints. Who needs a lifetime commitment to one person? The intention here is to create an entirely different legal structure.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Nones

Hope Chapel Kapolei



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:12 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: nuniesn@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
Nell Nunies	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Like demanding placement at Kamehameha Schools, or onto the Hawaiian Homes Land roll, on the grounds of discrimination, same-sex marriage is rooted in a culture of entitlement, not equality. Therefore, the introduction of the same-sex marriage bill by Governor Abercrombie and State legislators is both capricious, and an egregious breach of public trust.

In 1998, nearly 70 percent of Hawaii voters voted yes to a constitutional amendment granting the state Legislature “the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.” The "Defense of Marriage" amendment, now in more than half of state constitutions, resulted in a law banning gay marriage in Hawaii but left the door open for civil unions. The amendment negated a 1993 Hawaii Supreme Court ruling in the *Baehr vs Lewin* case, that found refusing to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples was discriminatory.

When the civil unions bill was passed, and signed into law, State legislators upheld this amendment in the bill's preamble, which states: "The Legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman."

Our congressional delegation has compelled state legislators to act now, citing the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). However, upon closer scrutiny of the majority opinion, only portions of DOMA were declared unconstitutional, only those regarding the rights of same-sex couples already married in states where it is legal, and then, only regarding spousal entitlements to federal benefits. Nowhere in the decision does the Supreme Court overturn individual State constitutions, where marriage has already been defined by amendment.

State Rep. Marcus Oshiro agreed, when he stated, “I don't think it passes constitutional muster.” Oshiro further stated, “I don't believe the Legislature is up to speed on all the intricacies and effects of not only the issue of marriage but the larger social issues that can arise.” This fact reveals itself in the current language of the bill. With little or no distinction between the terms “marriage” and “wedding,” the religious exemptions outlined pertain only to the latter.

This raises questions such as: Can a church-affiliated institution refuse to hire a same-sex spouse on religious grounds? Can it terminate a current employee if he/she later marries a same-sex partner? If not, will it then be compelled to provide benefits to the new spouse of that employee? To cede these and other uncertainties to the courts to resolve later would create a litigious “rabbit-hole.”

To pass S.B. 1 is not only unconstitutional, but it rejects the voice of the people, whose government this is. Its passage will waste millions of dollars, and thousands of man-hours as it will no doubt make its way on appeal through the judicial system. Money and energy that could have been spent on weightier matters, like the economy, our homeless, and the horrendous state of our public school buildings and roads. If S.B. 1 passes, the only ones who will profit will be the attorneys.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:36 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: christinamolive@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)*

SB1

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Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:57 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mikeo61@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
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and women. What are the proponents of same sex marriage trying to do, rewrite the Holy Bible and Hawaii Centuries old History? That would be wrong! Let the people of Hawaii decide on this important issue of marriage and not the Legislature. Furthermore, to grant special benefits and privileges to a certain group of people is discriminatory towards heterosexual males and females. The issue of same sex marriage is not like race in which a person has no control over the color of his or her skin of which they were born. Same sex is a matter of choice and life-style not to be confused or associated with class or race. Homosexuality is a life-style, which is harmful to the family and society as a whole. I strongly urge Governor Abercrombie and the Legislature to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on Marriage. The public will support whatever the outcome will be. Sincerely, Ava O'Shaughnessy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:59 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mikeo61@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
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Mr. Governor and Legislature, I'm a senior citizen who is heart-broken over this issue. My heart breaks for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Same Sex Marriage is not a marriage blessed by God, it is a life-style birth out of sinful desires. God will not allow any nation to continue on this destructive path very long. Governor Abercrombie and Legislature, remember this, one day you will stand before God and give an answer to your stance on this very important issue. I pray to God He will find you not guilty! I urge you very strongly to say "No" to Same Sex Marriage and let the people of Hawaii decide and vote on this. Mahalo Sina Owens

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Cc: mikeo61@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
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and women. What are the proponents of same sex marriage trying to do, rewrite the Holy Bible and Hawaii Centuries old History? That would be wrong! Let the people of Hawaii decide on this important issue of marriage and not the Legislature. Furthermore, to grant special benefits and privileges to a certain group of people is discriminatory towards heterosexual males and females. The issue of same sex marriage is not like race in which a person has no control over the color of his or her skin of which they were born. Same sex is a matter of choice and life-style not to be confused or associated with class or race. Homosexuality is a life-style, which is harmful to the family and society as a whole. I strongly urge Governor Abercrombie and the Legislature to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on Marriage. The public will support whatever the outcome will be. Sincerely, Ava O'Shaughnessy

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Cc: mikeo61@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
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB1 Bill; "Marriage" between a Man and a Women is the basis of God's fundamental unit of a "Family". To change "Marriage" to any other definition is an abomination of God's Law (The Holy Bible) and the original Constitution from which this great Country was founded and blessed by God for following His Laws. EIS (Environmental Studies) are accomplished to study the affects of major changes to our Communities. Has the Hawaiian Legislature accomplished and EIS on the long term affects on our future generations which this major legal shift in the definition of a Traditional Family will cause? This Law will force teachers to teach a new Non-Traditionally Family believe system to our Children in our Hawaiian Public School System at a very young age. It will impede on our rights to speak freely of faith on our streets or inside our Churches. Has the Hawaiian Legislator or our Governor even considered the negative affects of the Same Sex Law presently in Massachusetts, Canada and Europe, where parents no longer have the rights to opt out their own children from school when Public Schools teach against the Traditional Family? Where people and Pastors, Priest and Rabbis are arrested for speaking of their faith, once protected by the First Amendment, but now is a "hate crime"? Where tax payers, consumers and business will be forced to subsidize homosexual relationships? Where freedom of conscience and religious liberties are threaten? Where there once was a Democracy and now a Dictatorial State of the few??? I, and many others do NOT hate gays and lesbian. This is a matter of my FAITH and standing up for Traditional Marriage which is good, healthy and normal in our State and Country for generations. Has anything bad has ever come from Traditional Marriages? Absolutely not! Traditional Marriage is sound and true! If this is legalized, WHERE DOES THIS STOP?! The flood gates will flow to whomever minority who also wants their "rights", "what is fair for me" and "it is because of love I should be granted this". Why should we denied their rights of these other minorities, all of them? Immoral, unhealthy, why should it matter? Then cries to eliminate Marriage and the Traditional Family altogether. You bet! Then what is our Country really founded on? Absolutely nothing that was once good, wholesome, holy and sacred! We will fall for anything. Hawaii already has a law for the rights of same sex unions! To Legalize a Same Sex Law is now going too far! THIS LAW WILL BE AGAINST THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AS WE VOTED IN PRINCIPLE AGAINST IN 1998! This law will go against the majority of Hawaiians rights and will! A case of a small minority rights overruling the majority because of powerful special interest groups. A case where the minority will impose a law over the majority of the traditional values and believes of what makes Hawaii great; the Traditional Family. NOT GOOD POLITICS! And not good for the majority of Hawaiians who want a REAL Democracy! If there is any doubt that I am NOT speaking for the majority of the views of Hawaiians,

any doubt at all, THEN LET THE PEOPLE'S VOTE AND INDIVIDUAL VOICE DECIDE; NOT A SPECIAL INTEREST SESSION OF A FEW TO OVERCOME THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII ON SUCH A SENSITIVE AND FUNDIMENTAL ISSUE AS THIS! Thank you, and may God Bless YOU for standing for principle for the Hawaiian Traditional Family! Respectfully, Michael O'Shaughnessy (A Concerned Citizen)

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:35 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: randg@inboxalias.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
Ruben Paet	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the same gender marriage legislation. This is a democracy and on an issue of this importance the voters should decide.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:40 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: djfriendis@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
dana pagalaboyd	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! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Dana Pagalaboyd

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Carol Parker
PO Box 25714
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 26, 2013

ALL HAWAII STATE LEGISLATORS
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1 (H.B. 5): *The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1 (H. B. 5), The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion, and ultimately also denies individual citizens the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
2. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language “reserve marriage” indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
3. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion and ultimately also denies business owners the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
4. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage without regard to the impact and consequences on Hawaii, society, the community, and individual rights.
5. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
6. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
7. It appears to be the act of the State of Hawaii Executive Branch and the Legislature to put the ‘wants’ of non-residents of Hawaii over the needs and will of residents of the people of Hawaii and the registered voters of Hawaii.
8. It appears to be the act of a legislative body attempting to ignore the firmly expressed will of registered Hawaii voters and bypass the voters of Hawaii who have already voted on this issue.
9. It appears to be the first act of a legislative body being forced to pass legislation by an Executive Branch attempting to show its first step in showing its power over the people of Hawaii.
10. It excludes legislative representatives of some registered voters of Hawaii the process and opportunity to vote on the legislation. This violates the US Constitution guaranteed right for the people to be represented in the legislation process.

I urge you to vote **NO on S.B. 1** (H. B. 5). Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Carol Parker
Registered Hawaii Voter



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:05 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kanujiparmar@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
kanuji parmar	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support marriage equality in Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:31 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: s.r.permito@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
Shirley Permito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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My name is Patrick Perry

I'm a father, grandfather and a pastor

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share what's on my heart concerning this matter that's being addressed (same sex marriage)

Much can't be said in two minutes.

I'm standing against this bill because of what I believe in (spiritually as well as physically)

I need to cut through the chase and get to the point.

I'll give you a small history and prophetic lesson.

As some of you might know, God created the heavens and the earth as well as man.

He is sustaining man and everything else by His grace.

He has given us His Word as a guideline to live here upon HIS earth (if we like it or not, or even if we don't want to acknowledge that, the truth is the truth)

He tells us that He is against homosexuality and lesbianism.

The bible declares there is a heaven and there is a hell as well as the earth on which we are living on now.

But after this there will be a judgment for every individual.

Your decisions will affect your destiny as well as the destiny of many others.

If you decided to pass this bill then you are coming against HIS Will and Purpose(s)

One day you will leave this earth and you will spend eternity --- either in hell or heaven

You shouldn't be taking this lightly

The Word of God is the Supreme Law of the land

God is the Supreme Judge of all.

You need to let the voice of your constituents decide the outcome of this important matter, instead of taking it upon yourself to make this decision

You're their representative.

You should take this matter to them in their town hall meetings, why would you let someone force you to make a hasty decision!

And a very important decision at that

Have you considered the welfare of you constituents: having them to come to the capital (getting up early, fighting traffic, looking for parking, paying for the use of these spaces, taking off from work, and losing valuable time from their jobs?)

This also needs to be considered.

By taking this to the people you would relieve the people from much of the stresses of life.

I yield the remaining of my time.

Thank You



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:29 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: opihiman2@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
Robert Pihi	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I oppose it bill sb1 let the people vote

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Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:05 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: pwahines3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)
Attachments: t.pages

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
kelly pocock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:10 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sgprice33@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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I support traditional marriage and traditional family value. Let the people vote

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Cc: sgprice33@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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I believe in traditional marriage and traditional family values.

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To: House Special Session
Cc: sgprice33@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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I believe in traditional marriage and traditional family values. I believe in being loving and tolerant to all people but that does not mean that I support their lifestyles. SSM should not become legal.

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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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I believe in traditional marriage and traditional family values. I believe in being loving and tolerant to all people but that does not mean that I support their lifestyles. SSM should not become legal.

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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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I believe in traditional marriage and traditional family values. I believe in being loving and tolerant to all people but that does not mean that I support their lifestyles. SSM should not become legal.

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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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill. I believe in traditional marriage and traditional family values. I believe in being loving and tolerant to all people but that does not mean that I support their lifestyles. SSM should not become legal.

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Cc: sgprice33@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
Sabrina Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is a complex issue it deserves more time to make sure that if we give rights to others it doesn't involve taking rights away from the rest of us. I don't want SSM taught in my children's school. I do believe in loving all and tolerating different lifestyles, however that doesn't mean i believe that those "alternate" lifestyles" are right and should be taught to our children, That should be a parents right, not the governments. I strongly oppose this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:22 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: live-fierce@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
Richelle Quindica	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Sirs, My Name is Richelle Quindica and I strongly oppose SB1 for Same Sex Marriage, Not only am I a Christian and believer of the Word of God being that Marriage is between Man & Wife, but I have a friend who's daughter at 5yrs old was placed in a Gay Marriage Household by the State along w/four boys and just this year (some ten years later) one of the men killed himself and the other imprisoned due one of the children telling their teachers after they were moved out of the state of Hawaii, away from Family and Loved ones of all that was going on at home...The Children were being molested, raped and abused from an early age and were being threatened and banned from having ANY contact whatsoever w/any of their family members. Now, the five children although close knit, VERY SCARRED for life, now in program, having to see psychiatrists and doctors and so much more because of decisions that were made for them, for their future, for their children and their children's children. Please vote No! Let the people vote. I plead to you for you kind and well thought out decision. God Bless You! GOD BLESS AMERICA!!! ALOHA RICHELLE

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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.

Melba Quioco



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:05 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: melvin.ramos2010@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
Melvin Ramos	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: We would like to express our objection to this bill. For one, we do not agree with same-sex marriage. Marriage, according to the Bible should be between a man and a woman only. We believe this to be the will of God, so who are we to say that it should be changed? What is immoral is immoral. We cannot make it moral by making it legal. The other reason why we object to this bill is that it can impact the activities we have as a church. It would make it so that we must allow these marriages to take place on the church premises if we allow non-members to join us. Our church is a missionary church. It would be absurd not to allow people who are not members on the premises. This bill is essentially telling us that if we want to do what we do as a missionary church, which is invite people to "come unto Christ," then we also have to allow same-sex marriages to take place. There is one problem: we will not condone this type of marriage because we feel it goes against the will of God. Churches need to be protected from this bill. Please don't ask us to reduce our convictions and deny our beliefs. Please vote "no." Sincerely, Melvin Ramos, Grace Ramos, Children: Anika, Lauren, Gabriel, and Samuel Ramos

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:48 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: boydready@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
Boyd Ready	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is no equality between the necessarily fruitless pairs who now seek to marry and the usually fruitful pairs we have for thousands of years been marrying. You can put a square peg into a round hole but it will not exactly fit, will it? Calling equal what is in reality unequal will create an untenable tension in society with entire constellations of activities forced to re-cohere around this new status -- in schools, in courtship among the young, in family courts, in domestic life. Do you know what you are doing? Everyone has always had the equal right to marry, there is nothing 'unequal' about necessarily fruitless pairs not being married. Children are not treated as adults, foreign travelers are not treated as citizens, siblings are not permitted to marry, and merely affectionate but necessarily fruitless pairs are not eligible to marry. Breaking down these distinctions in the name of 'equality' places the state in a more and more dominant position as the arbiter of more and more domestic relations -- this is the path to a totalitarian domination over free individuals. I urge you to vote NO.

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 7:29 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: tadd@tjrworks.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
Tadd Rienstra	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. Tadd Rienstra Waipahu 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.

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House Judiciary and Finance Committee
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 29, 2013

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 which is being discussed in the Hawai'i legislature.

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.

A Concerned Voter,

Lawrene L. Rodrigues
Lawrene L. Rodrigues
17-148 Palula St.
Keaau, HI 96749

Dear Representatives;

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our State. I live in upper Kaumana in Hilo Hawaii. I am writing to express my concerns to you regarding the same sex marriage bill. I urge you to vote against the same sex marriage bill. I love Hawaii just as much as I am sure that you do. I love our keiki. I am very concerned that if this bill passes, they will try to normalize homosexuality and brainwash the very impressionable children of Hawaii.

I am a Christian. I do not insist that the Government make laws that would force the DOE to teach my religious beliefs regarding sexual orientation. There would be an outcry of a violation of Church and State if that were to happen. Yet, if this bill were to pass, curriculum regarding a minority group's view of sexual orientation would be implemented in the DOE. I am crying out to you before that happens. Please protect our children.

I personally believe that sexual education should be left to the parents or caregiver, not the school system. I also believe that K through the age of 12 is too young for any type of sex education, gay or straight. Children of those ages are still forming their personalities. Will the children get confused? Will they convince themselves that they are gay when they are not? What are the ramifications of passing such a bill? Where are the longevity studies? Did you even study any of the data from the other states who passed similar bills? Did you call upon expert testimony from both sides? Can you do your job fairly without such research?

I also respectfully urge you to vote "no" on the same sex marriage bill for the following reasons:

- 1) The religious exemption in the bill will not apply to most churches as they will not qualify for the exemption.
- 2) The first amendment rights in this bill is not specific. Other States who passed a SSM law was specific concerning the 1st Amendment rights. Why doesn't the proposed bill contain verbiage regarding the 1st Amendment.
- 4) The people of Hawaii will be forced to accept a law without enough input. 5-6 days is not enough time for public input and discussion. Especially for an issue that is important as this. Why the rush to pass this bill? Are the other states that do not have a SSM bill rushing? Are they holding special sessions? It appears that there is something amiss in this Special Session.
- 5) The legislature will not be allowed to amend any bill approved in a Special Session. There is not an adequate amount of time to discuss this bill. You will be passing a bad bill that cannot be changed.

6) Why not let the people vote on this issue? We overwhelmingly voted against it in 1998 presuming that the legislature will define marriage in the terms of a traditional marriage. You are turning the tables on the voters.

Sincerely,

Laura-Lee Rodrigues
Hilo, Hawaii



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:26 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: stk808@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
Sam K	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am a citizen,wife, mother, and former DOE teacher, retired, and I oppose the SB1 bill. I support traditional marriage between a man & a woman, because of my religious beliefs. Let the people decide to protect religious freedoms, vote No, on this bill. Mahalo Thomasene Kinikini

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October 29, 2013

Thursday, October 31, 2013 –10:00 a.m.
House's Committee on Judiciary
House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

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

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.

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.

This is NOT a religious issue, it's a civil rights issue. All I want is EQUALITY. The same rights afforded every US citizen under the constitution of the United States.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. I encourage you to be on the "RIGHT" side of history!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Savino
PO Box 390
Kaunakani, HI 96747
Kauaiboy4200@aol.com

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL 5 HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads & Sylvia Luke, Chairs
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Joint Committee on Judiciary and Finance
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

TESTIMONY Submitted on behalf of UNITE HERE! Local 5

Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the Joint House Committee on Judiciary & Finance:

My name is Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing approximately 10,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State.

I hereby register our Organization's support of Senate Bill 1, relating to Equal Rights.

SB 1 is controversial. There are many strong feelings generated by the issue that is central to this bill. Some people come before this committee with great hopes, and look at this bill as a way to seek validation and recognition long withheld. Others come before this committee with great fear, seeing in this bill a threat to beliefs they hold dear. There will be much strong emotion, springing from many sources, expressed before you today.

But this bill is not about those things.

This bill is not about validating people's existence, nor is it about endangering social institutions. This bill is about economic justice, and the right of each of us to expect and receive fair treatment from our government.

Equality before the law is not a new concept. The notion that all people have a right to equal treatment from government is at the foundation of our democracy. It is written in our most fundamental law. It is the basic ideal that our government is expected to live up to.

This legislation is an attempt to make our laws live up to the cherished ideals of our society. But at its core, this bill is not about the laws or ideals. This bill is about people.

When my wife got sick, nobody questioned my right to be there in the hospital by her side. When her job was taken away from her, and she lost her health care, no one questioned my right to cover her under my medical insurance. I expect these things, because the law provides for them.

But this isn't true for all of my fellow citizens. In a society where our government has solemnly pledged to provide equal rights for all, we have failed to do so for some. This failure demeans us, and makes a mockery of our most cherished ideals.

Equal rights and equal treatment for all is not just the right thing to do. It is key to bringing our society together, so we can work toward a common purpose. Our union has learned this, not from any book, but in practice.

Our union is an organization whose mission, role and existence is founded on the solidarity and concerted activity of our members. Our most fundamental task is to build unity and common purpose among our members. To do this, we must overcome divisions of all sorts that exist among our extended family. We need to bring people whose ancestors have been here for centuries together with those recently arrived from many countries. In order to have the power to protect any of our members, we must unite people of different religions, different languages, different skin colors, different traditions.

And, different ways of living their private lives, and organizing their families.

In order for each person to commit to building our union, we have to fight for every person. Our members need to see us include everyone, for each individual to feel included.

That's why we fight for immigrant rights at the same time we fight for the rights of Native Hawaiians. We fight for equal treatment between men and women, between young and old, between races of people from all over the globe.

That's why we fight for the rights of those of us whose families are different, who have fallen in love differently. If we fail to fight for each, we undermine the unity and power of all.

Now is the time for Hawaii's legislature to take a stand. Bring us together. Care for all of us, equally. Pass SB 1.

October 29, 2013

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

Since I cannot be present to testify, I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session on Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

It is my firm belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. Marriage is a sacred blessing for two individuals of the opposite gender to come together in love and create children. The blessing and honor of having children is not possible between Same-sex marriages. The children raised under same gender couples do not receive the necessary balance that a heterosexual marriage offers. 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 greatly affect the curriculum taught to **all** of our children. To discuss and decide the outcome of an issue of this magnitude, amongst the politicians only, takes my rights as a citizen away. This is something that should be decided by the people. **PLEASE 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.** 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 request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Lanae S. Akiona
A Citizen of Hilo Hawaii District

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.

Aloha,
Jeffrey Pagalaboyd



The House
Joint Committees on Judiciary and Finance
Thursday, October 31, 2013
10:00 a.m.

SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

Dear Chairperson Rhoads, Chairperson Luke and Committee Members:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly representing the faculty of the University of Hawaii has a long and distinguished history of standing up for the rights of our members. We worked for passage of the rights of our members to enter into civil unions. UHPA negotiated non-discrimination protections in our contract and actively does its part to ensure all citizens are afforded full access to legal rights and economic benefits.

It is time for a broader acceptance of equal rights for all. SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, simply extends federal benefits to couples that are in civil unions, benefits that are available to same sex couples already married. While we respect the diversity of opinions on this issue, we believe that the religious beliefs of those opposed to SB1 can be reasonably accommodated through the legislative process.

UHPA supports passage of SB1. We urge the committee members to support efforts to advance the civil rights of our gay community.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Duffy
President

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>

Above everything I want to say that I do not hate homosexuals and believe that they should be treated like any other person. The thing I disagree on is when a preference becomes law. I believe that allowing homosexuals to be married will lead to more gay rights that will change our state greatly. I think that it will soon change what is allowed in schools. This concerns me a lot because children will be taught information that parents should be responsible for telling. I want to say one last thing, and that is the more children are exposed to homosexuality the more likely will become homosexual.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:45 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: moesears@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
Moe Sears	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:03 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: aseyko@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Anthony Seyko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My wife, Arnette Seyko and I both oppose this bill on religious grounds. Put this to a vote of the people, and not the legislature. It will be remembered by all during election time. Let God and your conscience be your guide.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:33 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: candari@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
Sherry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill because I strongly believe it would have a negative impact on children and families, and therefore on society as a whole.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:05 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sherrymoto6@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
Sherry Shinmoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Keep Marriage Traditional!!!!!!

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October 31, 2013, 10:00 am

House Judiciary and Finance Committee

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

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

I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage. I believe marriage should be between one man and one woman. It would be greatly appreciated if the State of Hawaii could continue to define marriage between one man and one woman only. Traditional Marriage is so vital to our society, and to our existence. Please allow the people to vote on this matter at a later time.

Sincerely,

Celeste Shiraishi

94-286 Waipahu Street

Waipahu, HI 96797

My name is Mary Ann Fritzie Simon and I've been a Hawaii resident since 1994. I strongly **OPPOSE** SB1. If this bill is passed, how will the schools be impacted? If same-sex marriage is legalized in Hawaii, the children will be curious about same-sex relationships which I strongly believe will lead to having to add homosexuality in our school system. In other states that allowed same sex marriage, students learn about same sex relationships as early as kindergarten. In California in 2008, a San Francisco Bay Area district was accused of discrimination for not including homosexuality in its curriculum therefore leading the school to agree to include same-sex families in lessons starting in elementary school. (Voegele, 2013). Will teachers be given the opportunity to opt out if they do not support this bill? Are the students allowed to opt out if, they too, are against this bill or don't believe in same sex marriage? Will parents be notified of possible changes in the school curriculum? Parents and religious leaders said that their rights were being violated because they had no control over whether their children received such lesson (Vogele, 2013).

Prayer was taken out of schools in June 25, 1962 because opponents weren't comfortable with this "religious act." Not everyone agrees with having homosexuality to be a part of the school curriculum, will the government react the same? A Christian may advocate faith in Jesus Christ as much as an atheist may reject faith in Jesus Christ. Both of which are protected rights. But why is it that the freedom to pray was banned from schools because others claimed that students were forced to hear the prayers of Christians? Lawmakers later claimed that prayer in school was unconstitutional. The 1st Amendment does not only protect an individual's right to free speech but also for their rights to not be coerced into speech. We have the freedom to reject homosexuality. Acceptance cannot be forced on us...especially in our school system.

Upon deciding on this bill, please consider how this will impact our children and the future generation. I believe it is unconstitutional to pass a law that will forever change Hawaii within a week. Everyone knows how sensitive this matter is so why not take time upon making a decision...and let the people of Hawaii vote? Hawaii is all about Ohana, why not include the whole state to decide on this bill? Hawaii's motto is: *The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness*. Before finalizing your decisions, please think to yourselves if your choice is righteous...Righteous for the people of Hawaii, for our future generation, and most especially in the eyes of God. Proverbs 11:19 (NET) – "True righteousness leads to life..."

Reference:

Voegele, Kevira. (2013, March 14). Should Gay Marriage Be Part of a District's Curriculum?
<http://edina.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/should-gay-marriage-be-part-of-a-district-s-curriculum>



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:45 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: haleluana@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
Louise Simrell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have submitted to the House and to one committe, hope this is not a duplicate. I am strongly in favor of equal rights. Equality is not an equivocal issue; a person is entitled to marry the person of his or choice. Our rainbow will have an even larger meaning when Hawaii joins the other states that endorse marriage equality. To those who oppose it, I would remind them that there are many of us old enough to remember when inter-racial marriage was unlawful. Thank you. Aloha, Louise Simrell

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October 28, 2013 @ 10:30 am

TO: Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

We can't be silent on this issue. I am speaking as a concerned citizen and I care for the people of Hawaii as a whole. Please vote, "NO" To Special Session & Same Sex Marriage. You know it is the only answer that will free you, your family and the people of Hawaii from going through another law that has a lot of loop holes that will follow, later.

Our children of Hawaii have rights, too. Voting "NO" will continue to give our children the Freedom of Speech to express their culture and continue to live the "Aloha Life Style" they are taught from their home, their school, and their religion.

I will close with this:

"When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test".

Thank you and Mahalo Nui Loa,

Patricia K. Souza



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:10 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: rspacer@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
Richard Spacer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass marriage equality for ALL people in Hawaii. Thank you.

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From: Judiciary Special Session
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:09 PM
To: House Special Session
Subject: FW: Oppose to SB1! (Written Only)

From: Stacey [<mailto:thepea3@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Oppose to SB1!

I am opposed to legalizing same sex marriage! Vote NO to this. Marriage between Man & Woman is ordained by God.

Stacey

Date: Oct. 29, 2013

Karl Rhoads Chair
Judiciary Committee

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

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

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

I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too weak and too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges.

I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy. The additional cases would increase the burden in our family court system, which is already overtaxed and often unable to meet the needs of our families. As it is now families often have to wait several months for their cases to be addressed. Allowing out of state non-taxpayers can only cause more burden to our family court system.

On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage.....as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent.

These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time.

The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii.

I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people

Sincerely,

Aaron Moke Stephens
Keaau, HI 96749



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:33 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: suestone125@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
Sue Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for allowing me to testify in STRONG support of SB1. I grew up amidst the Civil Rights era where African Americans fought for their rights to marry whom they chose and for just the right to drink from the same drinking fountain as myself who happens to be Caucasian/Native American. Marriage equality IS about Civil Rights- the right to have the same benefits as everyone else in the majority. If Civil Rights had been left to the votes of the majority, folks who are anything other than Caucasian (and male) would not be enjoying rights/benefits they enjoy today under the Constitution of the United States or the states in which they reside. Some say the difference is that "they" were born of a color they did not choose, and that people who love others of their own gender make choices to love others who are of our own gender. However, I have never known one person identifying as heterosexual who reports on when they "chose" to be heterosexual. It is not a choice. We are born as we are, the way the Creator made us. And as taxpaying citizens of this state of Hawaii and the United States of America we need to have the same rights as equal citizens to marry those we love. I strongly support the passage of Marriage Equality in Hawaii. Thank you again for this opportunity.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:35 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sullivanj001@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
James Sullivan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Equal Rights and urge my Hawaii legislators to pass SB1. Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono! No more second class citizens in Hawaii nei.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:26 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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
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 for same sex couples 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 not religious 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 of the US, and by the way, is acceptable in the Bible. 6) private citizens who don't like same sex marriage will be forced to provide services to gay people. But this has nothing to do with this bill but with current laws about discrimination. If a same sex couple gets married in a state where it is legal, then comes here, private citizens already have to provide services to these people (just like the bakers in Oregon, a state without same sex marriage, got in trouble when they didn't want to bake a cake). If people don't like this, they need to change public accommodations/nondiscrimination law, which is a whole separate issue thank you. Stephen Sussman, MD

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Dear Honorary Members,

My name is Adrian Tam. I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hi, and I currently study history at the Pennsylvania State University. After graduation, I plan on moving back to the islands to start a family. This is why I am writing in **strong support** for Senate Bill 1.

I do not feel comfortable allowing an entire majority to decide the fate of a minority. History will show that the civil rights issue would never be on a ballot. Whether the issue was women's rights or segregation. Many people during that time would have voted no, on their ballots, on civil rights issues. History will also show that opinions change and we see this in states like Massachusetts, Maryland, and Washington, we also see this in the United States Supreme Court in the recent ruling on the *Defense of Marriage Act*.

It is also important for me to address the idea of same sex marriage as a civil rights issue. Marriage has many benefits that include; health care, tax exemptions, inheritance rights, etc. For benefits to be denied to a certain group of citizens based on their sexual orientation is an act of discrimination. In the US Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* of 1967, the SCOTUS ruled, "Marriage is a civil right of man." On May 19, 2012 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People named same-sex marriage as "one of our key civil rights struggles of our time." These are just two of many groups that recognize same-sex marriage as a civil right.

I would like to spend some time mentioning a heated issue with SB1 and that is what the bills overreaching effects on the board of education will be. Many have been overly critical of techniques supposedly used in states such as Massachusetts's, which now has same-sex curriculum in various grade levels. It is my firm belief that education for teens ages 13-18 involving sexual education topics such as STI/STD protection and etcetera that is now in Hawaii's curriculum at many public schools, should be extended to the LGBT community, and not taught as though all students are heterosexual. One of many concerns brought up is the awareness of anal intercourse in curriculum, which in the gay and other communities is usually linked with HIV/AIDS. It is of the utmost importance that Hawaii's students are brought attention to this issue, for both hetero and homosexual students anal intercourse can be very dangerous if the proper precautions are not taken. I believe it is in the best interest of the state to have sexual education topic such as this added in the already current day curriculum so LGBT students, for one, are given the same respect as heterosexual students to learn how to protect them selves specifically from sexually transmitted diseases and Infections linked to their same sex relationships, as well as immune-deficiency viruses such as HIV and AIDS. If these topics are not taught to the LGBT students while in schools at this age, we are letting them experience life possibly not fully aware of these topics and can lead to experimentation and looking for resources in the wrong places such as via the web. Parents are stating they do no want their children exposed to such topics, yet this is essential in the protection of their children, who may very well be at this time in their lives closeted and not open with their parents or fully aware of their homosexuality as of yet. All in all, homosexuality is alive in our communities, and we cannot and should not pretend it does not exists, for the LGBT students safety who are already needed to listen to heterosexual "sex-ed" topics,

how is it any different to address both hetero and homosexual protection in such school curriculum to cover the diversity of students attending our schools.

On a personal note, I never really thought about marriage in my life. I only thought about it recently when I met Mike, we have been together for several months now and the love and connection that I have with him is strong. It has not been a long time, but I now understand the pain that so many members of my community share. It is unfair that there have been same-sex couples that have been together for many years and are unable to have their love recognized. Some of these couple have also been together longer than married heterosexual couples.

Strong families are built with commitment, stability, and love, three essential characteristics that define marriage. In July 2013, Pope Francis came to the defense of gay priest “If someone is gay and he searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?” If two people are ready to start a family and show the commitment, stability, and love to do so, no one has the audacity to judge them otherwise.

For these reasons, I fully support the passage of Senate Bill 1. It will create a stronger family, protect our children, and end discrimination. I humbly ask you to pass this bill for our future generations. We must show the rest of the world that Hawaii is on the right side of history.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Adrian K. Tam
Pennsylvania State University
History, *B.A Candidate 2015*



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 6:57 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: punabaptistpahoahawaii@hawaiiintel.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
Alan Tamashiro	Puna Baptist Church	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Lawmakers, I would like you to vote down SB-1. This session does not represent our democratic process. The voters of Hawaii should decide the outcome of such a highly controversial law. This law will change our Island culture. We are all products of our Kapuna and parents. Our values of right and wrong have been shaped by them. Our earliest impressions of what it means to be male and female are deeply rooted in our culture. Before you change the culture of our Island home please let a larger body of people express their convictions. Thank you, Pastor Alan Tamashiro

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:35 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: kellandadrian@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
Kell Y. Tanabe Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill because it is against my beliefs as it is redefining marriage. The people have already decided this back in 1998 when we voted to save traditional marriage. The consequences have far reaching effects that may not be understood until it is too late. Please help us preserve our freedoms which we enjoy and do not allow this bill to pass. Marriage is a choice, not a right.

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I am a daughter of God. I am a Christian, I am a Buddhist, I am a Daoist and an Agnostic. I am Muslim, I am Jewish, I am Mormon. *All* of these religions agree that we ought to love one another and exemplify compassion. I am here because of the Creator, Heavenly Father. Compassion, true aloha..

Some of the testimonies given 9/28 were shockingly filled with bigotry and intolerance, fueled by fear and fallacy. I was embarrassed on behalf of the human race. There was a real lack of love.

I must urge you to support SB 1, as it is so crucial in furthering gay rights. This bill isn't about religion or a 'lifestyle.' This is about human rights and equality, about what's right¹, but above all, it's about being compassionate. How can we teach our future generations values that we no longer possess?

We are not on this earth to judge and hate; we are here to love and be compassionate. We are equals. Please support Senate Bill 1. Thank you.

¹ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-YCdcnf_P8

Aliantha Lim-Tepper
Wailuku, Maui

Testifying in strong support of SB1, relating to Equal Rights, as passed in Second Reading in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor on 28 October 2013

Esteemed Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

The Hawai'i State House of Representatives and Senate have done their best ever since *Baehr v. Lewin* at trying to reconcile competing social interests with respect to the civil rights of same-sex couples, and both legislative bodies deserve credit for successively enacting reciprocal beneficiary relationships and Civil Unions. The problem remains, however, of unequal treatment of same-sex couples.

The report passed to you from the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor contains an excellent summary treatment of the history of the question of marriage equality. The essential arguments of the two sides of this question have been laid out at great length in the courts of our nation, culminating in the recent SCOTUS decisions in *US v. Windsor* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. As these cases have wound their way through the judicial system, the arguments of those opposing marriage equality have effectively been shown to be reducible to simple animus. Allowing legislation motivated by such animus to pass or to stand is tantamount to inviting litigation against the State.

The aforementioned Senate Committee report makes clear that if Hawai'i does not enact marriage equality, numerous gray areas will remain. I am sure you will agree that in this case, litigation against the State is a virtual certainty: "...[t]here are numerous federal benefits for which the law remains unclear as to whether these benefits will be available to same-gender couples legally married in another state.... Your Committee finds that given the uncertainty with respect to the availability of certain federal benefits to same-gender couples, in the absence of marriage equality in this State, Hawaii same-gender couples who travel to another state to marry each other legally will face uncertainty with respect to estate, tax, and succession planning, wealth transfer, and inheritance benefits" (pp. 7-8).

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently provided clear direction that marriages duly solemnized in one state must be equally recognized by the Federal government. Currently such marriages are recognized in Hawai'i only as Civil Unions. Passage of SB1 would solve this state/federal discrepancy at a stroke of the pen, in addition to providing the State with numerous benefits that we will not enumerate here.

On a more personal note, we will celebrate our thirtieth anniversary as a couple early next year and we would certainly be happy – perhaps “relieved” is a better word – to finally have the chance to marry here in our home state.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen L. Tschudi
Daniel Tschudi

Pālolo Valley

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND FINANCE
RE: IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 -- RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

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

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committees on Judiciary and Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Thank you for the opportunity to give personal testimony related to SB 1. I am Dr. Ashley Maynard, I came of age here in Hawaii, and I serve as Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. While my testimony is informed by my profession and decades of training and research, this testimony does not necessarily represent the position of the University of Hawai'i.

I am a cultural developmental psychologist. I was trained at the University of Virginia, UC Berkeley, and UCLA. I earned my Ph.D. in Psychology at UCLA in 1999 and completed post-doctoral training in Anthropology at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute (now called the Semel Institute). I have studied the interrelationships of culture, contexts of child development, and healthy cognitive and social development of children and families for the past 21 years. I have published many articles and three books in developmental psychology. I have taught approximately 2500 students over the past 13 years in psychology courses at UH. I will focus my remarks on what my profession has to offer this conversation. I have included some peer-reviewed journal references from reputable journals—the standard of evidence in science. I would be happy to provide further references at your request.

The most important thing I do in my job as a university professor is to teach students to think critically. Critical thinking involves examining all the evidence—even evidence that we don't like—when weighing information about a subject. My field, Cultural Developmental Psychology, uses anthropology and psychology to look at the many healthy pathways to development in cultures all over the world, and it provides evidence related to the issue of marriage for same-gender couples. Adults in societies around the world marry, form partnerships, or group together to organize social ties of co-residence, parental responsibility, and inheritance. Decades of anthropological and psychological research point to the clear conclusion that a vast array of family types, including those built upon same-sex partnerships, contribute to stable and humane societies. This is the position of the American Psychological Association (<http://my.apa.org.eres.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/apa/shop/cartFrame.html>), the American Anthropological Association (<http://aaanet.org/stmts/marriage.htm>), and the American Sociological Association (http://www.asanet.org/about/Council_Statement_on_Gay_Marriage.cfm).

Treating people equally contributes to that stability. Extending equal rights to same-gender couples is a way for Hawaii to extend the same privileges, rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in an opposite-sex marriage, and it is the correct thing to do. Research indicates that these benefits and responsibilities should be afforded to same-gender couples (Patterson, 2013). These include both physical and mental health benefits. Not allowing same-gender couples these benefits is state-sponsored discrimination tantamount to the anti-miscegenation laws on the books in many states some decades ago. Research indicates that the experience of prejudice has long-term, pernicious health effects. Discrimination is not good for anyone. Lifting bans on adoption for same-gender parents is good for them and for society (Goldberg, Moyer, Weber, & Shapiro, 2013).

SB 1 will provide rights, benefits, and responsibilities needed by many families in our state. Families in our state, our country, and indeed the world take on a wide variety of adaptive forms, and the preponderance of evidence in the most reputable journals demonstrates that parents of the same gender are able to provide consistent, responsive, nurturing care to children as well as parents of the opposite sex. There is no evidence whatsoever that sexual orientation is related to one's ability to parent. Furthermore, there is evidence that children in same-gender headed households are like other children, and show no greater incidence of anxiety, depression, or externalizing disorders (Farr & Patterson, 2013; Goldberg & Smith, 2013).

As a trained psychologist, I must respond to some of the false and unfounded claims made in opposition to this bill. Most of all, I want to make it clear that being gay is not a choice. There is a preponderance of evidence supporting this fact (<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/sexual-orientation.aspx>; Hamer & Copeland, 1994; Hamer, Hu, Magnuson, Hu, & L, 1993; see Baumrind, 1995 for a review;). It is all too easy for people who feel perfectly natural about their heterosexual orientation to claim that other people are making a choice not to be heterosexual. What these people don't experience is that it is just as natural for people who are homosexual to feel the way they feel.

You may hear an opinion that it is a confusing message to tell children when they grow up that it is o.k. to marry a man or marry a woman. The reality is that there are already same-gender headed families here in Hawaii and around the world. It *is* confusing to tell children that they cannot be who they are, or that they cannot love the person they love just because they are the same sex or gender. Let's put this in perspective. We typically tell children that they can grow up to be anything they want in their professional lives. Yet no one seems to find that confusing, even when many of the jobs our children will grow up to do don't exist yet.

It *is* confusing and it does harm to society to keep perpetuating the myth that being heterosexual is the way that people are "supposed to be", because the reality is that there are people who are not, and it is not by choice. Perpetuating a false myth is confusing to people when they are confronted with the reality of so many people worldwide who are different from them. We must learn to deal with the fact that being gay is not a choice. We must tolerate diversity and do what we can to accept it.

The “doomsday” scenarios that have been presented by those in opposition to this bill (that passage will result in the end of “traditional” marriage and even the end of society) are not based in reality—a reality that includes a preponderance of evidence from history and from around the world. Indeed, these doomsday views are rather myopic. There is evidence dating back thousands of years that same-gender couples have existed as a part of stable societies. Furthermore, marriage between one man and one woman and the separate “nuclear family” is a rather recent and rare phenomenon on the planet. In fact, this is not the dominant form of marriage at all, today or throughout history. And it simply is not the case that “one man and one woman” has been the “dominant or traditional form of marriage for thousands of years.” In fact, for most of our history, humans have lived in groups with extended kin, not in isolated nuclear families. If we take a larger view of humanity, then, the actual traditional marriage is not at all what is dominant in the United States. Add to the discussion the evidence from countries and states where same-gender marriages are recognized, and we see very clearly that these societies have not fallen apart, and that opposite-sex couples continue to marry. It may be difficult for some to understand the importance of extending equal rights to all, but fear of change and an unlikely future not supported by any evidence must not be a reason to block equality. This bill does not redefine marriage. This bill recognizes the kinds of marriage already going on and it recognizes the equal rights of people of any gender and sexual orientation to marry.

Lastly, though this bill doesn’t mention education, as an educator I also wanted to comment on the worries presented by a recent panel on what might happen in sex education in schools. Sex education is not a “how-to” course. It is a public health endeavor. Research shows that for a healthy society, education ought to include everyone (Buston & Hart, 2001; Ellis, 1985; Weaver, Smith, & Kippax, 2005). Sex education might be better called Family Life Education, as it is in some states, and we can learn to remove gender from our ideas of parenting. Instead of teaching about a “mommy and a daddy,” we can just teach about “parents,” who can be of any gender. More inclusive, gender-free language will present children with a less-biased view of “how things should be,” and open their minds to acceptance of how things are. Why shouldn’t children be able to imagine their own families represented in Family Life Education? LGBT youth and children in same-gender headed households deserve to be part of the conversation. Let’s include all families. It’s the right thing to do.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Very truly yours,
Ashley E. Maynard, Ph.D

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October 29, 2013

House Hearing
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St
Honolulu, Hi 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 the special House Hearing this Thursday, October 31, 2013

Although I am opposed to this bill, I even more strongly think that this should be put to the people for a vote, not decided by legislators. This is too important of a bill, as it will change society as we know it, forever. I do not believe that marriage is a civil right, nor has any court said that it is, including the supreme court. Let the people decide how to structure a constitutional amendment so that there will be lots of input to make sure that our religious freedoms are not trampled on. I think that this Hearing is making a mockery of our democracy by rushing this bill through without considering the will of the people. If people knew how this will affect our education system, our churches, and many other organizations, they would not want to pass this bill. According to the news, on Monday, 60% were against and only 40% were in favor and it still got passed? What are our elected officials doing? If this bill is passed on Thursday, I will do everything in my power to see to it that those who passed it will never be elected in this state again!

Thank you,

Pablo Antolin
Registered Voter

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)

Ada-Marie P. Pollard

98-402 Koauka Loop #504, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

808-372-7573

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.

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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)

Mildred C. Pollard

98-402 Koauka Loop #504, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

808-352-2054



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:05 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: jkalanit061204@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
John Thomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Equal rights for who? I am very worried about my freedom of religion rights. If this bill is passed, how many churches will be filed suit against because they refuse to marry a same sex couple. Don't you think our children will be confused. A family consists of a father and mother. You are messing with God's master plan. The plan of pro creation. Same sex marriages cannot create human life. Next we will be cloning human beings. We are going into matters that are best left alone. I pray that God directs all of you in voting only one way that you can...please vote no.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:57 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: jkalanit061204@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
John Thomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:52 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: mt33@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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Michelle Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I see Hawaii as an equality matter in support with this bill I say give the rights of all people no matter what sex they decide to chose as their spouse. Relating back to the amendments we have fought for equality so if saying no to this bill then we might as well go back to no amendments and no equality.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:23 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: joshua.tune@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
joshua tune	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Aloha,

My name is Lee Christian Uehara and I am a registered voter in Hawaii. I am also of Mormon faith and would like to share some of my views of this proposed SB1 bill. First off, I do have several friends and family members that are gay or lesbian, many whom are very loving to their families and friends abroad. I have been of Christian faith all of my life and have always been brought up to value others and their opinions with respect. I know that being a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, many believe that all of us are totally against gays and lesbians alike, however this is a little far from the truth.

We do believe that what is being done is not right according to Gospel Doctrine, marriage is between a Man and a Woman. This is the way we procreate life here on Earth. For this reason, I feel that this bill may end up hurting our religious freedoms. How do you expect our future generations to view gays and lesbians as being a normality type of behavior, when they are actually going against everything that is taught to us in the scriptures? I know by fact and what I have learned through the public school system that was afforded to me, that two penises does not make a baby, nor does two vaginas, so how is it that a man and another man or woman and another woman be viewed as marriage? Many theologians view of "marriage" is to seal a man and a woman together to procreate or to have children to carry on the "Family". Generations have been based on this same belief, but this bill seems to distort this definition. I also am concerned that we will be forced to have our children and our future generations to learn of this curriculum in classrooms in the future to help the understanding of this "new" definition of marriage, which is against everything our Family stands for.

One other point is that the definition of "public accommodation" bothers me. How do you think we introduce people to our church? There are the occasional friends and family that attend church that are invited, however there are several instances when a complete stranger comes to church. So how is this going to continue to happen freely if this bill is passed? Our belief is to help those people that need the gospel in their lives, bring those lost souls back to Christ...this mean reaching out to the public. However we do not support gay and lesbian standards by any means, which leaves us vulnerable. I keep hearing words out from the gay community stating they just want equal rights, however who's to say they will stop at Marriage Equality?!? I have no issues with benefits given to gay or lesbian partners, both State or Federal Laws.

I personally think that this is wrong, back in 1998 there was a vote by the public stating that we were protecting marriage by allowing Legislature the power to protect. Now this very Constitutional Amendment is sought to destroy it's very meaning. I feel as though I put my trust in our Government, but now it's stabbing me in the back and taking away my trust in letting the "elected officials" that I and many others voted for to make decisions that are not in our best interests!!! **PUT THIS OUT TO THE PUBLIC AND LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!!** Allow the people to voice their individual choices, this is what democracy is all about. I have never in all of my life wrote to our Elected officials to show my views, but this bill has made me realize that I must speak up.

Please review this and take this testimony to heart, hear the public cries for democracy and LET
THE PEOPLE VOTE AND DECIDE OUR FATE!!!

Mahalo for your time,

Lee Christian Uehara

Resident of Mililani Mauka

And Registered Voter



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:10 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: davidstrattonwaite@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
David Waite	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please let the people decide on this issue. Much mahalos!

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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.

Please allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. This issue is too contentious to allow a one-week special session to forever change the definition of it as being one man, one woman. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

Please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. As a college student studying Political Science, I am dumbfounded that this special session was even called during a time of great economic hardship in our state, and 10 weeks before the regular legislative session starts when the issue could easily be introduced.

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!

Mahalo plenty for the opportunity to testify.

Brianna Weaver
Honolulu, HI



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:09 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: vfaniko1230@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
Vaega'au Williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It is against the will of God.

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Aloha,

As a Christian, a psychology instructor, and a worker who assists special needs children, I am in strong opposition of House Bill 1. This bill is being passed neither with the public's approval nor with serious examination of the long-term effects for Hawaii's keiki. Relationships are a matter of choice. Our children should not be forced to accept controversial lifestyles in our education system; furthermore, the children should not be forced to accept homosexual lifestyles as 'normal.' Quite often, homosexuality is compared to minority rights and the Civil Rights movement. First, we need to remember that Martin Luther King Jr. was indeed a Christian, and his speech represented people who were judged by their *appearances* and not their *behaviors*. Even in psychology, it can be argued that, although one cannot change his/her appearance (i.e. race), he/she *can* change his/her behaviors. Thus, a person of a certain race is judged at first glance; homosexual behavior usually cannot be detected unless it is intentionally 'flashed' in front of others. What one does in private or out of school should, in no way, be expressed around children. By expressing their sexual preference, gays and lesbians, are—in a sense—exposing children to sexual behavior.

Adoption is a primary concern for me, when it comes to this bill. Children are very impressionable. To say that they are being reared in a stable home is not enough. Children model what they see in their parents. Furthermore, one has to wonder how the children's peers might react if they knew they were living with both parents of the same sex. As an example, during my undergraduate years, I had a classmate whose husband left her for another man. When their children went to their father's house for visits, the woman was appalled when she learned, one day, that her sons were sent home for kissing other boys. As it turned out, the young boys were mimicking their father's behavior. In another case, a student became angry at his father and began exhibiting homosexual behavior with his peers. Rather than seeking counseling for his anger and behavior, the youth's behavior was seen as 'appropriate' and a lifestyle. Ironically, it was not long ago that homosexuality was seen as a mental disorder. While Hawaii is unique in its diversity, it is also special in that it moves to the beat of a different drum. In the past, despite its unique appeal, Hawaii always seemed to continue along the path of doing what was righteous. Although a few other states have passed same-sex marriage, Hawaii does not need to follow suit to be a part of the bandwagon. Rather, the elected officials need to continue to listen to the people's demands and do what is right. The same people who put our elected officials in office also have the same power to take them *out* of office. While living by tradition is often mocked, in today's society, we need to remember where we came from as a nation. No matter how hard scholars may try to deny, this nation was founded under God, and that remains a strong part of this country's identity. Compromising values to please those demanding attention may lead to bigger compromises in the future. Marriage is something that should be regarded as a sacred bond between man and woman, and a family being a bond between mother, father, and their children. Anything straying from this is mocking the institution itself. The state has the responsibility to favor what the *majority* want—not a few, outspoken individuals. In closing, mahalo for your time, and God Bless You.

Willie

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 Darryl Willis, and I live at 340 Kapii Place, Hilo, HI 96720.
I would like to voice my opposition to SB1

This is an important issue that should be taken up with a lot of time, thought and input from the people. This is how our democracy was meant to work. However, a special session treats the issue lightly in the sense that it is a rush job, and does not give ample consideration that other bills receive in a regular session. This bill at the very least needs the full consideration that a regular legislative session would provide. It is so important, it would even be better to put it on a ballot, and let the people decide directly. This is not a civil rights issue as the proponents say. It is about changing the definition of marriage.

I have 2 grandsons, both innocent and beautiful little boys, not yet in school, but that is not far off. It is a horrible thought that someday if this bill passes, they could and probably would be taught in school that same-sex relations are OK. It is wrong and clearly violates nature. The picture of my grandsons sitting in class learning instructions about homosexual acts is very distressing. This is the future if this bill passes. It's already happening elsewhere. This is about the proper definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. It is about our legacy of raising our families in a civil and moral society. Government has an obligation to the people to protect and maintain a society that is optimal for families and raising children. Changing the definition of marriage will cause this to decay.

Government can still find a way to provide benefits to same-sex couples. The alteration of the definition of marriage is not necessary.

Please protect our religious freedom. Most churches are open to public functions and events. Government should not force churches to marry same-sex couples against their religious beliefs nor force into law doctrine that is so against the traditions of our country.

I urge you to stop this bill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darryl D. Willis

Registered voter: Senate District 1 and House District 2.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:12 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: iluvj0984@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
Yolanda	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. Alan Abad Kaneohe, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:43 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: iluvj0984@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
Yolanda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: We are testifying against and oppose SB 1 for the following reasons: 1. The five days allotted for this special session is too short and does not allow a reasonable period for "we the people" to exercise an "equal right" in the democratic process, to voice concerns, problems, and issues concerning a highly sensitive and controversial matter. 2. The people of Hawaii voted in 1998 and legislation was passed to define marriage as between a man and a woman; an amendment cannot be made to legislation. 3. The "religious exemption" entitlement is nullified by the public accommodation clause and leaves the church vulnerable to lawsuits. The First Amendment states that government may neither establish a religion nor prohibit the free exercise of religious practices. When government says "it doesn't matter what you believe or practice, you must adhere to solemnizing a same gender union (a sin) and call it marriage", it denies and prohibits Freedom of Religion as provided in the First Amendment of our U. S. Constitution. 4. I deplore and object to the forthcoming indoctrination of Homosexuality and the effects of the homosexual behavior upon our young children, families, the educational system, our parental rights, and church if, same gender marriages are legislated into law. Please, I urge you to vote NO to SB1 and allow the people of Hawaii to decide and vote on this important and far-reaching issue. Respectfully submitted, Yolanda Abad

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:43 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: thirr33@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
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Co-Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads, Co-Chair House Finance & Judiciary Committees' Members I support SB 1 as heard by the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee. As I understand, upon second reading the measure was passed unamended. SB 1 is not a perfect measure, nor is it guaranteed that it will not be challenged by both opponents as well as supporters. With your hearing of this measure, hopefully, a little bit of civil and compassionate discussion and debate will ensue. To individuals members of the Joint Committees, some of the rancour and anxiety can be laid to rest. Please report out SB 1 with due deference to all testimonies, both those that you support as well as those that you oppose. Thank you. Sincerely, Arvid Tadao Youngquist Kalihi Valley Resident & Voter

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 7:56 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: audreybox@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
Audrey Yu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose same sex marriage and let the people decide on marriage.

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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

I will not be testifying in person

I am writing in strong opposition of this measure as the large majority of people of Hawaii have made their position on this issue very clear. In the past few weeks I have waved signs around Kauai in support of traditional marriage (between a man and a woman) and observed well over 95% positive responses to this position with only a very few negative responses. This issue has been soundly defeated by the people of Hawaii in the past and it would be inappropriate for you to vote against the will of the people you represent. I implore you to stand up for what is right and vote no on this measure.

Sincerely,
Scott A. Zenger, P.E.
Lawai, HI