

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Senate Committee

10/30/2013

Aloha Kakahiaka Senate Committee,

As a former Hawaii Civil Rights Commissioner, a current employee of the Center on Disability Studies/University of Hawaii at Manoa, a Christian Sunday School teacher and the coordinator of the Native Hawaiian Education grant Growing Pono Schools, I urge you to pass SB1 bill to ensure that all of Hawaii's people are afforded their rights and protection. It is the pono (righteous) thing to do!

malama pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Ka'imipono Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Ka'imipono Banks,

4th Grade:

2nd/3rd week: Pre Hawaiian quiz (ohia lehua, laua'e, fish, crab, wana, opae)

Plants propagated by seeds, they had to travel the ocean.

PLANT SEEDS – LETTUCE?

Could do cotton seed exercise and orient Eda to have her students drawing the plant stages. We could get the seeds from Hihimanu St by the water tanks.

Get the cotton seed with all the cotton around it, moisten it and keep in a cup. It should germinate.

They could plant the cotton seeds somewhere (maybe along the fence outside the garden, on the makai side) and harvest the cotton next year to learn how to make pillows.

4th/5th Canoe introductions quiz (kalo, mai'a, uala, ulu, rats, ilio, pig, chicken)

Plants with vegetative propagation (cuttings, corm, or large seeds such as coconut).

Plant kalo patch, each class plant a row.

6th/7th Fourth week: 1800 (Western contact) to today introductions quiz (Sugarcane, cattle, goat, mangoose, sweet corn, papaya, mango, cassava)

Harvest and plant cassava.

Handout draft on next page.

E komo mai e keiki I ka mala lani e

E mala I ka aina e malama pono e

E komo mai, e komo mai, e komo mai

Plant name(s):

How would you describe this plant?



How do you use this plant?

How do you propagate (multiply) this plant?

Why would you bring this plant to Hawai'i?

10/30/13

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Ronald & Edelyn Saot

Address: 91-1049 Mikohu St. #11A

Ewa Beach HI 96706

Phone: 808-291-1032

Subject:

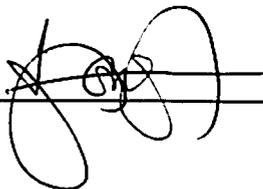
**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL
SESSION AND SB 1, Relating To Equality**

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

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

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

Signature: _____

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

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,

Julianne Figueroa
Julianne Figueroa
Pepeekeo, HI, 96783

Dear Representative Isaac Choy and Honorable State Representative Body,

My name is Sonya Seng, born and raised in Honolulu and a resident of Manoa Valley. I am a mother of 2 elementary aged children and a minister with Bluewater Mission Church.

Recently, **I appreciated seeing you waving in front of Noelani school** when there was a push **to get drivers to slow down** around the children of the school. Thank you so much for prioritizing children's safety over the felt need of motorists to get where they want to go.

This is exactly what I am strongly urging you to do: please, for the sake of the children all around us, SLOW DOWN, and do not succumb to the felt needs of special interest groups to make progress on their agendas. The SB1 amendment speeds the entire community around a blind curve, and I believe there will be many unforeseen, tragic consequences to this kind of legislation.

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** In Massachusetts, for example, based on the newly legislated "marriage equality", it **became illegal for parents to be pre-notified when their elementary aged children would be shown presentations and books promoting homosexual marriage as normal** (so that the parents could have the option of taking their children out of school on that day). Because Massachusetts legislators had ruled homosexual marriage as equal with traditional, heterosexual marriage, it legally followed that public schools could not treat homosexual marriage with any distinction, i.e. notifying parents of its presentation. This is a real and extremely concerning outcome to me. So I strongly request that before a vote is taken, legislators carefully study the broad consequences of such a seemingly simple amendment.
2. While I am sympathetic to the real difficulty many homosexuals encounter (I have homosexual relatives and friends), I am strongly opposed to SB1, called the "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act". I ask you, my representative to acknowledge my position and to **either vote against this act, or to not act upon the vote**, to give this significant legislation the full time and consideration our community deserves before enacting such a game-changing amendment.
3. I consider it a **break of trust** between the Governor and the people of the state **to use a special session to pass this**

- legislation.** I hope you understand this perspective and share with other legislators how dishonorable such a method is.
4. While the amendment is being presented as a defense of homosexual dignity and rights, it **does not adequately protect the rights** of people who consider marriage between a man and woman to be a foundational basis for human society, and who do not wish to promote the homosexual lifestyle as a beneficial one. The amendment **opens a Pandora's box of reverse discrimination** that need to be better anticipated. In other states where a similar bill was passed, the consequences quickly extended **beyond the simple legality of homosexual marriages.**
 5. Also, the **"protections" offered for churches are not written effectively**, as they hinge on terms of "membership". A vast number of religious organizations do not have a formal, contractual membership system. Rather, modern churches are often integrated in their larger communities, providing practical help (food, education, housing) and engaging thousands of people who benefit from the church but who are not technically members. So, the wording of the amendment would not protect the freedoms of many, many religious organizations which are more porous in nature, relating to all kinds of people, rather than isolated and to themselves.

Representative Choy and all our House Representatives, thank you for your diligence in seeking the overall good of the state, and your constituents in particular. It is a difficult job, but you have been granted this immense responsibility. Thank you for reading this letter and allowing voices like mine to reach you.

Again, on behalf of the children, at Noelani and Manoa and around the state, tomorrow, please hold up your sign "Slow Down" and vote no on SB1.

Sincerely,
Sonya Seng

3077 Woolsey Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

I come before you all humbly and with all of my aloha.

I am here to testify my freedom of religion against the Same-Sex Marriage bill. As a Christian, I do not condone or ignore sin nor am I here to judge or condemn anyone. Rather, I have come to share the love of God and the forgiveness of sins that is available to all humans, including the gay community, through Jesus Christ. This occasion is not a battle between Christians and the gay community, as Ephesians chapter 6 verse 12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." And that is the reason why Christians have come here today.

I do understand the view point on equality and human rights but what is our purpose as humans? We must all have a purpose in order to recognize the possibility of good or evil or justice. Our purpose and destiny cannot be simply explained by biology or science or just death. Every human being feels hope in their heart for something perfectly good and divine. That is our human nature and through this bill, our purpose as humans become distorted, de-sacrilized, unconnected and insignificant.

The Truth is known because our creator, God, has made it plain. God's purpose of creation was that everything in itself would be sustainable. Nature itself argues against homosexuality because it is clear that men and women were designed to fit together sexually and procreation is clearly a purpose only a man and a woman can fulfill. And to give sanction to same-sex marriage would be to give approval to all immoral desires that are shameful, unnatural, lustful, and indecent which The Bible clearly and consistently condemns as sinful. Biblically speaking, marriage is ordained by God to be a lifetime union between a man and a woman, primarily for the purpose of building a family and providing a stable environment for that family. Same-sex marriage is a perversion of the institution of marriage and an offense to the God who created marriage.

Psychologists contend that a union between a man and woman in which both serve as good gender role models is the best environment in which to raise well-adjusted children, so let's also decide not for ourselves but for our cherished generations to come, if this passes it will be difficult for them to discover their divinity, identity and Truth.

The United States has abandoned their official motto "In God We Trust." When we abandon our trust in God, the web of evil becomes more entangling, puzzling, and confusing. But it is simple that we are all to "Fear God and obey His commands, for this is everyone's duty" says Ecclesiastes chapter 12 verse 13. Let the people vote.

Mahalo and aloha to you all.

To: The House Judiciary Committee

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

I oppose Bill SB 1

Please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

If the bill is going to move forward, it must include a broader exemption for religious organizations and individuals.

Please allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. 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.

Erica Janzelle Beaver

Hauula, HI

What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts

It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker

October 2008 Updated June 2012

Anyone who thinks that same-sex "marriage" is a benign eccentricity which won't affect the average person should consider what it has done to Massachusetts since 2004. It's become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. The slippery slope is real. New radical demands never cease. What has happened in the last several years is truly frightening.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its *Goodridge* opinion, declaring that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex "marriage." Six months later, despite public outrage, homosexual "weddings" began to take place. And that was just the beginning . . .

The public schools

The homosexual "marriage" onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

- **At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex "marriage" in early December 2003.** It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be "marrying" their same-sex partners and starting families, either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage – how it is now a normal part of society – was handed out to the students.
- **Within months it was brought into the middle schools.** In September 2004, an 8th grade teacher in Brookline, Mass., told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. "In my mind, I know that, 'OK, this is legal now.' If somebody wants to challenge me, I'll say, 'Give me a break. It's legal now,'" she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.
- **By the following year it was in elementary school curricula – with hostility toward parents who disagreed.** Kindergartners in Lexington, Mass. were given copies of a picture book, *Who's in a Family?*, telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, just like their own parents. When David Parker – parent of a kindergartner – calmly refused to leave a school meeting unless officials agreed to notify him when discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and jailed overnight.
- **The next year, second graders at the same school were read a book, *King and King*, about two men who fall in love and marry each other,** ending with a picture of them kissing. When parents Robb and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt their child out.
- **In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of "gay marriage" in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools.** The previous year the Parkers and Wirthlins had filed a federal civil rights

lawsuit to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt out their elementary school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judge dismissed the case. The appeals judges later upheld the first judge's ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have *no* obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!

Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is "legal," federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!

The judges also allowed the school to overrule the Massachusetts parental notification law on this issue, with the claim that homosexuality or same-sex marriages are *not* "human sexuality issues" (to which the law refers).

□ **School libraries have also radically changed.** School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have expanding shelves of books to normalize homosexual behavior and "lifestyle" in the minds of kids, some of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents' complaints are ignored or met with hostility.

□ **A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state.** Titled *Courting Equality*, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization. Its apparent purpose was to teach kids that "gay marriage" was a great civil rights victory.

□ **It has become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to display photos of their same-sex "spouses" and occasionally bring their "spouses" to school functions.** At one point, *both* high schools in my own town had principals who were "married" to their same-sex partners who came to school and were introduced to the students.

□ **"Gay days" in schools are considered necessary** to fight "intolerance" against same-sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender days." In my own town, a school committee member announced that combating "homophobia" was now a top priority. The schools not only "celebrate" homosexual marriage, but have moved beyond to promote other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality.

□ **As a result, many more children in Massachusetts appear to be self-identifying as "gay."** According to the *Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, given to students in high schools across the state, between 2005 and 2009 both the percentage of kids "identifying as gay" and who had same-sex contact rose by approximately 50%.

Although this bi-annual survey is unscientific and largely unreliable, it still shows a disturbing trend among those students who chose to answer the questions in this way. (At a minimum, it implies that *these* answers are being encouraged.)

□ **Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to come down.** The schools have already moved on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and *sex changes*). The state-funded *Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth*, which goes into schools with homosexual and transgender programs and activities for children, includes prominent activists who are transsexuals.

□ **In 2006 a cross-dressing man undergoing a sex-change operation was brought into a third-grade class in Newton** to teach the children that there are now "different kinds of families." School officials told a mother that her complaints to the principal were considered "inappropriate behavior"! She ended up removing her child from the school.

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Public health

- **The Commissioner of the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, who is "married" to another man**, told a crowd of kids at the state-sponsored Youth Pride event in 2007 that it's "wonderful being gay" and he wants to make sure there's enough HIV testing available for all of them.
- **The STD test required to obtain a marriage license was eliminated** five months after same-sex "marriages" began in Massachusetts, by a bill quietly signed by Gov. Mitt Romney. This was despite an increase in syphilis cases and other STDs in homosexual men in Massachusetts at the time (according to the Mass. Dept. of Public Health).
- **In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of homosexual-related cases.** According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, even though the total number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses has declined, the *proportion* caused by male homosexual behavior *rose by over 30%* from 2000-2009. Thus, for the last several years the state has budgeted \$30-\$35 million per year for these programs. This dwarfs spending on any other viral disease that we are aware of.
- **A hideously obscene booklet on "gay" practices created by health officials was given out in a high school.** Citing "the right to marry" as one of the "important challenges" in a place where "it's a great time to be gay," the Mass. Dept. of Public Health helped the *AIDS Action Committee* produce *The Little Black Book: Queer in the 21st Century*. It was given to teens at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives "tips" to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to "safely" have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It even included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Hospitals

- **Because of the purported necessity to cater to "LGBT health" issues, nearly every major Boston hospital has become an active supporter of the radical homosexual movement.** This includes marching in the "Gay Pride" parades, holding homosexual events, and putting on numerous "gay health"-related seminars. This is one of the most disturbing things that's happened since "gay marriage" became "legal."
- **A major Boston hospital threatened to fire a physician when he objected to its promotion of homosexual behavior.** In 2011 a prominent physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston – a large Harvard-affiliated hospital – objected to the hospital being involved with "Gay Pride" activities. He also pointed out to his superiors the medical health risks of homosexuality, and said that he *and others at the hospital* considered homosexual acts to be unnatural and immoral. The hospital then threatened to fire him, telling him that same-sex marriage is "legal" and that his comments constituted "harassment and discrimination." After a "hearing" he was allowed to keep his job, but was told to apologize and to keep his opinions on these matters to himself.
- **In 2012 the Boston Medical Center purchased a prominent full-color ad (full page, inside cover) in the Boston Gay Pride guide book.** The content? The entire ad promoted the hospital's STD and AIDS clinics for the "pride" participants – particularly its screening services for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, and HIV.

Domestic violence

- **Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual domestic violence.** Since "gay marriage" began, Massachusetts has one of the highest

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proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country. Given the extremely dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt

the need to spend more and more money to deal with that problem. “Gay domestic violence programs” have also become a major lobbying push in the State House by the homosexual group *MassEquality*. This year it comprises a considerable portion of a \$5.5 million state budget item (according to MassEquality). This is up from \$100,000 budgeted in 2007.

□ **“Gay domestic partner violence” literature (funded by the state) is now distributed at virtually every public homosexual event – including to children** at “Youth Pride” events, GLSEN conferences, “gay straight alliance” high school clubs – and especially at the various events and parades during “Gay Pride” week.

□ **It has become such a problem that a public candlelight vigil in downtown Boston** is held every year by a coalition of Massachusetts homosexual groups “to remember victims of recent LGBT intimate partner violence, and to raise awareness of this important community issue.”

Business and employment

□ **All insurance in Massachusetts** must now recognize same-sex “married” couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.

□ **Businesses must recognize same-sex “married” couples in all their benefits, activities, etc.**, regarding both employees and customers.

□ **People can now get fired from their jobs for expressing religious objections to same-sex “marriage.”** In 2009, a deputy manager at a Brookstone store in Boston was fired from his job for mentioning his belief to another manager who had kept bringing up the subject with him that day. Brookstone’s letter of termination (quoted on local TV news) said his comment was “inappropriate” because “in the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal.”

□ **The wedding industry is required to serve the homosexual community if requested.** Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must accept same-sex marriage events or be held liable for discrimination.

□ **Businesses are often “tested” for tolerance by homosexual activists.** Groups of homosexual activists go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient “equality” — now that homosexual marriage is “legal.” Then they report “tolerance violators” to authorities, and businesses can be fined and punished. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce “marriage equality.”

Legal profession and judicial system

□ **The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex marriage “law.”** In 2007, a Boston man failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer a question about homosexual marriage.

□ **In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law must now attend seminars on homosexual “marriage.”** Issues regarding homosexual “families” are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In addition, there are now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.

□ **In 2011 the Governor appointed Barbara Lenk, a “married” lesbian activist, to be a state Supreme Court Justice.** She has said that the interpretation of law “evolves and

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develops” because “minority groups [e.g., homosexuals] see certain things differently based on their own experiences.”

Adoption and birth certificates

□ **In the year after the “gay marriage” ruling, the state’s adoption and foster care workers went through a massive indoctrination on “LGBT youth awareness.”** This

included employees and managers at the Mass. Dept. of Social Services. These sessions were run by the radical *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force* (which once awarded a “Leather Leadership Award” to the owner of a pornographic video company). The emphasis was that those working with children must be trained that homosexuality (and transgenderism) are normal. At one session, the trainer announced that the new motto is, “To tolerate is an *assault*; you have to *accept*” this behavior.

□ **Homosexual “married” couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children – through any agency.** In 2006 *Catholic Charities* decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.

□ **Adoption agencies have said that 40% of their adoptions are to homosexual couples.** Anecdotal reports also indicate that many adoption agencies now *favor* homosexuals over normal couples.

□ **In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men “married” to each other as their “Parents of the Year.”** The men had adopted a baby through DSS (*against the wishes of the baby’s birth parents*). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final, DSS approached the men about adopting a second child.

□ **The state-funded Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) has been pushing “GLBT” family formation and holds “adoption parties”** where homosexual couples have been encouraged to attend (along with others) and see “available” children in person. MARE places prominent ads in GLBT publications.

□ **Birth certificates in Massachusetts have been changed from “mother” and “father” to “mother/parent” and “father/parent.”** *Two men or two women* can now be listed as the “parents” on birth certificates! Homosexuals who adopt can revise children’s existing birth certificates.

□ **A court ruled in 2012 that if a child is “born of a same-sex marriage,” there is no need for adoption by a non-biological parent.** Thus, they would both be listed as the “parents” on the child’s birth certificate, without any formal proceedings necessary. (The other biological parent is not noted on the official birth certificate.)

Government mandates

□ **Marriage licenses and certificates in Massachusetts now have “Party A” and “Party B” instead of “husband” and “wife.”** Imagine having a marriage license like that.

□ **In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired.** Several Justices of the Peace immediately decided to resign. That order still stands. Also Town Clerks were forced by the Governor’s office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

□ **In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws** to include homosexual “married” couples in the coverage.

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The public square

□ **Since gay “marriage” began, public “Gay Pride” events have become more prominent in the public square.** There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. And the envelope gets pushed further and further. For example: the annual profane “Dyke March” through downtown Boston, and the 2008 “transgender” parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed (so they could “become” men). Governor Patrick even marched with his 17-year-old “out lesbian” daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a sadomasochist “leather” group brandishing a black

and blue flag, lashes and chains!

Churches being harassed

Churches and religious people have been demonized, harassed and threatened – with no punishment for the perpetrators. Since the “gay marriage” ruling, those who publicly disagree with “gay marriage” or the normalcy of homosexuality – or hold events promoting traditional beliefs – are targets of militant retribution by homosexual activists. Police and public officials have shown no interest in stopping this. We are not aware of a single homosexual activist arrested (or charged with any “hate crime”) for disrupting a religious event or threatening and harassing people at a church. For example:

□ **In 2012 someone threatened to burn down a Catholic Church in Acushnet which posted the words “Two men are friends, not spouses” on its outdoor sign.** The church immediately received a flood of profane phone calls. At least one person threatened to burn down the church. An activist nailed a sign to church’s fence saying, “Spread love not hate.” Activists staged a protest outside of the Sunday Mass to intimidate parishioners with a sign saying, “It is legal for two men or women to be spouses.” Neither the police nor the District Attorney pursued the threats as a hate crime or other offense.

□ **In 2010 a Catholic elementary school balked at letting a lesbian couple enroll their son.** As a result, the school was excoriated in the media and even by the local liberal state representative as “discriminatory.” The privately-run *Catholic Schools Foundation* then threatened to withhold funding to the school unless it relented. The Archdiocese eventually backed down and the school reversed its policy.

□ **In 2009 angry homosexual activists terrorized the Park Street Church in Boston** while it was holding an ex-gay religious training session inside. They demonstrated next to the doors and windows with signs, screaming homosexual slogans. One of them held a bullhorn against the window outside the meeting, bellowing at the participants inside. Police did nothing to stop them, even though they were standing inside the historic cemetery adjacent to the church.

□ **In 2006 dozens of screaming homosexual activists drowned out the speakers at an outdoor pro-marriage rally** in Worcester organized by *Catholic Vote*, yelling “Bigots” and disgusting chants. Police did not stop them, even though the rally had a permit. When one of the rioters rushed the stage and started shouting, a rally organizer tried to lead her to the side. She subsequently sued that organizer for assault! He went through a four-day trial and was acquitted by a jury. But no charges were filed against any of the rioters.

□ **In 2006 a group of homosexual activists with signs taunted and screamed at people entering and leaving the Tremont Temple Baptist Church** in downtown Boston, which was holding a nationally televised pro-marriage event inside.

□ **In 2005 hundreds of homosexual activists terrorized the Tremont Temple Baptist Church with makeshift coffins, screaming obscenities through loudspeakers as**

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the national pro-family group *Focus on the Family* held a religious conference inside. The crowd was so threatening that attendees could not leave the church for the lunch break. The Boston riot police stood in front of the church doors, but did nothing to disperse the protesters who were also completely blocking the street.

The media

□ **The Boston media regularly features articles and news stories using homosexual “married” couples** where regular married couples would normally be used. It’s “equal,” they insist, so there must be no difference in how marriage is portrayed. Also, the newspaper advice columns now deal with homosexual “marriage” issues – and how to

properly accept it.

□ **A number of news reporters and TV anchors** are “out” homosexuals (at least one openly “married”) who march in the “Gay Pride” parades and publicly participate in other homosexual events.

Politics

□ **A climate of fear has kept politicians at all levels from disagreeing with or criticizing same-sex marriage since it became “legal.”** Public officials are afraid of being accused of wanting to “take away rights.” Those who support traditional marriage rarely discuss it publicly. And this fear has expanded to suppress any meaningful debate on all homosexual related issues. Additionally, it has brought a feeling of intimidation among pro-family people across the state.

□ **The Massachusetts Republican establishment has become arguably the most “pro-gay marriage” GOP in America.** The state GOP House and Senate leaders now both publicly support “gay marriage,” as did the recent Mass. GOP candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. GOP candidates for office are told not even to discuss it.

□ **In April 2009, the Chairman of the Mass. Republican Party told a homosexual newspaper that the GOP would no longer oppose “gay marriage.”** Then Chairman Jennifer Nassour, interviewed on the front page of *Bay Windows*, assured the gay community that the state GOP would “steer clear of social” issues such as “opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion.” The newly elected chairman, Bob Maginn, does not talk about the issue.

□ **Every Massachusetts state-wide elected official and member of Congress (but one) now publicly supports “gay marriage.”** The one (apparent) holdout, Republican US Senator Scott Brown, strenuously avoids the issue, saying that it’s “settled law” and not worth fighting over.

Rule of law

□ **Same-sex “marriage” came to Massachusetts through a radical court’s narrow ruling.** Because of that, there is an often depressing sense of helplessness that pervades this issue. The marriage statute was never changed, and it has been convincingly argued that the whole process was in violation of the state constitution. The Governor simply went along. And the Legislature acted to block popular votes on two separate constitutional amendments protecting marriage, after sufficient signatures had been gathered for each. The rule of law seems further lost with every new outrage imposed on the people.

□ **Even the Massachusetts Law Library (online) shows no law legalizing same-sex marriage, only a court opinion.** It is a dangerous precedent to allow such sweeping judicial activism to stand as law, enabling everything that has followed from it. It should serve as a warning to states across the country.

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In conclusion

Same-sex “marriage” hangs over society, hammering citizens with the force of law. Once it gets a foothold, society becomes more oppressive. Unfortunately, it was imposed on the people of Massachusetts through a combination of radical, arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians. The homosexual movement has used that combination to its continued advantage around the country.

It’s pretty clear that this radical movement is obsessed with marriage not because large numbers of homosexuals actually want to marry each other. A small percentage actually “marry.” (In fact, over the last several months, the *Sunday Boston Globe’s* marriage section hasn’t had *any* photos of homosexual marriages; at first it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexuals’ relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and real

“marriage” as we know it isn’t something they can achieve, or even truly desire.
The push for “gay marriage” is really is about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and forcing its acceptance on (otherwise unwilling) citizens and our social, political, and commercial institutions.

To the rest of America: You've been forewarned.

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This pamphlet is also available in booklet form.)

What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts

It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker

October 2008 Updated June 2012

Anyone who thinks that same-sex "marriage" is a benign eccentricity which won't affect the average person should consider what it has done to Massachusetts since 2004. It's become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. The slippery slope is real. New radical demands never cease. What has happened in the last several years is truly frightening.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its *Goodridge* opinion, declaring that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex "marriage." Six months later, despite public outrage, homosexual "weddings" began to take place. And that was just the beginning . . .

The public schools

The homosexual "marriage" onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

□ **At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex "marriage" in early December 2003.** It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be "marrying" their same-sex partners and starting families, either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage – how it is now a normal part of society – was handed out to the students.

□ **Within months it was brought into the middle schools.** In September 2004, an 8th grade teacher in Brookline, Mass., told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. "In my mind, I know that, 'OK, this is legal now.' If somebody wants to challenge me, I'll say, 'Give me a break. It's legal now,'" she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.

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

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

□ **In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of "gay marriage" in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools.** The previous year the Parkers and Wirthlins had filed a federal civil rights

lawsuit to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt out their elementary school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judge dismissed the case. The appeals judges later upheld the first judge's ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have *no* obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!

Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is "legal," federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!

The judges also allowed the school to overrule the Massachusetts parental notification law on this issue, with the claim that homosexuality or same-sex marriages are *not* "human sexuality issues" (to which the law refers).

□ **School libraries have also radically changed.** School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have expanding shelves of books to normalize homosexual behavior and "lifestyle" in the minds of kids, some of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents' complaints are ignored or met with hostility.

□ **A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state.** Titled *Courting Equality*, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization. Its apparent purpose was to teach kids that "gay marriage" was a great civil rights victory.

□ **It has become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to display photos of their same-sex "spouses" and occasionally bring their "spouses" to school functions.** At one point, *both* high schools in my own town had principals who were "married" to their same-sex partners who came to school and were introduced to the students.

□ **"Gay days" in schools are considered necessary** to fight "intolerance" against same-sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender days." In my own town, a school committee member announced that combating "homophobia" was now a top priority. The schools not only "celebrate" homosexual marriage, but have moved beyond to promote other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality.

□ **As a result, many more children in Massachusetts appear to be self-identifying as "gay."** According to the *Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, given to students in high schools across the state, between 2005 and 2009 both the percentage of kids "identifying as gay" and who had same-sex contact rose by approximately 50%.

Although this bi-annual survey is unscientific and largely unreliable, it still shows a disturbing trend among those students who chose to answer the questions in this way. (At a minimum, it implies that *these* answers are being encouraged.)

□ **Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to come down.** The schools have already moved on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and *sex changes*). The state-funded *Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth*, which goes into schools with homosexual and transgender programs and activities for children, includes prominent activists who are transsexuals.

□ **In 2006 a cross-dressing man undergoing a sex-change operation was brought into a third-grade class in Newton** to teach the children that there are now "different kinds of families." School officials told a mother that her complaints to the principal were considered "inappropriate behavior"! She ended up removing her child from the school.

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Public health

- **The Commissioner of the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, who is "married" to another man**, told a crowd of kids at the state-sponsored Youth Pride event in 2007 that it's "wonderful being gay" and he wants to make sure there's enough HIV testing available for all of them.
- **The STD test required to obtain a marriage license was eliminated** five months after same-sex "marriages" began in Massachusetts, by a bill quietly signed by Gov. Mitt Romney. This was despite an increase in syphilis cases and other STDs in homosexual men in Massachusetts at the time (according to the Mass. Dept. of Public Health).
- **In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of homosexual-related cases.** According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, even though the total number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses has declined, the *proportion* caused by male homosexual behavior *rose by over 30%* from 2000-2009. Thus, for the last several years the state has budgeted \$30-\$35 million per year for these programs. This dwarfs spending on any other viral disease that we are aware of.
- **A hideously obscene booklet on "gay" practices created by health officials was given out in a high school.** Citing "the right to marry" as one of the "important challenges" in a place where "it's a great time to be gay," the Mass. Dept. of Public Health helped the *AIDS Action Committee* produce *The Little Black Book: Queer in the 21st Century*. It was given to teens at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives "tips" to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to "safely" have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It even included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Hospitals

- **Because of the purported necessity to cater to "LGBT health" issues, nearly every major Boston hospital has become an active supporter of the radical homosexual movement.** This includes marching in the "Gay Pride" parades, holding homosexual events, and putting on numerous "gay health"-related seminars. This is one of the most disturbing things that's happened since "gay marriage" became "legal."
- **A major Boston hospital threatened to fire a physician when he objected to its promotion of homosexual behavior.** In 2011 a prominent physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston – a large Harvard-affiliated hospital – objected to the hospital being involved with "Gay Pride" activities. He also pointed out to his superiors the medical health risks of homosexuality, and said that he *and others at the hospital* considered homosexual acts to be unnatural and immoral. The hospital then threatened to fire him, telling him that same-sex marriage is "legal" and that his comments constituted "harassment and discrimination." After a "hearing" he was allowed to keep his job, but was told to apologize and to keep his opinions on these matters to himself.
- **In 2012 the Boston Medical Center purchased a prominent full-color ad (full page, inside cover) in the Boston Gay Pride guide book.** The content? The entire ad promoted the hospital's STD and AIDS clinics for the "pride" participants – particularly its screening services for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, and HIV.

Domestic violence

- **Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual domestic violence.** Since "gay marriage" began, Massachusetts has one of the highest

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proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country. Given the extremely dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt

the need to spend more and more money to deal with that problem. “Gay domestic violence programs” have also become a major lobbying push in the State House by the homosexual group *MassEquality*. This year it comprises a considerable portion of a \$5.5 million state budget item (according to MassEquality). This is up from \$100,000 budgeted in 2007.

□ **“Gay domestic partner violence” literature (funded by the state) is now distributed at virtually every public homosexual event – including to children** at “Youth Pride” events, GLSEN conferences, “gay straight alliance” high school clubs – and especially at the various events and parades during “Gay Pride” week.

□ **It has become such a problem that a public candlelight vigil in downtown Boston** is held every year by a coalition of Massachusetts homosexual groups “to remember victims of recent LGBT intimate partner violence, and to raise awareness of this important community issue.”

Business and employment

□ **All insurance in Massachusetts** must now recognize same-sex “married” couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.

□ **Businesses must recognize same-sex “married” couples in all their benefits, activities, etc.**, regarding both employees and customers.

□ **People can now get fired from their jobs for expressing religious objections to same-sex “marriage.”** In 2009, a deputy manager at a Brookstone store in Boston was fired from his job for mentioning his belief to another manager who had kept bringing up the subject with him that day. Brookstone’s letter of termination (quoted on local TV news) said his comment was “inappropriate” because “in the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal.”

□ **The wedding industry is required to serve the homosexual community if requested.** Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must accept same-sex marriage events or be held liable for discrimination.

□ **Businesses are often “tested” for tolerance by homosexual activists.** Groups of homosexual activists go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient “equality” — now that homosexual marriage is “legal.” Then they report “tolerance violators” to authorities, and businesses can be fined and punished. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce “marriage equality.”

Legal profession and judicial system

□ **The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex marriage “law.”** In 2007, a Boston man failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer a question about homosexual marriage.

□ **In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law must now attend seminars on homosexual “marriage.”** Issues regarding homosexual “families” are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In addition, there are now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.

□ **In 2011 the Governor appointed Barbara Lenk, a “married” lesbian activist, to be a state Supreme Court Justice.** She has said that the interpretation of law “evolves and

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develops” because “minority groups [e.g., homosexuals] see certain things differently based on their own experiences.”

Adoption and birth certificates

□ **In the year after the “gay marriage” ruling, the state’s adoption and foster care workers went through a massive indoctrination on “LGBT youth awareness.”** This

included employees and managers at the Mass. Dept. of Social Services. These sessions were run by the radical *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force* (which once awarded a “Leather Leadership Award” to the owner of a pornographic video company). The emphasis was that those working with children must be trained that homosexuality (and transgenderism) are normal. At one session, the trainer announced that the new motto is, “To tolerate is an *assault*; you have to *accept*” this behavior.

□ **Homosexual “married” couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children – through any agency.** In 2006 *Catholic Charities* decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.

□ **Adoption agencies have said that 40% of their adoptions are to homosexual couples.** Anecdotal reports also indicate that many adoption agencies now *favor* homosexuals over normal couples.

□ **In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men “married” to each other as their “Parents of the Year.”** The men had adopted a baby through DSS (*against the wishes of the baby’s birth parents*). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final, DSS approached the men about adopting a second child.

□ **The state-funded Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) has been pushing “GLBT” family formation and holds “adoption parties”** where homosexual couples have been encouraged to attend (along with others) and see “available” children in person. MARE places prominent ads in GLBT publications.

□ **Birth certificates in Massachusetts have been changed from “mother” and “father” to “mother/parent” and “father/parent.”** *Two men or two women* can now be listed as the “parents” on birth certificates! Homosexuals who adopt can revise children’s existing birth certificates.

□ **A court ruled in 2012 that if a child is “born of a same-sex marriage,” there is no need for adoption by a non-biological parent.** Thus, they would both be the listed as the “parents” on the child’s birth certificate, without any formal proceedings necessary. (The other biological parent is not noted on the official birth certificate.)

Government mandates

□ **Marriage licenses and certificates in Massachusetts now have “Party A” and “Party B” instead of “husband” and “wife.”** Imagine having a marriage license like that.

□ **In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired.** Several Justices of the Peace immediately decided to resign. That order still stands. Also Town Clerks were forced by the Governor’s office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

□ **In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws** to include homosexual “married” couples in the coverage.

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The public square

□ **Since gay “marriage” began, public “Gay Pride” events have become more prominent in the public square.** There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. And the envelope gets pushed further and further. For example: the annual profane “Dyke March” through downtown Boston, and the 2008 “transgender” parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed (so they could “become” men). Governor Patrick even marched with his 17-year-old “out lesbian” daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a sadomasochist “leather” group brandishing a black

and blue flag, lashes and chains!

Churches being harassed

Churches and religious people have been demonized, harassed and threatened – with no punishment for the perpetrators. Since the “gay marriage” ruling, those who publicly disagree with “gay marriage” or the normalcy of homosexuality – or hold events promoting traditional beliefs – are targets of militant retribution by homosexual activists. Police and public officials have shown no interest in stopping this. We are not aware of a single homosexual activist arrested (or charged with any “hate crime”) for disrupting a religious event or threatening and harassing people at a church. For example:

- **In 2012 someone threatened to burn down a Catholic Church in Acushnet which posted the words “Two men are friends, not spouses” on its outdoor sign.** The church immediately received a flood of profane phone calls. At least one person threatened to burn down the church. An activist nailed a sign to church’s fence saying, “Spread love not hate.” Activists staged a protest outside of the Sunday Mass to intimidate parishioners with a sign saying, “It is legal for two men or women to be spouses.” Neither the police nor the District Attorney pursued the threats as a hate crime or other offense.
- **In 2010 a Catholic elementary school balked at letting a lesbian couple enroll their son.** As a result, the school was excoriated in the media and even by the local liberal state representative as “discriminatory.” The privately-run *Catholic Schools Foundation* then threatened to withhold funding to the school unless it relented. The Archdiocese eventually backed down and the school reversed its policy.
- **In 2009 angry homosexual activists terrorized the Park Street Church in Boston** while it was holding an ex-gay religious training session inside. They demonstrated next to the doors and windows with signs, screaming homosexual slogans. One of them held a bullhorn against the window outside the meeting, bellowing at the participants inside. Police did nothing to stop them, even though they were standing inside the historic cemetery adjacent to the church.
- **In 2006 dozens of screaming homosexual activists drowned out the speakers at an outdoor pro-marriage rally** in Worcester organized by *Catholic Vote*, yelling “Bigots” and disgusting chants. Police did not stop them, even though the rally had a permit. When one of the rioters rushed the stage and started shouting, a rally organizer tried to lead her to the side. She subsequently sued that organizer for assault! He went through a four-day trial and was acquitted by a jury. But no charges were filed against any of the rioters.
- **In 2006 a group of homosexual activists with signs taunted and screamed at people entering and leaving the Tremont Temple Baptist Church** in downtown Boston, which was holding a nationally televised pro-marriage event inside.
- **In 2005 hundreds of homosexual activists terrorized the Tremont Temple Baptist Church with makeshift coffins, screaming obscenities through loudspeakers as**

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the national pro-family group *Focus on the Family* held a religious conference inside. The crowd was so threatening that attendees could not leave the church for the lunch break. The Boston riot police stood in front of the church doors, but did nothing to disperse the protesters who were also completely blocking the street.

The media

- **The Boston media regularly features articles and news stories using homosexual “married” couples** where regular married couples would normally be used. It’s “equal,” they insist, so there must be no difference in how marriage is portrayed. Also, the newspaper advice columns now deal with homosexual “marriage” issues – and how to

properly accept it.

□ **A number of news reporters and TV anchors** are “out” homosexuals (at least one openly “married”) who march in the “Gay Pride” parades and publicly participate in other homosexual events.

Politics

□ **A climate of fear has kept politicians at all levels from disagreeing with or criticizing same-sex marriage since it became “legal.”** Public officials are afraid of being accused of wanting to “take away rights.” Those who support traditional marriage rarely discuss it publicly. And this fear has expanded to suppress any meaningful debate on all homosexual related issues. Additionally, it has brought a feeling of intimidation among pro-family people across the state.

□ **The Massachusetts Republican establishment has become arguably the most “pro-gay marriage” GOP in America.** The state GOP House and Senate leaders now both publicly support “gay marriage,” as did the recent Mass. GOP candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. GOP candidates for office are told not even to discuss it.

□ **In April 2009, the Chairman of the Mass. Republican Party told a homosexual newspaper that the GOP would no longer oppose “gay marriage.”** Then Chairman Jennifer Nassour, interviewed on the front page of *Bay Windows*, assured the gay community that the state GOP would “steer clear of social” issues such as “opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion.” The newly elected chairman, Bob Maginn, does not talk about the issue.

□ **Every Massachusetts state-wide elected official and member of Congress (but one) now publicly supports “gay marriage.”** The one (apparent) holdout, Republican US Senator Scott Brown, strenuously avoids the issue, saying that it’s “settled law” and not worth fighting over.

Rule of law

□ **Same-sex “marriage” came to Massachusetts through a radical court’s narrow ruling.** Because of that, there is an often depressing sense of helplessness that pervades this issue. The marriage statute was never changed, and it has been convincingly argued that the whole process was in violation of the state constitution. The Governor simply went along. And the Legislature acted to block popular votes on two separate constitutional amendments protecting marriage, after sufficient signatures had been gathered for each. The rule of law seems further lost with every new outrage imposed on the people.

□ **Even the Massachusetts Law Library (online) shows no law legalizing same-sex marriage, only a court opinion.** It is a dangerous precedent to allow such sweeping judicial activism to stand as law, enabling everything that has followed from it. It should serve as a warning to states across the country.

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In conclusion

Same-sex “marriage” hangs over society, hammering citizens with the force of law. Once it gets a foothold, society becomes more oppressive. Unfortunately, it was imposed on the people of Massachusetts through a combination of radical, arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians. The homosexual movement has used that combination to its continued advantage around the country.

It’s pretty clear that this radical movement is obsessed with marriage not because large numbers of homosexuals actually want to marry each other. A small percentage actually “marry.” (In fact, over the last several months, the *Sunday Boston Globe’s* marriage section hasn’t had *any* photos of homosexual marriages; at first it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexuals’ relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and real

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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 to ask you to not support the marriage equality legislation. I voted 'no' when it was on the ballot more than 10 years ago because I believed then and still believe now that marriage between a man and a woman is the basic unit of humanity, instituted by God.

Since then, same-sex marriage has been made the law in most states, but not without consequently challenging Christian citizens in court proceedings.

I would vote 'no' today as I believe same-sex marriage legislation will be an assault on religious freedoms.

I believe passing this bill will eventually lead to the legal prosecution of churches and leaders who would teach Biblical-based beliefs about homosexuality from the pulpit, for committing crimes of 'hate speech' (as is now happening in Canada).

I also believe that advocates of equality for homosexuality will need to teach this concept in schools, a subject that should be left to parents to teach their children depending on the child's emotional maturity and not at the public school's discretion.

Civil unions can be crafted to grant the same rights but marriage must be reserved for the union of a man and woman. Please consider the consequences of this law for the future of our state's religious institutions and freedom.

Sincerely,
Gisele A Nash
91-1021 Kaileolea Dr. H6
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 7:14 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: hcarmody@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)
Attachments: House Testimony SSM.pages

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Harriet Carmody	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please oppose SB1. Remember the numbers at the rally on 10/28/13. Traditional marriage is the heart of Hawaii's people. Do not destroy what remains of our beautiful Hawaii.

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

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

Dear Honorable Representative,

I urge you to support SB1. My partner, Owen and I have been full-time residents of Hawaii since 1998. We love our home state Hawaii. We feel a deep connection with the land and the people here.

Upon our arrival we began our study with Kumu 'elele Auntie Mahealani Ku'omo-Henry in ancient and contemporary Hawaiian spirituality and wisdom teachings. SB 1 ensures equality and corrects an issue for pono.

Aloha recognizes the bonding of all people. Aloha does this with respect, compassion and kindness. Aloha acknowledges the value and worth of all people. Ho'opono pono is making right righter. SB 1 establishes the value of equality for all peoples of Hawaii.

Civil rights are often hard won. It was not long ago that women could not vote or own property. And it has been even less time that black Americans have had equal rights. Homosexuality is not a choice; it is a God given nature of being, like being blonde or right handed or 5'11".

Whether you agree with same-sex marriage or not I ask you to honor the right for those that do.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Gary Canier

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!

If this bill is going to move forward, it must include a broader exemption for Religious organizations and individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Joslyn Beaver
Hau'ula, HI

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
Testifying in Person

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

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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. The current proposed bill still has too many unanswered questions.

My testimony is that the legal definition of marriage embodies what we as a society value most in marriage. Changing it will result in real harms. The traditional definition of marriage also affirms the societal value that children are central to the purpose of marriage and that children fare best when raised by the father and mother who brought them into this world. Numerous empirical studies over many decades establish that children develop best when raised by a father and a mother in a stable marriage relationship. Communities that have abandoned traditional marriage as the center of family and child-rearing have experienced dramatic increases in every category of child-development problems, including depression, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, school dropout rates, and crime. That has resulted in huge social costs in those communities.

If marriage is legally redefined to include same-sex couples, enormous legal and social pressure will mount against churches and religious people who believe in the traditional definition of marriage. Even scholars who strongly support same-sex marriage agree that serious religious freedom problems will arise.

We have learned much since the passing of Same Gender Marriage in Massachusetts. In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of homosexual-related cases. It's far worse than most people realize.

Finally and most importantly I believe that this bill does not protect my rights as a parent to protect my children against public schools teaching about homosexuality. Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to come down. The homosexual "marriage" onslaught in public schools across the state of Massachusetts started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

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 urge you to consider all the implications of passing this law. I feel that if you honestly took the time to study this issue out that you would reconsider passing this bill. I strongly urge you to oppose SB1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Name: Samuel Erbe



Address:
17-4590 South Road
Kurtistown, Hi 96760

Email: samerbe@gmail.com

EQUAL RIGHTS TESTIMONY BY SANDRA YORONG
SENATE BILL SB1
SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL 10/30/2013

If you lie or cheat, it is considered wrong. If someone lies or cheats consistently as part of their life, people will go against them. Same with alcoholism and gambling. Where are these sins rooted from? If you go back in history, many of these sins are rooted in the Ten Commandments, Moses instructions from God, and the Bible. In the same way lying and cheating is a sin, so is having sex with the same gender. Everyone sins. Some sin occasionally while others live in sin. Liars go to church, alcoholics go to church, cheaters go to church, and gays go to church. That doesn't make it right!!!!

When the British asked George Washington if he wanted to be King of America, he replied there was only one king. King Jesus. The British declared let it be known that Americans believe in only one king and he is King Jesus. My belief is our founding fathers ruled from values based in bible teachings. Their vision for the country was influenced from bible teachings. Our country's Constitution and D...eclaration were framed around bible teachings. That's why there was prayer in school and work. They believed marriage was between man and woman according to the bible and our laws were framed from this foundation of marriage. Marriage was not framed as equal rights.

I believe every person should have equal rights. I believe gay people should be loved and respected. But not marriage. If gays want federal equal rights, give it to them under another definition. Remove marriage as a condition for equal rights. Only allow marriage in churches and take it out of States. Then there would be no issue about marriage. It would be clear what marriage defines. In the same way you can only be baptized in church, you can only get married in church. And it wouldn't conflict with equal rights because it's apples and oranges. Everyone would have equal rights and there would be no reason for civil unions. You may not agree with me but this is my opinion. I have gay relatives. I love and support them. I believe they should have equal rights. But not marriage because I also believe in bible teachings. Loving same gender is fine. Having sex with same gender is a sin. But everyone sins. I'll leave it to God to judge.

Solution: The government should separate marriage from equal rights. The government should give marriage back to the churches. Make it law that anyone 18 or older is eligible for equal rights. The government will no longer be involved in marriage. If you want to be married, go to your church. Full separation of church and state. End of all discussions, debates, and millions of taxpayers' dollars going to waste arguing about apples and oranges. It's two different things!! You cannot merge the two together because then you get a "fruit" basket—which is what is happening now!

Aloha,

I support gay marriage not only since equal rights is a given in this country, but because since the first term of President Obama, the Democratic Party's platform was equal rights to gay and lesbian people. The people voted and the Democratic Party won. Now that the issue is here at home for us, those political figures should also remember what party they ran under and the values that party's platform represented. So yes the people, the entire nation voted and Democrats won which then means gay rights for all comes along with that victory! If Hawaii did not want this issue in their back yard Duke Aiona would be Governor and this bill would not have reached this far. Mahalo

Sincerely,

Christopher Sawai

Equality of Marriage Testimony

Doctors saving lives, police protecting our safety, military personnel defending our country, teachers educating our children, ministers bringing us closer to God...look these people in the eyes along with the children they may be raising and tell them that their love for their partner is not important enough to be recognized by the community in which they live. I hope all of our service industry people recognize the love and support of those of us who honor their families however they are constructed.

Every time you look into the eyes of a fireman, healthcare provider, caregiver, someone who adopted a child, someone who offered a prayer to someone in need, someone who helped feed the poor or held the hand of someone dying, think of how much of an asset that person is to our community and examine how you feel inside having possibly denied that person the gift of having a secure family life with the person of their choice.

Every time you see a military person who has been injured or traumatized at war, who happens to be lesbian or gay, think about how better off you might be for the sacrifices they have made and better off they might be if you allowed them equality of marriage.

Let our community support each other. Let's raise our children in an environment of tolerance and love. Let this village come together and strengthen our country and our world.

Ralph Whitaker III

Edward Roberts
1012 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, Marriage.
2. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members, from lawsuits.
3. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution.
4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Roberts

Hawaii Voter



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 7:42 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: fongm21@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)
Attachments: SB1.pages.zip

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Myrna Fong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

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

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

The Bill will cause undesirable impacts that new reveal to us. The facts that had happened to the other states had never revealed to the general public of Hawaii. I've looked at the documents of the cases happened in the state of Massachusetts. Here is an example,

Same-sex marriage takes away parental rights. In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because gay marriage is legal in Massachusetts, schools had a duty to normalize homosexuality. Today, gay sex is promoted from as early as kindergarten, and parents have no right to be notified or opt out their children. When a teacher was asked if parents complained, here response was, "Give me a break. It's legal now."

I would not want to have these happen to our children and to our community. There is more than just giving the marriage rights to a group of people. We need to think more than twice. We do not want our children to be suffering and struggling due to our wrong choice and decision.

Let the People Decide on Marriage. This is a decision that impacts not only a group of people, but also everyone who lives in Hawaii, as well as the future of the each one of our children. Therefore, we as residents of Hawaii, we have the right to decide and vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

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.

Gail Lile

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Glenn Lung
1012 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs
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4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Lung

Hawaii Voter

Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Committee on Finance:

Aloha Judiciary Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Rep. Sharon Har, and Finance Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke and Vice Chairs Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson and Rep. Scott Nishimoto,

Thank you for receiving my written testimony today, I will be unable to testify in person.

My name is Nick Aiello and I'm an LSW (Licensed Social Worker) in the State of Hawaii, working in the Department of Education providing direct counseling supports to students for the past 9 years, and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of the Marriage Equality Bill (SB-01).

I am writing this letter from both a personal standpoint, as well as from a professional standpoint, as the Chapter Director of GLSEN Hawaii (Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network).

From a personal standpoint, I have known ever since I was in grade school that I was gay. It is not something that one chooses and is not something I have ever questioned or doubted in my adult life. Growing up gay, I struggled finding my identity in a small town, simply due to the fact that I had no role models that I could look up to. I didn't have issue recognizing that I was gay, it was simply a matter of looking outward to find those who I could aspire to be like, and to find those adults to look up to. Over 20 years ago, LGBT individuals were not found on television, they were not highlighted in media for any positive attributes, nor did I know any adult couples who were open and out with their sexual orientation. As a child wrestling with feelings that I was gay, and having no one to look up to because of social and societal stigma, this had a damaging effect on my self-worth and identity. Allowing same sex couples the right to be married, allows adult role models to come forward and show our LGBT youth that one can have a committed, and monogamous relationship, like our heterosexual counterparts.

Allowing individuals the right to enter into a same sex marriage, creates an even playing field for ALL citizens of this state. Contrary to what so many in the opposition have stated, this is not a moral or religious issue. It is being taken up by the legislature, where there is supposed to be a separation of church and state. By passing this bill, churches and their congregations, will still be able to discriminate against gay couples and will not be forced into performing gay marriages. On the other end of the spectrum, the state will be doing what is right by allowing ALL the citizens of Hawaii the opportunity to have equal rights. As has been referenced before, no majority group should be voting on the rights of a minority group. Numerous laws would not have passed if this were the case. Civil Unions are separate and therefore not equal to state issued marriages.

My partner Jose and I have been in a committed relationship for over 6 years now and hope to one day have a family. We have a loving and respectful relationship and there is no reason why we should have to ask other human beings for equal rights, which we still do not have. We are law abiding, tax paying, and compassionate people who only ask our relationship be afforded the same rights that our heterosexual friends and family can enjoy. We are not seeking special rights, just EQUAL rights.

The passing of SB-1 will only further strengthen LGBT families, parents, and the outcomes for LGBT youth in our state. It will show our youth that LGBT individuals are valued and have a place in our society, alongside our heterosexual counterparts. Not passing this bill will have detrimental effects on the mental health of the LGBT community at large. It will only mean that the LGBT community will continue to be marginalized, their relationships will not be equal in the eyes of the law, and it will show our LGBT youth that the state views them as “less than”.

From a professional standpoint, I am the chapter director of the first “GLSEN Hawaii” chapter. GLSEN is a national non-profit dedicated to ensuring K-12 schools are safe for ALL students. At GLSEN, we want every student, in every school, to be valued and treated with respect, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We believe that all students deserve a safe and affirming school environment where they can learn and grow. Even though this is not an education issue, it does have an impact on youth and I feel it is necessary to correct the falsehoods that were presented by the opposition during the hearings on Monday October 28th, 2013, regarding the implications for this bill passing and its’ connection to educating the youth in Hawaii schools on LGBT-related issues. According to the American Bar Association, between 6 and 10 million children are being brought up by LGBT parents. In order for these students to do their best, their parents must be able to be full participants in the school community and have all the rights and protections that they need as parents.

GLSEN Hawaii works to ensure that all students have a safe place to voice their concerns regarding ANY issue, including bullying and/or harassment. Students who have an affirming and supportive environment are

GLSEN has been conducting research and evaluation on LGBT issues in K-12 education since 1999. Our research staff members are nationally-recognized experts, trusted by safe schools advocates and researchers alike to provide the facts about what’s really going on in U.S. schools. GLSEN research conducts a national school climate survey in participating states, noting the experiences of our LGBT youth. Results from the 2011 National School Climate Survey¹ has consistently indicated that a safer school climate directly relates to the availability of LGBT school-based resources and support, including Gay-Straight Alliances, inclusive curriculum, supportive school staff and comprehensive anti-bullying policies. It is clear that there is an urgent need for action to create safe and affirming schools for our LGBT youth. Passing SB-1 will send a strong message to our youth that LGBT individuals are equal in the eyes of the law.

In no way will this bill force schools or organizations to “indoctrinate” our students into an LGBT lifestyle or promote one to be LGBT. There is no heterosexual adult or youth that I know that would change their true sexual orientation to being gay based on the fact that SB-1 passed or by schools promoting inclusive and research based sexual education courses, with any LGBT content.

1 2011 National School Climate Survey, The experience of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender youth in our National’s Schools

<http://glsen.org/sites/default/files/2011%20National%20School%20Climate%20Survey%20Full%20Report.pdf>

The passage of SB-1 would only show our youth that ALL relationships between 2 consenting adults, both heterosexual or gay, are equal. LGBT youth would have adult role models to look up to and validate that it is perfectly ok for 2 same sex partners to share their life with one another, in the name of love. It will allow our youth to feel safe and secure in coming out and being who they truly are, and it will show them that all Hawaii residents are equal, regardless of sexual orientation. No single group or person should have the right to invalidate on paper the love that 2 same sex individuals share for one another, and treat them as inferior.

I implore you to make the decision that is just, and pono for our current generation of LGBT individuals and for future generations to come. Pass SB-1 and correct what has been unjust for far too long.

Mahalo for your time,

Nick Aiello, MSW, LSW,

Chapter Director, GLSEN Hawaii

Dear Sir or Madam:

I oppose this bill. I feel strongly that we need to allow the people to vote on a matter as high as this. I support traditional marriage which is between one man and one woman. There should not be any other configuration. I support traditional marriages because it is founded on correct principles that have enabled our nation to be one of the strongest nations in the world. I strongly urge that we be given the right to vote on this issue. Children deserve to have parents such as we had in our lives.

Lastly, this nation has a motto that says in GOD we Trust. WE must let GOD TRUST us and do that which we know is right. Marriage between one Man and one Woman is the way GOD intended us to be. If we want to be blessed by GOD then we must live our lives as he as outlined. Any other way will only lead to destruction and failures.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Gustavus

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

This testimony is being submitted only.

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society.

As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious**

rights of our people are not infringed upon.

Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in.

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

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

Sincerely,
Stanford Hao
Citizen & Registered Voter

As a voting citizen of the state of Hawaii, I thank you for hearing my testimony on this controversial matter.

I am opposed to allowing a matter of such importance as redefining marriage to be voted upon by such a small group of people. I believe that we should honor what the previous votes of the population that had agreed upon in past elections on this matter.

I feel that we do not know enough about what the ramifications are in changing the definition of marriage to warrant a change at this time.

I work with teenagers and am constantly trying to get them to see the benefits of democracy and encouraging them to be responsible citizens, to be informed and to take the time out to vote and how important it is TO vote. And yet, how do I explain to them that, even though the people of Hawaii already voted on this issue twice in the past, we still have to pay for another Special Session to discuss this issue again? We are telling them and the voting population of Hawaii that their word isn't good enough and it is pointless to vote because the powers that be will simply override it.

I urge you to move and vote on the side of caution here. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Consider the delicacy and impressionable state of our children.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Funtanilla

To: House Judiciary and Finance Committee Members
Fr: Donna Higashi, retired teacher
Re: Testimony in support of SB1 Relating to Equal rights

This testimony is in strong support of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. Although retiring as a public school teacher in 2002 I continued to be active as a substitute teacher and with my fellow educator friends. This issue of marriage equality for same gender couples have surfaced many misleading statements about school curriculum and in general the educational system in Hawaii. This bill does not mandate any change in the curriculum and any changes to the school curriculum needs to be approved by the Hawaii State Board of Education. We should not be afraid that our public school teachers, who already encounter same gender parents especially in the primary grades or working with older students who are dealing with their own sexuality, will do the right thing - be mindful of everyone's personal rights and beliefs and show compassion and respect to all. Let's provide this right to all the citizens of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

October 30, 2013

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.

As a member of the legislative branch you have the duty and responsibility to represent the interests and desires of those citizens you represent. I know that supporting the rights of the homosexual community seems popular right now. But I am certain that majority of the citizens of Hawaii do not want marriage to be redefined in this way. I, along with so many of the people of Hawaii, believe 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. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But that is not something to be determined through indirect representation. **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawaii 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,

Nicolaus Hoggan

34 Lele Street Apt C
Hilo, HI 96720

Aloha!

I am concerned about the legislation being proposed for consideration this month. I would like to see more protections for religious liberty.

For example, currently clergy are protected against having to perform a marriage between same gender participants, but only if they have no history of performing marriages outside their own religion. Many Catholic pastors and LDS Bishops preside over marriages between those from their flock and outside of it. They would be required to marry same gender couples, against their religious standards, if this is the case.

This same protection also does not seem to apply for religious institutions, such that if an institution like Chaminade or BYU-Hawaii desires to open their facilities for use to the community as a service, they can be penalized by being forced to host events that go against their moral standards, such as a reception for same gender marriages.

Similarly, there is rumor that the legislation could even be used against our religious based universities by required that married housing allow anyone who is married (as defined by the state) to live there. This will most likely include same gender couples in the future, again pitting religious institutions' desires to serve the community against their moral standards.

The difficulty as I see it is one of religious freedom. A member of a religion, who believes the religion to be established and informed by God, has no ability to change or alter its precepts to fit the changing government definitions of marriage, nor the wider culture's acceptance of issues like same gender marriage.

While it can be argued that the leaders of religions have the ability to change their doctrines, for the lay member, the choice is a stark one: they must simply choose between the government's laws and the commandments of their God.

I would urge the legislature to have clear, unambiguous protections for clergy, religiously affiliated institutions, and even for business owners to allow them to practice their religion unimpeded.

If needed, the legislature could petition the religions in hopes to change their doctrines, but the law should never be allowed to force citizens to do what their religion and their God has deemed immoral.

Best Regards,

Dr. Ronald Mellado Miller

I am opposed to the "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013".

Homosexual relations are an evolutionary dead-end. Individuals can, obviously, not reproduce in a homosexual relationship. Therefore, this relationship has historically been one for entertainment (consider the Ancient Greeks) rather than familial.

Considering this issue, since homosexual marriages have been legalized, the divorce rate among these same-sex couples has been equal to the divorce rate of heterosexual couples. This increases the work of the court system, and the burden on the tax system, already in debt.

Children adopted by homosexual couples are raised with an aberrant version of a family. As a society, it is the duty of the family to protect and train children. Having homosexual parents may lead to a (continued) reduction in the number of children born in Hawaii, which may have serious economic repercussions. Additionally, it warps the concept of marriage and family, already in dissolution through divorce and out of wedlock births, leading to an even greater number of children emotionally and socially bereft.

It is our responsibility to protect the keiki. It is our duty to be economically wise. The "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013" paves the path to a destination that is neither.

Thank you,

Patricia Miller

Honorable Members of the House Judicial and Finance Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Wayne Shimogawa
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Honorable Senator Hee:

As a constituent of yours, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to legalize gay marriage in the state of Hawaii. If you cannot outright oppose the legalization of gay marriage, I hope you will at least work to ensure that, at a minimum, religious freedom is protected; I also hope you will protect economic freedom.

I am opposed to this proposal, because I think the science is still inconclusive on the consequences to children of being raised in same sex families. Two recent peer-reviewed studies suggest that growing up in same-sex households actually has negative consequences for children. (See Douglas Allen, "High school graduation rates among children of same-sex households," in the September 2013 issue of *Review of the Economics of the Household*; and the 2012 study by Mark Regnerus and others easily accessible at this website: <http://www.familystructurestudies.com/articles/>). These studies alone are insufficient to conclude that their conclusions are correct. However, these studies are sufficient to question the opposing claim that children are not affected by growing up in same-sex households. More studies (and time for those studies) is required before we will have a sufficient basis to form a conclusion. Therefore, it would be a mistake, in my opinion, to support this significant social change without a better understanding of the consequences this change will have on innocent and powerless children who rely on us to protect and secure them.

I do not believe in protecting tradition just because it is a tradition. At the same time, I do not believe all change is progressive. I think caution is warranted before changing long-standing traditions. Most traditions exist because they serve a purpose that has been verified with the test of time. For example, ancient religions' opposition to eating pork may have stemmed from that meat's susceptibility to spoiling. The advent of refrigeration and government regulations have made pork much safer and decreased the need for that tradition. However, until we know that what we are replacing a tradition with is better, we should err on the safe-side with caution. This is particularly true with something as fundamental to society and civilization as the health of its children.

If you support gay marriage, and I hope you will not, at a minimum, work to ensure that freedom of religion is protected. I hope that you will ensure that religious organizations and officials will not be required to solemnize gay marriages, nor that religious properties will be required to be offered for gay marriages. Freedom of religion is a founding principle of this country and should be preserved. Aristotle, that great thinker of political and constitutional societies, noted that a majority is often wiser than the single wisest person, but he also cautioned that a majority is hard to restrain once they begin to override constitutional law.

Similarly, I hope you will support economic freedom. If people do not want to use their business to support or service gay marriages, for whatever reason, please allow them that privilege. If gay marriage is right, then with time those people who choose not to support it will suffer economically and those who support it will prosper. In the meantime, please ensure government respects individual conscience, which is the fundamental basis of a free market, namely that individuals are free to exchange or not. I

am aware that economic freedom was denied on the basis of skin color. I condemn discrimination based on skin color, but I think the same argument for economic freedom applied in that situation.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas and your service to our beautiful state.

Sincerely:

Ivona Mills

Honorable Senator Hee:

As a constituent of yours, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to legalize gay marriage in the state of Hawaii. If you cannot outright oppose the legalization of gay marriage, I hope you will at least work to ensure that, at a minimum, religious freedom is protected; I also hope you will protect economic freedom.

I am opposed to this proposal, because I think the science is still inconclusive on the consequences to children of being raised in same sex families. Two recent peer-reviewed studies suggest that growing up in same-sex households actually has negative consequences for children. (See Douglas Allen, "High school graduation rates among children of same-sex households," in the September 2013 issue of *Review of the Economics of the Household*; and the 2012 study by Mark Regnerus and others easily accessible at this website: <http://www.familystructurestudies.com/articles/>). These studies alone are insufficient to conclude that their conclusions are correct. However, these studies are sufficient to question the opposing claim that children are not affected by growing up in same-sex households. More studies (and time for those studies) is required before we will have a sufficient basis to form a conclusion. Therefore, it would be a mistake, in my opinion, to support this significant social change without a better understanding of the consequences this change will have on innocent and powerless children who rely on us to protect and secure them.

I do not believe in protecting tradition just because it is a tradition. At the same time, I do not believe all change is progressive. I think caution is warranted before changing long-standing traditions. Most traditions exist because they serve a purpose that has been verified with the test of time. For example, ancient religions' opposition to eating pork may have stemmed from that meat's susceptibility to spoiling. The advent of refrigeration and government regulations have made pork much safer and decreased the need for that tradition. However, until we know that what we are replacing a tradition with is better, we should err on the safe-side with caution. This is particularly true with something as fundamental to society and civilization as the health of its children.

If you support gay marriage, and I hope you will not, at a minimum, work to ensure that freedom of religion is protected. I hope that you will ensure that religious organizations and officials will not be required to solemnize gay marriages, nor that religious properties will be required to be offered for gay marriages. Freedom of religion is a founding principle of this country and should be preserved. Aristotle, that great thinker of political and constitutional societies, noted that a majority is often wiser than the single wisest person, but he also cautioned that a majority is hard to restrain once they begin to override constitutional law.

Similarly, I hope you will support economic freedom. If people do not want to use their business to support or service gay marriages, for whatever reason, please allow them that privilege. If gay marriage is right, then with time those people who choose not to support it will suffer economically and those who support it will prosper. In the meantime, please ensure government respects individual conscience, which is the fundamental basis of a free market, namely that individuals are free to exchange or not. I

am aware that economic freedom was denied on the basis of skin color. I condemn discrimination based on skin color, but I think the same argument for economic freedom applied in that situation.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas and your service to our beautiful state.

Sincerely:

Ivona Mills

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

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

Something so emotional and passionate cannot be rushed into without proper discussion and debate from the people of Hawaii. It is clear that the people of Hawaii have a lot to say about same sex marriage.

I believe that marriage should be reserved for one man and one woman. While I offer love to others who choose otherwise, I do not believe we should make this law in our State of Hawaii. Legislating this bill would introduce a non-natural sexual acceptance that will affect our children and generations to come. Other states and countries that have legalized same sex marriages have proven that decreasing morality and confusion have occurred.

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. The only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion against this special session and against this bill.

Aloha,

98-501 Koauka Loop #A1702, Aiea, HI 96701

To: Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Hawaii House of Representatives
Re: Hearing on SB1
Date: October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium, 415 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1, as introduced.

In the summer of 2011 I was granted the distinct honor of being able to marry my wife in New York City. Unfortunately, the moment we arrived home in Hawai'i our marriage was downgraded in the eyes of the law to a Civil Union. Frankly, until this past June I was ok with that. Hawai'i's Civil Union law was comprehensive enough to afford my wife and I the same rights and protections enjoyed by any married couple in the state and federal law would not have recognized our marriage anyway. However, times have changed.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of key provisions of DOMA, every day that goes by without marriage equality in Hawai'i is a day that committed couples such as my wife and I, are left vulnerable and less secure than our heterosexual peers. While the IRS, for example, has applied the Supreme Court decision to allow all married same-sex couples to file taxes jointly regardless of the state they live in, there are numerous other federal benefits and protections that are currently only available to married couples who live in states that recognize their marriages. There is still much uncertainty about whether federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, will recognize same-sex marriages of couples living in non-marriage equality states like Hawaii.

Civil unions simply are not recognized as marriages under federal law. Lacking the right to legally marry in Hawai'i, same-sex couples must leave their home to marry in order to receive some but not all federal benefits and protections. Even after they have unfairly expended extra money, time, and effort not required of heterosexual couples, these married same-sex couples are still ineligible for many federal benefits and protections. Passing marriage equality in Hawaii can change this.

It is time for the Hawai'i to stand on the right side of history and become the 15th state to stand for the equitable recognition of all committed couples. **Please pass SB 1 as is** to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo for you time, consideration and leadership

Tara O'Neill
431 Nahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

Adrienne Lee
1012A 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because:

1. I support the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman. This legislation goes against the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution. 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.
2. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion. Religious organizations will not be required to host same sex marriage celebrations if they meet the requirements of the state but not according and in respect to personal religious beliefs. Further this bill would prevent churches from holding events of community outreach with the fear that their facility would then be compelled to host events not keeping with their religious/moral beliefs.
3. It will introduce a new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth. Separation of church and state bar teachers from referencing God in public schools. If religious references are excluded from being taught in public schools, then same-sex marriages and relationships should likewise not be taught in public schools. The current legislation should respect all parties concerned.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B.1. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Lee
Hawaii Voter

To whom it may concern,

It's very simple. In the beginning God created male and female...and He created marriage between a man and a woman. What right do we have to redefine marriage? It's a very dangerous thing to mess with the things that God values. I am not intolerant to gays...I am not promoting inequality. I love my homosexual friends, just as God does. But I am standing for TRUTH.

How dare we leave God out of our country...His values and His instructions...and then say "God bless America." God grieves over this country right now.

Please stand for TRUTH and what God stands for...and maybe God will have mercy and continue to bless America.

Thank you for listening.

Amanda Strauwald

Dear House of Representatives,

My name is Ranell Asuega, I am from Palolo Valley, I am 32yrs old and have grown up and been raised here on the island. I strongly oppose same sex marriage. I humbly and respectfully ask that you all reconsider this bill being passed. After living away for 6yrs and moving back from the mainland due to my father being very ill, I have noticed a lot of changes that has happened in Hawaii. I understand that you all have a difficult job but in this situation I am crying out to you to look at the long term effects that this bill will cause. We continuously look for better ways to improve Hawaii, make more jobs, make more money but tend to forget that we strip away what Hawaii is and why people travel here in the first place. Aloha; The People; The Land. We, the people of Hawaii are unique, they will come if we are not like the mainland which at times to me seems and feels like we are. While people say that I don't have Aloha because of "No Same Sex Marriage" I beg to differ; I love each and everyone all the same, I am related to a lot of gay individuals but when it comes to marriage I strongly feel that this promise that is made to God by a man and women should be kept the way our heavenly father asked it to be. So many things have been changed by the human race carving God out of the picture, when this country was made under God. If you do not have a religion or belief than please "Let The People Decide". This is not equality when not everyone will be left equal if this bill is passed. May the Lord be with you all as not everyone can be pleased, you all hold our future in your hands. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ranell Asuega
(206)861-2174

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Shadrack Nabea Jr., and I am 11 years old, and I'm in 6th grade at Mililani Middle School. I am submitting this testimony because I am against SB-1 and same-sex marriage. Even though I'm young, I'm happy to have this opportunity to testify . Same-sex marriage is **wrong**, period. It goes against the Bible, which is accurate and has been proven true numerous times, but never wrong. As a Christian, I know and believe that marriage is between 1 man and 1 woman, not 2 men or 2 women. Even if you think it is, the Constitution gives us the right of free religion, and the right to uphold our religious beliefs. So, technically speaking, the fact that kids have to listen to this goes against the Constitution, and our rights. Also, the more same sex marriages = little birth rate = adoption = population decreases big time = very few people in U.S. = economy goes down = United States turns into States of America. In addition, if a boy has two moms, he has no dad to talk to, no male figure in the household to look up to. If he has two dads, he has no mom, no female figure to cheer things up. Same for girls, just vice versa. Also, it would be weird having two moms or two dads. Plus, we kids are forced to listen to this teaching, even if we don't want to because it's against our beliefs. The teachers have to teach this, or they would have to be fired. That's the same way for companies that refuse to serve gay or lesbian couples because of religious beliefs, but they can be sued for everything they have. That's against the Constitution, too, by the way. It's bad for the long term future of the U.S., as well as the economy!

Please Vote no to SB 1 and let the people decide!

Sincerely,

Shadrack Nabea Jr.

P.S. It's the right thing to do too, so say No! ☺

I am strongly against this bill, do not destroy the Law Of Marriage God's Law Of Marriage is between a Man and a Woman and I am sure you all know that, if you are really that smart you would understand unless you have hidden agenda. But please please do not pass this Bill. If they want benefits go check with the federal government I am sure there are options to accommodate them, it 's not about hate it's about keeping the Law Of God The Law Of Marriage is between a Man and a Women. YOU know that. Pleaaaaase DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

I am strongly against this bill, I am asking and begging you not to pass this bill , do not destroy the Law Of Marriage God's Law Of Marriage is between a Man and a Woman and I am sure you all know that, if you are really that smart you would understand unless you have hidden agenda. But please please do not pass this Bill. If they want benefits go check with the federal government I am sure there are options to accommodate them, it 's not about hate it's about keeping the Law Of God The Law Of Marriage is between a Man and a Women. YOU know that. Pleaaaase DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

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

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Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee:

Born and raised in Hawaii, I have been an attorney in Waianae for over 40 years.

I feel compelled to add to my House testimony in light of the treatment given to the public Monday before the Senate Committee.

AGAIN, I OPPOSE SENATE BILL #1 FOR THE FOLLOWING LEGAL REASONS:

A. SENATE BILL #1 RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WILL NOT PROHIBIT –AND THEREFORE WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING OCCURRING IN HAWAII:

- 1) Indoctrination of children in schools re: same sex relationships in school, denial of parental rights to opt children out of such programs (MA)
- 2) Christian charities force to close rather than do same sex adoptions (MA)
- 3) Complaints filed against churches when denied use of facilities to celebrate same sex unions (HI and other states). Some churches may close or suffer financially, rather than violate their religious beliefs.
- 4) Fining many Christian business people who refuse to provide services for same sex unions/marriages (NM/IOWA) or firing/boycotting those who speak out (MA)
- 5) The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission has already announced a willingness and plan to Impose the Public Accommodations Law on Churches.

B) SENATE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL # 1 WILL LEAD UNDOUBTEDLY TO MANY ALREADY KNOWN CHANGES TO HAWAII SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE, LIKE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- 1) LESSONS FROM CANADA... <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/same-sex-marriage-ten-years-on-lessons-from-canada/> <http://www.peacehamilton.com/problem.php>
- 2) THE MASSACHUSETTS EXPERIENCE
www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects_of_ssm_2012/SSM_Mass_2012.pdf

One can be tolerant and love their neighbor and still be against this same-sex marriage law proposal which clearly violates religious freedom and is itself intolerant to others' freedom of expression and beliefs.

My Additional Testimony to the House Committees reviewing the Senate Bill is as follows:

For your information, the Senate Committee cut off the number of persons who wanted to testify. It then limited them to 30 seconds, enough to say hi and bye, thereby discouraging them from being heard after waiting to testify for hours. The agenda apparently was to stop public comment and get the bill passed asap.

I hope this House Committee does not do likewise.

The legal analysis again above is just a partial list of the cases/legislation of destructive effects of same sex unions/marriages on OUR religious liberty, children, parental rights and free speech. Almost every day I learn of a new case or situation from my research and the research of others.

I don't believe most of you heard Constitutional Law Professor John Eastland and other attorneys and speakers who clearly pointed out Hawaii's so called religious exemption is the weakest in all the states ---they believe and I agree, as is, it is totally ineffective to protect not only a church's right to freely express its religious beliefs but also infringes upon personal individual and parental rights and beliefs. We do not want our and your Constitutional religious rights/beliefs to be taken away or diluted.

Just yesterday I came across a fairly comprehensive discussion and proposal for changes in the religious exemption wording by four professors of law who submitted testimony on Senate Bill 1. **I share this important legal discussion with you now by providing a link if you have difficulty finding the testimony: <http://www.hawaiireporter.com/gay-marriage-bill-should-be-passed-after-more-religious-liberty-protections-are-included/123>**

These law professors said basically that Hawaii should do the right thing and protect religious freedom from potential government penalty for refusing to host same-sex marriage ceremonies. READ THEIR THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTIONS BEFORE YOU VOTE. They reminded us that the Legislature represent all the people of Hawaii—They warned not to divide us into two camps—the opponents and the proponents—as Senate Bill #1 now does!

One final point--- Words actually mean something. Trust in our legislature requires truth and fair treatment of all the people of Hawaii show in your actions and words!

Mr. Joe Souki lost much of our trust before this special session started. Before this special session and only after a closed non-public session of House members with the Governor, House Speaker Joe Souki was quoted to say same sex marriage is inevitable and that polls are now 50-50 in Hawaii. Before the session, your leader, the House Speaker was also quoted to say his mind was made up and he will be voting with the majority in favor of this Senate same sex bill. Before the session, the Speaker also said “opponents” (I assume the word “opponents” means the majority of “people of Hawaii”?) are afraid of the unknown. Before the session, House Speaker Souki finally was quoted to equate a vote against same sex marriage to be not treating or accepting everyone as human beings?

First, I say LET THE PEOPLE VOTE. We will then find if the Speaker can be trusted for speaking the truth! For example, many of us recall that in 2011 the Legislature found “that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the traditional marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman.” I recall we trusted you. We believed you were speaking the truth when you approved civil unions and you preserved marriage for a man and a woman. Truth does not change in 2 years! The Entire fabric of our society depends upon marriage and should not change in 2 years under the circumstances of a rushed-get it done-we got the votes today—special session. If the Legislature in 2011 was

speaking the truth, did the truth change in 2 years ! And, if the House Speaker is so certain that the polls now show a "split 50 – 50" against same sex marriage, why is he afraid to allow the people to vote and decide?

Second, the Speaker's words were chilling. His words clearly caused but hopefully was not intended to discourage the majority of Hawaii's people who want to keep marriage between a man and a woman from attending these hearings or sending in emails, yet he basically informed them that their appearance at their House would be futile. Perhaps his words were simply intended to influence the public to favor same sex marriage, but can one do that fairly without an honest and exhaustive review of how same sex marriage would affect Hawaii's people in every aspect of our existing social fabric.

Third, with all due respect to his position, did not the Speaker call the people of Hawaii supporting traditional marriage ignorant and uninformed by saying opponents are afraid of the unknown? Of course this is untrue! Many of us are informed. We fear the known and obvious consequences of same sex marriage. So we want you to prevent those already known consequences. Certainly, you are NOW aware of the Massachusetts and other States experiences on religious beliefs/rights and the horrific Canadian consequences. We and you know that these foreseen consequences, which are being added to daily, will happen here too if this Senate Bill remains unchanged! In law, stare decisis means authority or decisions established in previous legal cases in other jurisdictions are often relied upon by a court in Hawaii to be persuasive when deciding subsequent Hawaii cases with similar issues or facts.

Finally, is the Speaker really saying that everyone testifying against ssm which are clearly most of Hawaii's church goers and others, including members of his own Catholic faith in Hawaii, are bigots? What about our kupuna and their ancestors, who clearly never supported the idea of same sex marriage? Perhaps, a poor choice of words. I hope the Speaker would

use his influence to lead toward a fair religious accommodation exemption in the law, rather than resorting to name calling. Hawaii's people deserve and are awaiting for true protection for religious freedom.

Finally, we trust our doctors, our lawyers, and our close friends. We have to. But how can we trust this Legislature when the Speakers actions and Senate Committee chairs actions evidence they do not intend to listen to let the people vote besides no even listening to them. Why so much done before a special session to predetermine the same sex marriage vote outcome? Why discourage the people of Hawaii opposing same sex marriage without clearly informing them of the inevitable consequences? Why 30 seconds to speak?

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW AT THIS TIME?

#1 PLEASE LET THE PEOPLE VOTE---from Waimanalo to Kahuku to Makaha!

AND IF YOU REFUSE TO LET THE PEOPLE VOTE----Because of the rush of this bill---and the little input allowed or prior discussion on this bill's inevitable consequences and because we find almost daily newer objections/corrections/proposed modifications... which cannot be digested with wisdom in 48 hours from today....

#2 YOU CAN DEFER SENATE BILL #1 TO AND ALLOW MUCH MORE EDUCATION/FORUMS/DISCUSSION TO TAKE PLACE

#3 FINALLY, AT LEAST-- PLEASE GREATLY BROADEN THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION AND BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FEDERAL AND STATE CONSTITUTION PROTECTING FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION?

WHY? To ensure Hawaii's people free exercise of religious liberties guaranteed to us in both our Federal and State constitution.

HOW? Again, please read the comprehensive discussion and proposal for changes in the religious exemption wording by four professors of law who submitted testimony on Senate bill 1--

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/gay-marriage-bill-should-be-passed-after-more-religious-liberty-protections-are-included/123>

In conclusion, Hawaii should do the right thing. Protect religious freedom from potential government penalty for refusing to host same-sex marriage ceremonies. We--all the people of Hawaii deserve protection— Don't divide them into two camps—the opponents and the proponents! Don't rush to judgment where fools rush in.....

I strongly oppose to this Bill, all I can say Pleaaaase do not let this Bill pass, if it is an issue about them wanting benefits why can't they just deal with the Federal Government , we don't mind them having benefits but to change the law of Marriage, that can't be happening , God 's Law of Marriage is between a Man and a Woman. F A M I L Y means Father And Mother I Love You. not Father and Father or Mother and Mother, We will not have them if it wasn't for Mother and Father. Come on have some comment sense.

If they want Benefits just give it to them , but
PLEAAAAASE DO NOT LET THIS BILL PASS.

Julina Lung
1012 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, Marriage.
2. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members, from lawsuits.
3. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution.
4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julina Lung

Hawaii Voter

Jennifer Roberts
1012 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
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4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Roberts

Hawaii Voter

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

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1. It will fail to protect my religious liberties that I enjoy today. This SPECIAL SESSION considering SB 1 should have been thoroughly reviewed and brought about in REGULAR SESSION. This RUSH through legislation is NOT good.

I feel my religious liberties will NOT be protected as stated in the attached statement. This statement articulates my concerns regarding my beliefs on how Homosexual and Lesbian Marriages will affect my religious convictions, conscience, beliefs and freedom to worship freely as offered in the First Amendment.

Thank you for your consideration to OPPOSE this bill,

Darroll Kahuena
55-606 Iosepa St.
Laie, Hawaii 96762
808-216-2715

The New Senate Bill Does Not Adequately Protect Religious Liberty

Like the Governor's original bill, the new Senate bill (S.B. 1) enacting same-sex marriage fails to protect religious liberty.

The Senate Bill Does Not Properly Protect Religious Institutions

(1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

(2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

(3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

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.

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.

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

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The House Finance Committee

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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.

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 this email to express my concerns on the proposed Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed again on October 31, 2013.

The decision on the same-sex marriage bill will impact on lives of people of the Hawai'i islands. However, the people have not granted the right to vote this bill. The rights are preserved among politicians. Also, it is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian. The 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. Also, the change will have effect on our school system to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society and it will affect on many individuals who observe traditional marriage. As these consequences, the people of Hawai'i should be granted the right to vote and let them to decide on this marriage equality issue.

Please stop the bill and let people vote!

Sincerely,

John Cheng
541 kukuau st.
Hilo, HI 96720

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.

With the change that this bill will bring to Hawaii, I am worried about what will happen in public education, church etc. I don't want this idea of same-sex marriage to be the norm. I believe that this is not the way God intended marriage to be and it is NOT a value I want my children to learn. I don't hate LGBT, affiliates or members, and in fact, I am friends with many of them. I just don't agree with that lifestyle and I don't want my prosperity to think that it's ok. It's not part of our Heavenly Father's plan. I believe that marriage should ONLY be between a man and a woman.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. Why is this bill being rushed? 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. It saddens me the way things have been playing out. If the majority of the people's votes are opposed to this bill, I would assume that OUR elected officials would mirror our voice. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I strongly oppose SB1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kealohilani Tuitele

Kathryn Taketa-Wong
1448 Thurston Avenue #15
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 30, 2013

House Judiciary and Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Judiciary and Finance Committee,

I am writing to **oppose** SB 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I have many friends in the LGBTQ (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer) community whom I love and respect, but I ask that they in turn respect my religious beliefs and do not seek to violate my right to religious freedom.

I appreciate that the bill was revised to include stronger language to protect religious organizations whose beliefs oppose same sex marriage from litigation. However, the language of the bill still **does not protect religious organizations who operate schools or daycare programs for profit to provide funds for their organization, nor does it protect church-affiliated organizations such as universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc..**

I oppose SB 1 because:

1. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
2. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
3. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.

4. It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.
5. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
6. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
7. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
8. It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
9. 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.
10. Its effective date of November 18, 2013 does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law.
11. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties if the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
12. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

I concur with the following written by Pakela Akaka:

"I ask now for you to think on what it means to grow up in a family based on a traditional marriage. The social aspect of a family that has children growing up with both a mother and a father figure develops understanding of social situations that *cannot* be found in a marriage of the same-sex. As daughters grow up, the qualities they look for in a man usually derive from the example set to them by their fathers, whether ideal or abusive. Fathers are meant to model for their daughter what it is that they should aspire to seek as standard in a man, and vice-versa for sons and their mothers. Now this is not to say that children who grow up in families with single parents never learn these things. I was raised by a single father, and have learned many things by his example of how to/how not to treat women.

According to an article titled "Growing Up With Two Moms: The Untold children's View", this man addresses the social difficulties he struggled to learn and deal with because he was confused inside. "My peers learned all the

unwritten rules of decorum and body language in their homes; they understood what was appropriate to say in certain settings and what wasn't; they learned both traditionally masculine and traditionally feminine social mechanisms". He continues by stating that even if the parents of his peers were divorced, they still grew up seeing male and female social models. "They learned to be bold and unflinching from male figures and how to write thank-you cards and be sensitive from female figures". We can all recognize these as stereotypes of course, but he also states how those stereotypes would come in handy when you leave the safety of a household that was different to work and survive in a world with very stereotypical minds, (Lopez, Robert O.). This also is not to say that all children reared in a same-gender parented family are condemned to a life of struggle and hardship of social identity/conformity, but to make it understood that it does make a difference.

What will these things mean for people of Hawaii? My concern is that it may mean many changes, possibly in the form of rules and regulations to be made in the basic standards of a functioning society . . . Passing this law as it is stated will without a doubt bring to pass many more lawsuits in the islands. In states that legalized same sex marriage, public school teachers have already begun to create lessons plans to discuss personal identity, homosexuality, same sex marriages, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) history and movement. After the passage of the FAIR Education Act in California, public schools are now required to teach about LGBT history starting in elementary school. In California a group of first graders were taken on a field trip to watch their lesbian teacher and her female partner marry at City Hall (Christian Newswire).

My question is: Is Hawaii ready for these changes? And: Shouldn't the people of Hawaii be the ones to decide this?

Now we need to gain an understanding of the situation that our local government is now in. This bill was put into standard session for this year and did not pass. The main reason being that it was seen as "hot potato" passed around the legislature and no one actually wanting to deal with it. The legislature all recognized this bill for what it truly is; an attempt to change the definition of "Marriage" in the state of Hawaii. According to the Defense Against Marriage Act of 1996 (now deemed unconstitutional), Marriage is defined as between a Man and a Woman. In 1998 however, Hawaii adopted a law which voters had at the time believed to have defined marriage as between a man and a woman, when the law in fact stated that the authority to define what constitutes a marriage would be granted to the legislature. This done, when in fact the last thing they voted for was to give the legislature the authority to define marriage as they so desire. Very much aware of this bill not passing in the standard session, and aware of the power of the legislature to grant this bill passage to law (by passage of the amendment of '98), Gov. Neil Abercrombie has called for a *special session* to be held where the legislature and senate would be the ones to decide if this would become law, and NOT THE CITIZENS of this state."

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Taketa-Wong
Hawaii Voter

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 for several reasons. On page 6 starting on line 4, the definitions of church exemptions are too poorly written to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. There are too many exceptions which all of the churches I know of would fall under. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for support groups, classes and sports and fitness programs that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches that offer these services for free or small fee to the public, many of whom don't attend church, from lawsuits or other challenges.

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

Being born and raised in Hawaii and now raising the next generation I also have great concerns about this bills effect on education. I believe the civil union bill addresses the rights of homosexual couples and that that bill can be expanded to cover anything that is deemed missing. It is not necessary to try and change the framework of society to give this group of people there civil rights. Marriage is not a civil right. Marriage is a definition: The legal status, condition, or relationship that results from a contract by which one man and one woman, who have the capacity to enter into such an agreement, mutually promise to live together in the relationship of husband and wife in law for life, or until the legal termination of the relationship. Across geographical lines, throughout history, spanning religions, and scientifically marriage is between a man and a woman. And this is not to the exclusion of any other group living, being educated, working, voting and being in society. It just simply means a marriage is by definition between a man and a woman.

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,

Cayce Rosario

Brian Wong
1329 Kaihee St. #4
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 30, 2013

Representative Karl Rhodes
House Judiciary Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 302
415 S. Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Rhodes and the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brian Wong and I am a registered voter in the District of Makiki. I want to state my support for SB1. For far too long homosexual couples have not been afforded the equal opportunity as those that are heterosexual in terms of federal rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities. Although, Hawaii does allow for civil unions the United States Government does not recognize this as marriage and thus a homosexual couple's right to enter into a partnership is inequitable. Therefore, the State of Hawaii should pass legislation that will allow for those of the same sex to enter into marriage.

This issue is not about going against what "god's" definition of marriage is. This issue is not about destroying our children. This issue is not about homosexuals taking over the world. This issue simply put grants a homosexual couple, who love each other and want to share, build and live their lives here on earth together the same rights as those of a heterosexual couple. I humbly ask for your support in allowing marriage equality in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Brian Wong

From
Jayne Cloutier
423 Kanekapolei St. #9
Honolulu, HI, 96815

Marriage Equality - Testimony

Aloha to all

I believe that every person should have the right to equal marriage rights including all the benefits that come with it.

Let all people be happy, to love each other, and to get married.

I am not a religious person and I am straight, however, if the believe is out there that God made us, than God made also all people who are gay, or bisexual or somehow different.

There shouldn't be any restrictions just because some of us are different.

What are you afraid off ? LOVE ? PEACE ?

Open your heart and mind, and treat all humans equal.

Best regards,
Jayne Cloutier

My rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States are being put in jeopardy because of the short sightedness of the Marriage Equality bill. The religious exemption language will allow the government to decide what a church can or cannot do. THAT IS NOT FREEDOM OF RELIGION. The ramifications of this bill will have negative societal implications far beyond simply giving homosexuals the right to marry. For a governing body to presume to know what the right time to change thousands of years worth of norms is presumptuous and arrogant.

The First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religion is easily more important to more people in the State of Hawaii and the United States of America than the Marriage Equality bill that is before the legislature. The percentage of Homosexual couples to the overall population of Hawaii and the United States is disproportionate to the magnitude of change that will be forced on the greater population by enacting this bill.

The institution of Marriage is between one man and one woman! Fix the Civil Union bill to provide equality to individuals of the homosexual persuasion.

You were elected to vote for the wishes of the larger percentage of people whom you represent. Democracy, amongst other things, is voting for what the majority feels is correct.

Melissa Aaron Testimony on Equal Rights (S.B. No.1)

I believe that we must make this bill a legal right for people of the same sex to be married. I am a straight woman who is married and I believe that all people should have the right to be married.

I don't believe that we should have the right to tell anyone or any people that they cannot be married legally.

I'm going to be honest, I get a little uncomfortable when I've seen two men kissing. I roll my eyes when I see men dressed as women. I've probably made many references to my kids, using phrases like, "That's so gay" or "You look mahu". I'm guilty of that, I admit. And while I know these are things I need to work on, I have never felt it was my right or my kuleana to tell anyone who is gay that they cannot participate in a type of union that should be available to all people.

My children asked me why it's such a big deal and what's the issue (They're 11 and 14) They have a half-sister who is gay and has been with her partner for about 7-8 years now. The entire family knows and accepts that my kids sister is gay. Her partner, Sarah's family, has no idea that Sarah is family and thinks she lives with a "roommate". They recently bought their first home together. I explained to my children that if Sarah suddenly became ill and had an emergency (such as an accident, heart attack, etc) and went into the hospital, although their sister and Sarah live together and love each other, their sister may not be able to be in the hospital with Sarah and would not be able to make any decisions on her behalf. It would be Sarah's family who would be considered her "next of kin" and therefore make all medical decisions, even though they do not see Sarah on a regular basis. Unless of course, their sister and Sarah thought ahead of time to spend money on power of attorneys, living wills, etc, which is above and beyond what "normal" married people have to do. My 14 yr old daughter then said, "Wow! That is dumb, why don't people see that they can't help being gay and it's not a choice for them. I don't know anyone who would choose to be treated like crap and be told they can't get married to someone they love"

Church activists speak of protecting the sanctity of marriage to what God wanted. Pardon my disbelief, but man and woman marriages do not protect the sanctity of marriage. Divorce rates are at an all-time high, men and women get married for financial or social gain, movies are glorified in which a man gets drunk and marries a hooker. There is no sanctity of marriage to protect. This is obviously just a hidden attempt at discrimination against a people that they think is "icky".

This is my testimony and I hope it's considered.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 8:51 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: i.kamauu@kekoentertainment.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)
Attachments: testifying in opposition to SB1.pages

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Iolani Kamauu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

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



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 8:05 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: rodfong11@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)
Attachments: SB1 .pages.zip

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Roderick Fong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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

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

To: Hon. members of the Hawaii State House of Representatives
From: Michael E. Foley, PO Box 101, Laie, HI 96762
Date: October 30, 2013

I know many of you have already made up your minds and publicly stated your position on the pending SB1, but for those who are still contemplating your votes, I encourage you to **vote against same-sex marriage**, with the hope that, perhaps, some of my own thinking might help in making your final decisions.

I am opposed to same-sex marriage being legalized in Hawaii based on my personal deeply-held religious views of the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman as well as its importance for families, as well as the following reasons:

- I (and many of my neighbors) believe **the majority of people in Hawaii support traditional marriage** between a biological man and woman. Traditional marriage has existed around the world and across many cultures for thousands of years in support of not only the marriage partners, but also their respective children, extended families and descendants.
- **I do not believe being allowed to marry someone of the same sex rises to the level of a civil right.** Marriage, for example, does not equate with race; and I do believe the US Supreme court may yet have to rule on broader same-sex issues.
- If eventually passed in some form, proposed SB1 could inadvertently shift focus away from the welfare of the children, and have **unintended consequences** that would ripple through our State educational system. There are already examples of this in Canada, which passed their version of same-sex marriage law in 2005, and other U.S. states.
- While SB1 mentions exemptions for religious leaders, the bill has **inadequate protection** for them and Church-affiliated institutions; and further, that violations of this hastily-prepared and too-brief measure could **easily run afoul of Hawaii Public Accommodations law**, creating complaints that would likely be adjudicated by appointed commissions. I can foresee a bevy of First Amendment lawsuits, at unnecessary expense and damage to local people, businesses and institutions; and a great deal more legislative work in the future to correct the inadequacies of SB1
- Finally, I simply ask, **what's the rush?** Why, with all the other legislative and economic challenges Hawaii faces, does this issue **affecting a tiny percentage of people** rate a special session? Our standing marriage and civil union laws are not impacted by the recent Supreme Court ruling(s) on same-sex marriage. At minimum, **please give this oh-so-important**

issue more time for legislative study and widespread public input on all our islands.

Mahalo for your consideration and for those who will vote against same-sex marriage in Hawaii. For those of you still undecided, I hope you can find it in yourselves to **vote against same-sex marriage in Hawaii**, something that could dramatically impact our State for many generations if passed.

Michael E. Foley
55-667B Wahinepee St.
PO Box 101, Laie, HI 96762

Tak Miyahira
1563 Kanapuu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734
808-630-9019
tak_miyahira@yahoo.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 30, 2013 at 10:00 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Representatives Leaders:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. I truly believe that you have an obligation to listen to the people and give the people a chance to be heard. What is the rush to pass this bill? I feel there is an underlining agenda has forced this special session. Not only the fact that Governor abused his power and broke the law, instead of protecting the intent of marriage being between **1 MAN & 1 WOMAN**, is doing the exact opposite.

When government officials stop listening to the people and think it's okay to make decisions based on your own, you stop representing us. We did not vote you in to so you can make your decision and surely won't keep you in office if you don't listen to the people.

I am not against gay couples receiving the same benefits of married couples; I am against this bill and redefining the term marriage to include gays. Since marriage originated in the Bible and is tied to religious belief, which gays typically don't believe in, why would you let infringe on our beliefs? Call it something else!

Ask yourself one question, why is government deciding on this and not the people. Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Tak Miyahira

My Stand on Marriage

Society is made up of people and people come from the intimate relationship between men and women. Children are best raised in a traditional marriage that provides them examples of responsibility, love, values of right and wrong (including the purpose and proper use of human intimacy between man and wife). Strong families make strong society. Because of this, I strongly vote no against the legalization of same-sex marriage in Hawaii. The bill also requires by law that religious organizations and businesses support same-sex marriages by providing venues and services. I have surprisingly MANY friends, co-workers, and even an Uncle who are gay/lesbian. Some have been very close to me. I have cherished my friendships and associations with them. I love them. However, because you love someone doesn't mean that everything they do is right and beneficial to themselves or society. Though I respect their agency, I wouldn't go to their wedding or help them adopt a child, not out of hate to them but because it cuts at the very core of society and family values which I hold. I don't think anyone should be forced by law to do so either. It doesn't mean I wouldn't work with them, laugh with them, help them get the medical care they need, or other rights to life in this world. It is more than just an issue of equality. Children should not be marrying children. Polygamy and other types of non-traditional marriages are not healthy to society. It is a matter of safe guarding the family to allow children (this means all of us) the most optimal situation to be brought into the world, raised, and become contributors to society in every positive and possible way. I value people. I value the protection of the traditional family as society's foundation and the first amendment rights of the US constitution. This is why I vote no for legalizing same-sex marriages.

"I am not bound to win but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, and stand with him while he's right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

Abraham Lincoln

October 30, 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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

My name is Rafael Torres, I live in Kalaupapa, Molokai - have lived and worked here for
7 years. I strongly support marriage equality, I ask you to please be a community
leader and an example of tolerance and eventual acceptance.

Sincerely,
Rafael Torres
189 Kaiulani
Kalaupapa, Hawaii
96742

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

My name is Erin Mouritsen. I was previously an elementary school teacher and am now fortunate enough to work from my home as a full time mother. Unfortunately I will be unable to testify on this important matter in person, but I wanted to express some concerns I have regarding Bill#SB1. To begin with, unless you are willing to take away our first amendment right of freedom of religion, all religions that define marriage as the union of a male and female must be exempt permanently and forever from having to perform ceremonies that unite same sex couples. The state of Hawaii CANNOT dictate our religious ceremonies and activities and CANNOT dictate how we use our buildings! It is an outrage to even consider forcing someone to go against their religious and moral beliefs! I repeat the state of Hawaii CANNOT interfere with our religious ceremonies!

The second issue that must be addressed deals with religions that provide adoptive services for children. These organizations must be EXEMPTED from having to provide adoptive services to same sex couples. Mothers and fathers that put up their children for adoption MUST have their child's adoption requests honored. They have the right to dictate what type of family (traditional versus same sex couples) adopts their child. The rights of parents as well as children must be considered when enacting a law. Studies demonstrate that children do best when reared by a FATHER and a MOTHER.

The third issue is that citizens must never be compelled to perform services that go against their beliefs, whether owners of a business or not!

I am not suggesting that we deny same sex couples rights and freedoms. A law can be enacted that grants same sex couples the same rights and benefits as married couples enjoy if they choose to enter a civil union. This allows everyone to have their freedom of choice, and all government benefits flow equally, while preserving important religious rights.

I hope and pray that you listen to the people and either vote no or amend the bill to answer our requests! The religious basis of marriage is very sacred and should not be taken lightly nor should clergy be forced to perform ceremonies against their religious beliefs. Please consider carefully before making this crucial decision!

Sincerely,

Erin Mouritsen

94-238 Haea PL

Waipahu, HI

Aloha to all respective Representatives,

I am writing to you today to testify **against** the same sex marriage bill, SB1. Although you may not be my district representative, you are still a representative for the people of Hawaii, who in which, have trusted you to make the right and reasonable decision to better not only your community, but also the state. This, and I know you will agree, is an extraordinarily controversial issue.

Marriage, a formal union of a man and a woman, recognized by law, by which they become Husband and Wife. That is the true definition of marriage. Marriage should NOT be redefined and is morally wrong to do so. With this SB1 bill, it will completely transform the faithful definition of marriage in today's society and culture, and will disregard religious freedom for individuals and institutions whose faith recognizes the spiritual foundation in a union between a man and a woman.

For those representatives that are parents, consider the impact this will have on your children and your children's future and how it will intervene in the education system. Parental rights to control whether or not children be taught wrongfully in issues such as these in academics will be striped and denied, leaving you no control of what you feel is in your child's best interest. Would you really accept this? Would you honestly say that this would not have a major affect on your child and your household? Your marriage?

As many questions that the people of Hawaii have arises, please, consider the many factors that come into play with SB1. I strongly urge that you reflect on this bill and how it will greatly destroy and impact the state in regards to freedom of rights, beliefs, education system and the future of our generation and our generation to come. I ask you, elected leaders of good will, to protect marriage and religious freedom and to help us maintain these important principals.

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.

Eldene Albino
Hoolehua, Hawaii

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.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Chante L. Galton

Kapolei, HI 96707

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Opposition to SB1

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

Instead of rushing this bill through a special session, I am asking that you take time in the regular session to craft a bill that not only provides marriage equality, but also ensures religious freedom. I oppose a bill that may not adequately protect institutions and individuals who object to same-sex marriage on religious grounds. We don't need to be in such a big hurry to join the few other states that recognize same-sex marriage that we trample other rights in the process. Please listen to those who are raising objections and change the bill so that protections of religious freedom rise to the levels that exist in other states.

Thank you.

Linda Robertson

Laie, HI

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.

Wade M. Kaneshiro
Hilo, Hawaii

October 29, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 Beretania Street

Hololulu, Hawaii 96813

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

I OPPOSE the subject legislation and related provisions, set for discussion in a Special Legislative Session on October 28, 2013. My opposition represents, I believe, the MAJORITY view of the Hawaii population, which voices, I believe, should be heeded. My opposition is based on Constitutional, religious, traditional, and moral considerations, a few of which I shall touch upon:

- “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” Enactment of this Act goes against the very foundations of what I believe.
- An Article of Faith of our Church reads, “We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege; let them worship how, where, or what they may.” My primary concern is that this act is being clothed in civil rights clothing, when in reality that is not the case. Surely the “gay” community is sufficiently numbered to establish their own outlets to marry and provide boutonnières for its members without infringing upon the rights of those who do not ascribe to a deviant lifestyle.
- “... 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...” * Strong families are the foundation of our nation!
- Christians in deed, in Hawaii, certainly are aware of the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah: There may well have been a legislative session enabling deviant behavior in those communities, but LEGAL does not equate to MORAL, and their activities did not receive God’s approbation... “Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven...” (Gen. 19:24). This has particular relevance for us living in volcanic Hawaii! ☺
- George Washington: “The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregard the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.” (Inaugural address 1789)
- Will we sell our souls for a pot of political expediency? I pray not.

In the name of all that is honorable and good, I request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. It would be a stain on the eternal covenant of marriage.

Sincerely,

Frederick David Lee

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

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.

Because I support the rights of all of Hawaii's citizens, I am concerned that the very complex
issues in this bill--including the issues of marriage, gender identity, rights of parenting, and
the liability exemptions regarding same-sex marriage--and the social effects of these issues--
are not being fully and carefully considered and measured in this bill. The complexity of
these issues requires more thought and deliberation, and a rushed passage in a special
legislative session does not provide this kind of consideration.

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.

I urge you to vote NO to SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Arapera Peeni
Laie, Hawaii

October 30, 2013

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY AND IN
ENDORSEMENT OF HB 5

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

My name is Louise Dekker Manley, and I have served the community of Molokai for the last 19 years through various venues to all ages. I am the Children's Education Director, the Women's Ministry Chairperson, and the leader of our halau at *Molokai Baptist Church*. I also serve on the SCC Board at *Molokai High School*, and I volunteer in robotics at *Molokai Middle School* to name just a few ways in which I serve. With that in mind I would like to begin by thanking you for your service to the community of Hawaii. We understand that though it is a great privilege it carries with it great responsibility. We pray for you often!

I am writing today to ask if you will please vote no on the bill SB1. Marriage is a sacred institution with divine design. The definition of marriage cannot be taken lightly. The significance of the matter at hand and the weight of the fall out of this decision are too large and too costly to be decided solely by the members of our legislature. This needs to be an issue voted on by the people of this great state. You are public servants, placed in your leadership roles by the vote of the people; so, please, let the voice of the people be heard. Let us, the people, vote on this issue, directly! Please vote no on SB 1.

Thank you so very much for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Louise Dekker Manley
PO Box 53
Hoolehua, HI 96729

Dear committee members:

I am writing to voice strong opposition to SB1 for the following 4 reasons:

1) This law doesn't adequately protect religious institutions and freedoms. If this bill passes, then at the very least, the following provisions, which are in the Washington state law, need to be added.

A) No regularly licensed or ordained minister or any priest, imam, rabbi, or similar official of any religious organization is required to solemnize or recognize any marriage.

B) A religious organization must be immune from any civil claim or cause of action ... based on its refusal to provide accommodations, facilities, advantages, privileges, services, or goods related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage.

2) This bill has been unilaterally rushed through by Governor Abercrombie. If we are to overturn thousands of years of custom, culture and tradition, it warrants a much more lengthy deliberation than a special session can afford. If this bill is passed there is no way to "unpass" it, no matter what the consequences.

Shouldn't we at least wait a few years and study what the consequences of the civil union law are before we rush into this?

3) There is no need for this bill. Hawaii already has a civil union law that gives same sex couples all the benefits of marriage granted by the state of Hawaii. This is not a civil rights issue, and it has little to do with equality. The fact that they are not satisfied with civil unions proves it is merely an attempt by the homosexual lobby to force society to sanction a lifestyle.

4) The main societal benefit of marriage is the protection of children. SB1 will cheapen the value of marriage if it is passed. The effect will be to make children more vulnerable as parents take their marriage vows less seriously. I urge you to carefully examine the studies that have been done on the effects of children adopted or raised by same sex couples before rushing into this.

Thanks for your time,

-Paul Hurst

Laie, Hawaii resident

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:

Thank you for your public service to our state. I appreciate your hard work in keeping Hawai'i a place that I love to in.

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

I firmly believe that marriage should be reserved between one man and one woman. Without one man and one woman in the equation, it would not be possible to produce a child. And without children, the population would cease to exist in time. This is my personal opinion that I believe to be truth.

In addition, 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 receiving my testimony.

Lissa Paresa
Hilo, Hawaii

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

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

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Thank you for receiving my testimony.

Bryan Paresa
Hilo, Hawaii

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

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

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Thank you for receiving my testimony.

Jane Doi
Hilo, Hawaii

Opposition to SB1

I oppose same sex marriage because marriage is reserved between a man and a woman. It goes against common sense and cultural traditions in the state of Hawaii. It goes back when Hawaii was a monarchy from King Kamehameha. I have an Atheist friend who does not believe in God but was married in the traditional way. Same sex marriage is not equality but immoral and down grades moral society institutions—the institution of marriage between a man and a woman. This law is not for our Hawaii Ohana but for a minority that want to change the moral fiber of our cherished traditions and culture of our Hawaiian society. This is a red flag that should be heeded, “Let The People Decide.” I am a registered voter as is my wife. Please don’t vote for this law because it will have dire consequences both biblically, ethically, morally, and spiritually. It will affect our keiki and corrupt our society and generations to come. In 1998 there was a constitutional amendment that defined marriage between a man and woman...why are we trying to change this again? “Let The People Decide.” Hawaii did not cave in to legalize gambling because of its immoral and harm that it will do to our Hawaiian society.

Sincerely,
Robert D Choy Sr

TO: HOUSE JUDICIARY & FINANCE COMMITTEES

HEARING DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 31, 2013-10:00 a.m.

MEASURE: SB1

I will not testify in person.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS
--

Written Testimony for SB1-Equal Rights (Marriage Equality)

**From: Jane Pascual-Voter in House District 29 (Chinatown); Senate District 13
For Hearing on Thursday, 10/31/13-Special Legislative Session**

I am writing to encourage your SUPPORT (and YES vote) on Marriage Equality/Same Sex Marriages during the Special Session. Though I am heterosexual, I have several gay/lesbian friends who live here, and/or have ties to Hawaii and want to live and (legally) marry here. I have not seen or heard of any statistics or proof, anywhere around the world that shows Same Sex Marriages have ever brought adverse results to any community's economy or existence. Therefore, I see no reason to disallow Same Sex Marriages/Unions (especially for Survivorship/Inheritance reasons). I would rather have people (even of the same sex) loving one another (especially if it's not harming anyone) than hating each other or tearing each other down. I'm asking you to **consider that** when you hear debate on the issue of approving same sex marriages here in our beautiful State.

Please ALLOW Same Sex Marriages in Hawaii and let's (put this issue to rest once and for all, after more than 20 years of continuous debate) move on to all the other important issues (i.e., the economy, homelessness, hunger, education, mental health, etc.).

Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. But I would like to be on record as SUPPORTING Marriage Equality in Hawaii. I support everyone's right to marry, whether they're straight, gay, or *whatever*...As long as they're in love, they should have a right to marry, regardless of their sexual preference. I especially sympathize with partners who have been together for many years, but currently in Hawaii, don't have the full benefits of "being reciprocal", as do heterosexual couples.

Please consider the civil rights of these individuals as you hear debate and take your final vote in the Special Session. Please vote YES for Equal Rights (regarding Marriage Equality in Hawaii).

Thank you,
Jane Pascual
Voter in House District 29
Senate District 13



Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

1418 Mokuna Pl., Honolulu, HI 96816

<mailto:info@pd-hawaii.com>

Tel: 808.371.9334

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Relating to Senate Bill 1 Testifying in Support
On Behalf of
Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

Aloha Chairs Karl and Luke, Vice-Chairs Har, Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equal Rights, which will legally recognize and allow for marriages for same-sex couples. We believe this is a bill that is a long time coming and we want to thank Chair Hee and the members of the committee for taking the time to hear this historic and incredibly important piece of legislation.

Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i (PDH) assumes everyone has heard the arguments from both supporters and opponents of this bill, so we are restricting our testimony to the issue we think will be the fulcrum on which its fate will be decided; the question of the breadth of the religious exemption.

The majority of opponents, including those expressing objection or concern on religious grounds have, for very pragmatic reasons, decided not to oppose the bill on the question of marriage equality itself, but rather on the very thinly veiled question of religious freedom. PDH, however, believes this argument is a red herring which should not derail the march toward equality.

We believe strongly in the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment. Religious institutions for which same-sex marriage is a violation of their faith shouldn't be forced to perform those marriages. Lest the guise of "religious discrimination" be seen as a legitimate reason for withholding support for this landmark legislation, we feel the need to point out the protection that has been codified in the the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

The highest law of the land spells out, in no uncertain terms, that government cannot force a religious institution to do something that violates their beliefs. And though its opponents will attempt to claim otherwise, this bill does not violate their First Amendment rights.

If a religious institution allows its clergy to perform marriages for non-members, if it allows non-members to use its facilities and grounds for marriage ceremonies and celebrations, and does it in exchange for money, it cannot claim protection under the First Amendment, nor Article I, Section 4. That institution is then considered a "public accommodation" and subject to anti-discrimination laws.

Many point to our island state as the place where the same-sex marriage movement began. We believe this is a heritage to be proud of and though, in the nearly two decades since, many states have moved ahead of us on this issue, it is finally time for Hawai'i to take its place on the right side of this issue and on the right side of history.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Bart Dame	Gail Breakey	John Bickel	Alan Burdick	Peter Ehrhorn	Josh Frost	Kim Langley
Co-Chair	Co-Chair	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Opposition to SB1

Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I AM OPPOSED TO Bill SB1.

Because of my own religious beliefs, I am opposed to Bill SB1. I believe that the sacred union of marriage should be reserved for a man and a woman. That is what I believe. However, I understand that I cannot force this belief on anyone else. Bill SB1 will redefine the definition of marriage, and I believe will redefine my rights as a citizen. I am a humble, local entertainer here in the islands. I enjoy performing for all types of parties, including weddings. I have comfort knowing that I have the right to choose whom I want to serve. And I have the right to deny service, even if the reason being is that it is against my religion. That is a comfort I have, being a citizen of the United States of America. However, Bill SB1 will put me in a situation where I could possibly be sued for denying such service. This is just one small portion of the bill that I feel needs to be redefined. Other sections include the use of religious buildings, or the ability to perform marriages. Will my bishop have a right to deny performing a marriage, because it is against his religion? Or will Bill SB1 leave him open to legal ramifications if he refuses to perform? The bill needs to be looked at, and needs more than just one week for a decision to be made.

All in all, seeing the OVERWHELMING response of those who are opposed to the bill, I believe this is something that needs to be decided by the people. You have heard the voice, and you have heard the majority. You all have been elected by us, the citizens of Hawaii. In the past, and I'm sure in the future, we've trusted you to pass and create bills that benefit us all. There haven't been too many rallies out there based on the laws being presented, and most people are fine with the decisions you make. However, this is one that has gathered a huge response from the community. It is obvious that this particular bill, is one that will deeply affect the whole community. They want to be heard. All the community asks is that they be able to make the decision themselves. Let it be made by whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cameron Tuitele

Honolulu, Hawaii

TO: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 am
Place: Capitol Auditorium
RE: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

As our elected officials in the State Capitol, we truly appreciate all that you have done to serve and the breakthroughs that have happened because you are committed to serve our State and its people.

On October 31, 2013, we humbly ask for your **'NO'** vote and to **let the people decide** on the Same Sex Marriage issue. Please keep this decision in our hands. The Special Session being held in a time frame of six days is not enough time to discuss one of the most controversial issues of our time. Please understand that the entire State of Hawaii stands to lose the righteousness that we were blessed to grow up in. Hawaii is a very special place and its core values come from within the traditional family.

Hawaii doesn't have to 'go with the flow'. A friend asked, "Would we be here if our father (a male) and our mother (a female) didn't get together?" We all want to do what is pono and it all starts within the family, it all starts at home.

As we boldly stand to protect and perpetuate righteousness in our State, we ask for you to be our righteous voice and vote 'NO' tomorrow so that it can be decided by all the people of Hawaii.

We extend our warmest aloha to you, blessings upon you and your family, good health, and wisdom. Each of you has been an encouragement to businesses, non-profits, and families in your respected districts and in the State. We have faith and believe and continue to pray that our elected officials in Government will make righteous decisions for all the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Wes & Janell Meli (Baisa) Purdy
PO Box 1796
Kaunakakai, HI

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.

Maria Quartero

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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. This country is based on a Democratic system. The people should be voting on a decision like this. The way that the elected officials are presenting this Bill is unconstitutional.

The Bill also denounces religious freedom. Religious freedom is the foundation of this country. In fact, it is how this country was established. This Bill will obligate religions denounce their beliefs. People should be free to make their own decisions, but actions have consequences. Religious affiliations should have the right to accept certain practices. Faith is a belief. It is the foundation of every religion. There are codes and laws that must be obeyed by religious people. If people consider themselves Christians, then they need to follow Christ's teachings. No one should be obligated to go against their religious beliefs. This Bill needs to be revised. No religious authority should be obligated to denounce their faith.

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!

Michelle Johnson
Laie, Hawaii

Robyn Lung
938A 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony
*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*
Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

When I was younger, I looked forward to grabbing the Sunday newspaper and opening it up to the “funnies” as the comics were called back then. I would laugh out loud at the predicament of poor Charlie Brown. Lucy would promise to hold the football steady as Charlie Brown ran at it to kick it over the goal line. As you know, she would always pull the ball away and Charlie Brown would end up flat on his back feeling extremely foolish.

A good number of years have gone by and it seems Charlie Brown (the majority of voters in Hawaii) who passed a constitutional amendment upholding traditional marriage are flat on their backs again, feeling foolish because we believed our vote counted. Despite all of the promises to the contrary by our legislative Lucys, we are being told that we need a special session and a piece of legislation to further extend rights to same sex couples. We are also being told that the bill has adequate “religious protection” for Churches – don’t worry Charlie Brown, hurry up and just kick the football.

I believe the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act opens the door to unwanted problems and lawsuits despite our Governor’s protestations to the contrary. It will only have an up or down vote; and it cannot be amended or changed once passed. It walks, talks, and smells like bad legislation. Don’t fall for it!

As a concerned voter I urge you to vote NO on S.B.1. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Robyn Lung

October 27, 2013

To the Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, Chair Karl Rhoads, and House Finance Committee, Chair Sylvia Luke:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my heart regarding this very important issue regarding same sex marriage facing our state today. I am grateful to live in a democracy where I, as an individual, am able to voice my opinion to those who are charged with representing me in our government.

Same sex marriage, unlike almost any other bill that has been heard by a legislative body in this state, will have ramifications that will change the face of our society. It will change the structure of society at its very core – its families. Our nation has seen the erosion of the family accelerate at unprecedented rates in the last 40-50 years. The effects of this erosion can be seen in all areas of society. Redefining a family – for marriage is the core of the family – will only exacerbate what is already a national disaster.

The calling of this special session on the premise that the Supreme Court's decision necessitates Hawaii's adoption of same sex marriage is a false assumption. The Supreme Court's decision did not decree that states must legalize same sex marriage, nor did it declare marriage a civil right. It simply left that decision in the hands of each state.

In 1998, the people of Hawaii believed that they sent a clear message to the state's legislative body: preserve traditional marriage – one man and one woman. Hawaii has always been a place deeply rooted in tradition. If the people have changed their stance, they should be given the chance to say so directly. If we are going to enact legislation that has such far reaching effects, it should – it must – be the direct voice of the people that ratifies it.

As important as the preservation of the family is the preservation of our religious freedoms. The language of this bill, contrary to the protestations of its authors and supporters, does nothing to protect the rights of believers. This freedom to practice our religious beliefs *is* a clear, constitutional right. Nowhere in our constitution is marriage written as a protected civil right. No person or religious institution should be forced to support same sex marriage when it is a clear conflict with their beliefs. The public accommodations statements in this bill realistically give no protection for any church that substantively reaches out to the community. The church is still a substantial bastion of social support in our society. How can it reach out to help when it is bound by fear of legal reprisal for doing so? As egregious, it affords no protection for individuals to act according to their conscience. Teachers or social workers who believe that homosexuality is harmful will be required to portray it as healthy and normal.

Finally, my greatest concern is for the children and our right, our responsibility as parents to raise our children according to our own moral structure in a climate where government is increasingly intrusive in telling parents what our children must learn. The advent of same sex marriage in Canada has brought a climate where parents are not allowed to choose what their child is exposed to. Indeed,

they are not even allowed to know what is being taught. Schools there are not institutions of academic learning, but agents of social change that parents have no say in. In the United States, where schools have long sought social change, parents have historically had the right to keep their children from exposure to moral issues that do not agree with their own value structure. This right, even now, is being eroded.

Though gay rights activists claim otherwise (based on limited studies), it has been clearly demonstrated by larger studies that homosexual couples in the larger population do not do as well as heterosexual couples in the raising of children. Mothers and fathers are not interchangeable. One cannot do the job of the other. Each brings a unique contribution to child rearing. The purpose of marriage is not to secure monetary or legal benefits. It is to ensure the best environment for the raising of the next generation. Homosexual marriage, by its very nature, deprives a child of one of its parents. This does not work in the natural world, nor does it provide for the needs of healthy citizens. History has shown it through the ages: a society that embraces homosexuality does not survive. Homosexuality cannot produce a child.

Please take a stand to preserve our families and our rights as parents. Please take a stand to allow the democratic process to work this issue out – to let the people clearly decided. Please take a stand to protect our right to believe and follow our conscience in honoring the God who made us. Please say no to this bill.

Sincerely,

Clyde M. Hishinuma

Clyde. M. Hishinuma
45-161 Ekepuu Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

SB 1 testimony 10-30-13

I oppose the legalization of so called same sex marriage for a variety of reasons, one of which is just plain common sense. The human race has survived for thousands of years without homosexual marriage so there is no logical reason why the state of Hawaii has to force the issue within a 5 day window without considering the will of all of the people of Hawaii.

This issue is being forced by a few vocal minorities. If they are right and the public at large really does want homosexual marriage legalized then put it on the ballot next election and let the people decide.

The vocal minority pushing for this legalization doesn't want the people of Hawaii to decide since they know it's NOT the will of the people of Hawaii. If it's not the will of the people of Hawaii, then voting to legalize it would be a crime since the elected officials are voting their conscience not the will of the people that let them be in office. We voters will remember that next election and many elected officials will find themselves out of work.

The senate bill offering to protect clergy does nothing to protect the religious rights of the non-clergy. The state is in effect imposing its will on non-clergy by telling them their religious beliefs are null and void, so unless the people as a whole decide on this issue the state will trample on the fundamental religious rights of non-clergy. These non-clergy rights include state workers who would not want to teach an abnormal lifestyle to young innocent children, business owners who would not want to offer services to those who they disagree with life choices.

Let the people of Hawaii decide on the issue next election with a special vote on the election ballots and see what Hawaii really wants.

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.

Cherylann Santos

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

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

Same-sex marriage is not an Equal Right.

I believe that if the bill passes, it's going to affect vastly our society, specially our kids and following generations. As you can see what is happening to many states or countries that have passed this same bill, for example the State of Massachusetts, the impact to their society and people is already uncontrollable and terrible. I really don't want to see Hawaii going through the same situation as they are going through, I don't want to see our people going through the same as them, suffering the consequences of passing the bill. The bill is not beneficial to the State of Hawaii, it's not beneficial to the people, it's only going to destroy what we already have and take away all the basic rights that we have as a human being.

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

Sincerely,

Danna Chen

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

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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.

Joseph Brown

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ewa Jachimczyk

Kaneohe, HI

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week without consideration of the facts and future 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.

Pastor Clifton L Burchfield, II

Aiea, Hawaii

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

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

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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.

As parents of four toddlers, my husband and I work hard to teach our children the values that we were instilled with as children. We understand that the world is ever changing which motivates us to work even harder teaching our children to do what is right and to stand up for our religious beliefs. Marriage has always been between a man and a woman. In changing this definition, our society would undergo serious changes all of which I feel are detrimental to society. Please consider all possible consequences that may occur BEFORE you pass this bill.

I am native Hawaiian and a local musician and have been entertaining for the last six years. I perform for many weddings. If this bill is put into law I will not be able to perform at any same-sex marriages or receptions. Due to the insufficient protections for religious freedoms for individuals, if I should refuse such a couple, they would be able to prosecute me for gender discrimination. I would never discriminate against anyone and I would only refuse service to someone I feel I would be deviating from my moral compass. For example, I do not perform on Sundays so that I can keep the Sabbath day holy. I hope that you will consider what I have stated as it concerns all wedding vendors that believe as I do. In order to protect ourselves we may have to refuse all weddings, which would then cause us to lose business and the income we need to provide for our families. Just as businesses are allowed to refuse service to anyone not dressed appropriately, I should be able to decide which events are contrary to my beliefs. I have many gay friends and I truly respect and love them yet I cannot change my belief to accommodate anyone. My covenants with God are far more important to me than any other earthly treasure.

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.

Ashley Kawaiwinani Simpson
Waipahu, Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern:

I know that you are receiving tons of letters both for and in opposition on this issue, but I humbly ask you to please take the time out and read what I have to say...

My name is Nicole, I am 26 years old and I am in opposition of same sex marriage. When topics like this come up I am never one to participate in rallying or writing letters of this sort. However, I feel so strongly about this that I felt the need to express my concern. This is coming from someone who has a best guy friend that is gay and because I cheerlead in high school I have been close to many guys who are gay. I love and support every one of them (even those I don't know) and I do believe they should get the same rights as married heterosexuals do. HOWEVER, it is imperative that we keep the traditional marriage between man and woman.

I truly believe knowledge is power! Knowing the details of the bills and also knowing the true consequences of what will happen after this law passes if it does, is what has got me so passionate about this. Before I educated myself about all of this, I use to think, "hey let them get what they want, it won't affect me." But I was wrong! I know that you are very smart people and I am sure that you have heard about the states that have passed this bill already and how this has affected them. We are fortunate that we weren't the first ones because we still have the opportunity to learn and stop the negative consequences and destruction that it has been causing. I was so excited to have kids and start my family but honestly I am so scarred to now because of the things they will have to face if this bill gets passed.... especially in the education system. I am not ready to have my future children's innocence being taken away from them at such an early stage.

We the people of Hawaii have placed you guys to be the voice for us...however that right is being taken away. All I ask is that you let the people decide and do not rush this matter! A matter this big that will be change your lives and society from here out should not be rushed into a special session let alone be left up to a select few individuals of government to make a decision for the rest of its people. Put yourself in my shoes...what if you weren't part of the government, and you felt so passionate about an issue, yet you were voiceless and there was nothing you could do about it.

If this law passes, it will be a gateway to many other issues (such as polygamy, etc)..are you ready? The future is in your hands.

Thank you,

Nicole

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beth Sepp

October 30, 2013

My name is Mathoni M. McCormick, and I and my family residents of the State of Hawaii who reside in Laie. My purpose in writing this email is to inform you as to my and my family's view on the proposed Marriage Equality Act of 2013. We are adamantly opposed to the proposed changes that the Act would implement, most especially the redefining of marriage as being between a man and a woman. We are opposed to same-sex marriage being legally recognized by the State, and extending the same benefits enjoyed by a husband and wife to same-sex couples. We are especially opposed to the weak protections the proposed bill offers to the First Amendment's Freedom of Religion. As currently drafted, the protections offered to religious institutions are almost non-existent.

Firstly, we are opposed to the passing of the Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in any form. Secondly, if the Act were somehow enacted, we would plead for the Legislature to include stronger protections for religious institutions and members of such acting in offices of service in such organizations. We would like exemptions explicitly identifying by name certain exempted organizations, such as the Catholic Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and any other evangelical church or religious organization who holds true to the religious belief that marriage is ordained of God to be only between a man and a woman.

Thirdly, the Act as currently drafted offers little protection for other religiously affiliated institutions, such as universities, private schools, etc. The only protection currently included is a broad provision exempting exclusively religiously-used buildings from being subject to the Act. However, this is subject to the Public Accommodations exception, meaning that any building that is open to the public, such as an auditorium used for plays or a stadium used for sporting events where the public are invited, would be subject to the Act. We are opposed to the exemption for religiously-affiliated institutions being subject to the Public Accommodations exception. If the Act is passed, we would strongly favor including exemption in favor of these institutions from being subject to the Act in their entirety, and not subject to the Public Accommodations exception whatsoever. As with the specifically-identified religious institutions, the religiously-affiliated institutions to be protected and exempted from the Act should be specifically named to the extent possible and included in the Act; particularly, we would like to see Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus named and exempted from being subject to the Act.

As our duly appointed representatives, we urge you to consider the voice and will of those you represent, and act accordingly in opposing the Act in its entirety; and, if in the unfortunate event of its passing, to ensure the adequate protection of our Constitutionally-guaranteed religious freedoms.

Thank you,

Mathoni M. McCormick and Family

October 30, 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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

I support marriage equality because individuals should be free to marry the person they love. This is a human rights issue. I know many LGBTQ couples who are in long term relationships- relationships built on trust, love, care and support- no matter what. It is simply the right thing to do. No one should be denied the right to marry the person they love. A persons' sexual orientation has nothing to do with their ability to be in a stable, loving, and trusting relationship. As humans – we all want to have relationships based on mutual respect, love and trust and denying some in our community of the right to enter into marriage based on their sexual orientation is disgraceful. I strongly encourage you to support marriage equality. Do the right thing for our communities, do the right thing for Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Sonia Blackiston

92-831 Makakilo Drive #55

Kapolei, HI 96707



GENERAL AND ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

BC 21991

46 – 270 KAMEHAMEHA HIGHWAY KANEOHE, HAWAII 96744

Clarice Cornett, President and RME

Phone: (808) 236-0883

Email: clarice@hawaii.rr.com

Facsimile: (866) 226-4027

Cell Phone: (808) 479-1430

Testimony in Favor of
Senate Bill
SB1
10/20/2013

Aloha,

As a business owner, community servant, faithful and informed Christian, home owner, and compassionate fiscal conservative – I and my Company support passage of SB1.

It makes sense morally, ethically, and fiscally.

Thank you for your courage.

Mahalo,

Clarice Elizabeth Cornett

Wahine Builders and Electric BC 21991

Licensed Journeyman Electrician EJ 9250

Licensed Electrical and General Contractor BC 13685

President and RME Wahine Builders Inc.

Text & Cell Phone: 808-479-1430

E-Mail: Clarice@hawaii.rr.com

Fax: 866--226-4027

Mailing Address:

46-270 Kamehameha Highway

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Physical Shop Address:

905 Kalaniana'ole (AKA Kapaa Quarry Place)

Building 26 Bay C

Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Dear House Chairs and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am submitting this testimony in 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, like straight couples, should be able to choose to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

My partner and I have been together for 33 years in a loving and committed relationship. We have been together longer than any of my siblings and their married partners. For the many years we have been living in Hawaii, we have never considered ourselves discriminated against because the spirit of Aloha and Ohana on this aina has encompassed our lives here. But as we get older and recognize that someday our health could fail, I wonder if one of us could be denied visitation rights in a hospital because we are not married. Married couples do not have to even consider the possibility of being denied those rights. Also, being denied other Federal protections that married couples have makes us "second-class" citizens just because of our choice of who we love.

In Hawaii, the importance of family is paramount. 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.

Frank Espanto

Captain Cook, Big Island

Robert Mills
1638D Oo Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary and Committee on Finance

The Honorable Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke, Chairs
The Honorable Sharon E. Har; Scott Y. Nishimoto; and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, based on the fundamental principle that marriage is an institution created by and solemnized by God; and as such, should be based upon the standards that He has established. Namely, marriage is reserved for one man and one woman and is to be observed with complete fidelity. Stating otherwise is contrary to the definition and purpose of marriage.

I listened with intent on Monday during the Senate hearing on SB1. It is notable that within the first 10 minutes of testimony, particularly during the exchange between the Committee, the Attorney General and the Department of Taxation that several significant questions remain regarding the implications of this bill and sufficient time has not been given to thoroughly vet all of the issues and concerns surrounding its implementation.

I thoroughly believe that five days is not sufficient time to introduce the bill, listen to all the testimony, consider the items raised during testimony, and come to a thoughtful decision. Something so important should not be 'fast-tracked'. I urge you to take the time needed to understand all the ramifications of changing the fundamental cornerstone of our society, which is the family.

I strongly believe that families, consisting of a righteous and wedded father and mother, who love and respect their children as they raise them, are the foundation of our society and the strongest hope for a secure future.

As elected officials of our society, it rests upon you to protect the vital institution of traditional marriage between one man and one woman and in so doing, protect the core family values upon which our country was founded and preserved, and which will help to preserve it in the future. Additionally, as elected officials of our society, the responsibility rests upon you to protect the rights of those who believe in marriage between one man and one woman.

As such, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. However, if you choose to vote "Yes" or "With Reservations" it is imperative you first protect the rights of those who do not believe in same-gender marriage adjusting the proposed legislation as follows:

- protect the religious freedom of individuals who work in either the private or public sector from violating any of their religious principles by being allowed to decline providing services to a same-gender marriage solemnization, celebration and/or any associated service rendered

- strengthen exemptions for religious clergy, institutions and any facility associated with a religious organization, including educational facilities, from solemnizing and/or hosting/housing same-gender marriage ceremonies

- create exemptions for religious clergy, institutions and any facility associated with a religious organization from making any religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for any same-gender marriage ceremonies or associated celebrations.

It is imperative you remember the rights of those who are morally opposed to same-gender marriages. Their religious beliefs and freedoms must be protected.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Robert Mills
Hawaii Voter

To whom it may concern,

I understand that you may be considering passing legislation that will forever redefine marriage in Hawaii.

I ask you to please vote NO on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage.

I believe the word "marriage" should remain defined as between a man and a woman.

I would rather those who are fighting against this bill to have the right to choose for themselves the language that should be given to define marriage.

It is my understanding that the definition of marriage remain as it is.

I hereby vote NO on SB1 and hope that you will choose to protect marriage between man and woman.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Chesley

Testimony of

WILLIAM M. KANEKO

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Thursday, October 31, 2013

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol Auditorium

Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

My name is William Kaneko. I am an attorney in private practice, and former President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. I am writing to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1, which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex.

I am honored to support SB1. Hawaii has a rich tradition of advancing civil and human rights. We were the first state to ratify the U.S. Equal Rights Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, providing women with full access and opportunities in civil society. Hawaii was a pioneer in a woman's right to privacy by and through the Freedom of Choice Act. Hawaii has created additional protections for reproductive rights by adding an affirmative right to choose into its state law. For many years, we have supported the inalienable rights of Native Hawaiians in their quest for self-determination and political status.

It is ironic that as a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural nation, as recent as 1967, inter-racial marriages were prohibited in sixteen states in the U.S. It was only until the U.S. Supreme Court in Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967), stepped in to invalidate the prohibition of inter-racial marriages that now enable couples, regardless of race, to marry in all 50 states. The unfounded fears and rhetoric of the impact of same-sex marriages are similar to those that were made to ban inter-racial marriages earlier in our nation's history. The Hawaii State Legislature should not turn back the clock on social justice by denying the right to marriage to persons based on sex, in the same way marriages were at one time denied to persons based on race.

Today, Hawaii has the opportunity to join fourteen other states which permit same-sex marriages. I strongly urge the committee to enable all persons, regardless of race or sex, to engage in the full benefits, responsibilities and legal recognition of marriage.

Thank you for your consideration.

WILLIAM M. KANEKO
1040 19th Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
808-222-5389

October 30, 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 SB 1 – Relating to Equal Rights

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

I strongly support this bill because the government, both federal and state, have a rightful obligation to serve all of its constituents separated from religious influence.

I do believe that those unwilling to officiate a same sex marriage ceremony should not be forced to by law and this bill clearly states that wish. I do believe that religious based facilities deeming themselves as a for-profit shouldn't be able to discriminate from hosting a same sex marriage ceremony or treat such a user differently than any other. I believe this bill fairly addresses that as well.

I have witnessed for myself that children adopted or brought into a healthy same-sex household are afforded the same love, care, affection, that an opposite-sex household has. The child acts like any other child. The one thing that endangers the same-sex household, however, are the marriage benefits that would protect that family in sickness and in health. A child should also never feel like his or her parent's love is somehow lesser than his or her's classmates.

The Supreme Court a few months ago has ruled in favor of marriage equality and I applaud the Governor's courage to call a special session since this is now an equal rights, taxation, benefits, and immigration issue effecting our citizens this very second. It always has been. It cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,



Christopher K. Parker
824 Kinau Street Apt 108
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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 of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to this bill because it does not protect the citizens' rights of conscience and freedom of religion guaranteed under the U. S. Constitution. This bill, if passed, will force the residents of this state of Hawaii to conform to one rule of law without regard to the freedom of the individual to act according to the personal dictates of conscience and belief.

Residents of Hawaii should be given the opportunity to vote on this bill that has the potential to affect all major aspects of life in Hawaii pertaining to the rights of conscience and freedom of religion.

Because I support the rights of all of Hawaii's citizens, I am concerned that the very complex issues in this bill--including the issues of marriage, gender identity, rights of parenting, and the liability exemptions regarding same-sex marriage--and the social effects of these issues--are not being fully and carefully considered and measured in this bill. The complexity of these issues requires more thought and deliberation, and a rushed passage in a special legislative session does not provide this kind of consideration.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide by vote on all of the issues of SB 1, especially on the issues of marriage and on liability exemptions regarding same-sex marriage, as these issues impact matters of deep and individual personal belief, tradition, culture, custom, education, and livelihood, and should not be defined under one rule of law which this bill will require if it is passed.

This bill should be given due process during the regular legislative session when it can properly and carefully be examined and amended in a more considered way to better meet the needs of all of Hawaii's citizens. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in a public policy that will potentially affect all aspects of life in Hawaii.

A "yes" vote for SB 1 in special session is clearly a "NO" vote to rights of conscience and religious freedom.

I urge you to vote NO to SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Maraea Tsing
Laie, Hawaii

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 oppose SB1.

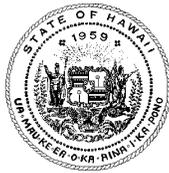
I have watched the hearing in the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee and I know the committee did not go through all the testimonies that were received. I pray that you will listen and study the issue at hand.

I want my rights to be upheld just as the same sex couples. I believe my first amendment rights will be taken away if SB1 is passed. Unless you can assure me that my rights will not be taken away from me, my child, and grand child in the future, I oppose SB1. I hope this does not fall on deaf ears like the Senate.

I am sure no one can assure me that my rights will not be taken away from me and that is why I want this issue to be voted upon by the voters.

Thank you.

Vaughn Miyauchi
98-1697 Kiawe Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony in **support** of SB1
Relating to Equal Rights

Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

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

October 31, 2013
10:00 a.m. Auditorium

Chairs Rhoads and Luke, Vice Chairs Har, Nishimoto, and Johanson, and members of the Committees:

In June of this year, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unlawfully discriminated against married same-sex couples by prohibiting the federal government from recognizing those marriages and by denying federal benefits and protections to those couples.

In light of the Supreme Court ruling, commencing October 1, 2013, federal agencies including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Pentagon, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Labor now recognize and extend federal benefits to married same-sex couples equal to the benefits that are offered to opposite-sex couples. I therefore asked for this special session to allow same-sex couples the opportunity to be afforded the same federal and state benefits and protections in the State of Hawaii as soon as possible.

Since I called for this special session on September 9th, the subject of this bill has generated continued discussion in our community about religious freedom. It is not the intent of the bill to force a member of the clergy to perform a wedding ceremony that goes against his or her religious beliefs. Similarly, it is not the intent of the bill to penalize a religious organization whose facilities are used for wedding ceremonies for their members and followers of their faith. I believe that the bill you are now considering is consistent with those ideals and is respectful of every individual's religious and personal beliefs.

While there are certainly a number of views on the issue of marriage, moving toward a path of equality is always the right thing to do.

I will defer to the State Attorney General, Hawaii Department of Health, and Hawaii Civil Rights Commission regarding legal issues, implementation issues, and details relating to public accommodations.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this very important issue.

Dr. Keric A. Hill
25 Akeu Pl
Kihei, HI 96753

October 30, 2013

Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

State Legislators:

In response to the proposed bill S.B. 1, "Relating to Equal Rights," I would urge that you consider this bill and its implications very carefully. This is a subject of supreme importance to the state of Hawaii. The conditions in the world today are tending more and more to divide and separate traditional families. Hawaii is one of the few places where the family, or 'Ohana, is still greatly cherished and is one of the many reasons that make this state special. I would hate to see family values further eroded in this state by the passage of this bill.

Unfortunately, many people assume that those of us who oppose the passage of this bill do so because of hate or dislike of those who are attracted to their same gender. I find it offensive that others attribute those feelings to me, when that could not be farther from the truth. I do not hold it against anyone who has feelings of same-sex attraction, nor do I wish to judge them. I wish that all those with strong feelings on this issue would treat each other's differences of opinion respectfully.

While the title of the bill refers to the equal rights of same-sex couples to marry, it is important to remember the rights of those who will be affected by this bill, but not of their own choice. While this bill focuses only on whether same-sex couples should have the right to marry, I believe it is more important to consider the rights of children, the ones who will be affected most by this bill and who have no real say in its passage. "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."¹ As communities, we should be more actively promoting strong and stable families so the keiki will have a loving and supportive home base for their formative years. Same-sex couples already have been granted access to civil unions. Considering all the challenges facing the children in Hawaii, why have we never had special sessions of the legislature convened for improving the quality and efficiency of their education, ensuring adequate nutrition and dental care, reducing neglect and abuse, promoting family unity, avoiding divorce and unwanted pregnancy, and working to ensure that every child has a loving mother and father?

I realize that the trend of public opinion is increasingly going against what I believe, but protecting 'Ohana and Keiki is so important to me that I cannot stand by silent. Even if there is only one small vestige of hope, I want to do my best to have my voice heard.

Respectfully,
Keric Hill

¹ "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, 23 September 1995.

Dr. Keric A. Hill
25 Akeu Pl
Kihei, HI 96753

October 30, 2013

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415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Respectfully,
Keric Hill

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October 30, 2013

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

I am proud to be born and raised in the state of Hawaii and proudly call this my home. I have shared over twenty years of my life with my partner and although we love each other just as much as any other traditional husband and wife couple do, it saddens my heart that we are not allowed the same marriage rights as them. We are not allowed those same rights even though we pay the same taxes and share in all the same duties as responsible citizens of this state.

I graciously ask that you join me in SUPPORT of Measure SB1. Please do not allow a small but overly vocal religious party take away what should be my equal rights as a Hawaii citizen, the rights that ALL citizens should be able to have.

Sincerely,
Mark Yugawa
92-119 Ihi Place
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

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 opinions on Bill SB1.

- Why are we catering to non-tax paying, non-residents? Special treatment of our courts?
- Right now, they need to **reside 6 months in the state before can file for a divorce** so that the court will have the time to look at the families, the children, and the assets Care for the aina.
- But for Gay Couples – **they have no time minimum.**
- Hawaii's courts will be flooded.
- People can come to Hawaii and create SSM for other states that do not have SSM.

Basically, if you legislate marriage as a civil right, then a person can approach anyone and request marriage Refusal violates my civil rights in this state. Marry me or be sued and pay \$100,000.00 fine and be labeled a bigot!

- Hawaii's courts will be flooded.

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. Don't be bullied by the outsiders!

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.**

Be encouraged to do the right thing and let the people have a say at the polls.
Take the courage to do what is right for Hawaii and **stand up to the Washington liberals** who do not care about our land or state!

You will be rewarded by history and the gratitude of the people who actually live in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Land owner and stake holder in the future of Hawaii

Leonard David Logan
Keaau, Hawaii

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 on Bill SB1.

Marriage is not a civil right! Supreme court has said this, too.

- Why are we catering to non-tax paying, non-residents? Special treatment of our courts?
- Right now, they need to **reside 6 months in the state before can file for a divorce** so that the court will have the time to look at the families, the children, and the assets Care for the aina.
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You will be rewarded by history and by the gratitude of the people who actually live in this state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Land owner and stake holder in the future of Hawaii

Gloria D. Logan
Keaau, Hawaii

What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts
It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker October 2008 Updated June 2012

http://www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects_of_ssm_2012/SSM_Mass_2012.pdf

Anyone who thinks that same-sex marriage is a benign eccentricity which won't affect the average person should consider what it has done to Massachusetts since 2004. It's become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. The slippery slope is real. New radical demands never cease. What has happened in the last several years is truly frightening.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its Goodridge opinion, declaring that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex marriage. Six months later, despite public outrage, homosexual weddings began to take place. And that was just the beginning . . .

The public schools

The homosexual marriage onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

¥ At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex marriage in early December 2003. It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be marrying their same-sex partners and starting families, either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage and how it is now a normal part of society was handed out to the students.

¥ Within months it was brought into the middle schools. In September 2004, an 8th-grade teacher in Brookline, Mass., told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. "In my mind, I know that, 'OK, this is legal now.' If somebody wants to challenge me, I'll say, 'Give me a break. It's legal now,'" she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.

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

¥ The next year, second graders at the same school were read a book, *King and King*, about

two men who fall in love and marry each other, ending with a picture of them kissing. When parents Robb and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt their child out.

¥ In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of "gay marriage" in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools. The previous year the Parkers and Wirthlins had filed a federal civil rights lawsuit to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt out their elementary-school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judge dismissed the case. The appeals judges later upheld the first judge's ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship! Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is "legal," federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!

The judges also allowed the school to overrule the Massachusetts parental notification law on this issue, with the claim that homosexuality or same-sex marriages are not "human sexuality issues" (to which the law refers).

¥ School libraries have also radically changed. School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have expanding shelves of books to normalize homosexual

behavior and "lifestyle" in the minds of kids, some

♀ of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents' complaints are ignored or met with hostility.

¥ A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state. Titled *Courting Equality*, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization. Its apparent purpose was to teach kids that "gay marriage" was a great civil rights victory.

¥ It has become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to display photos of their same-sex "spouses" and occasionally bring their "spouses" to school functions. At one point, both high schools in my own town had principals who were "married" to their same-sex partners who came to school and were introduced

to the students.

¥ "Gay days" in schools are considered necessary to fight "intolerance" against same-sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender days." In my own town, a school committee member announced that combating "homophobia" was now a top priority. The schools not only "celebrate" homosexual marriage, but have moved beyond to promote other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality.

¥ As a result, many more children in Massachusetts appear to be self-identifying as "gay." According to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, given to students in high schools across the state, between 2005 and 2009 both the percentage of kids "identifying as gay" and who had same-sex contact rose by approximately 50%. Although this bi-annual survey is unscientific and largely unreliable, it still shows a disturbing trend among those students who chose to answer the questions in this way. (At a minimum, it implies that these answers are being encouraged.)

¥ Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to come down. The schools have already moved on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and sex changes). The state-funded Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, which goes into schools with homosexual and transgender programs and activities for children, includes prominent activists who are transsexuals.

¥ In 2006 a cross-dressing man undergoing a sex-change operation was brought into a third-grade class in Newton to teach the children that there are now "different kinds of families." School officials told a mother that her complaints to the principal were considered "inappropriate behavior"! She ended up removing her child from the school.

Public health

¥ The Commissioner of the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, who is "married" to another man, told a crowd of kids at the state-sponsored Youth Pride event in 2007 that it's "wonderful being gay" and he wants to make sure there's enough HIV testing available for all of them.

¥ The STD test required to obtain a marriage license was eliminated five months after same-sex "marriages" began in Massachusetts, by a bill quietly signed by Gov. Mitt Romney. This was despite an increase in syphilis cases and other STDs in homosexual men in Massachusetts at the time (according to the Mass. Dept. of Public Health).

¥ In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of

homosexual-related cases. According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, even though the total number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses has declined, the proportion caused by male homosexual behavior rose by over 30% from 2000-2009. Thus, for the last several years the state has budgeted \$30-\$35 million per year for these programs. This dwarfs spending on any other viral disease that we are aware of.

¥ A hideously obscene booklet on "gay" practices created by health officials was given out in a high school. Citing "the right to marry" as one of the "important challenges" in a place where "it's a great time to be gay," the Mass. Dept. of Public Health helped the AIDS Action Committee produce *The Little Black Book: Queer in the 21st Century*. It was given to teens at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives "tips" to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to "safely" have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It even included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Hospitals

¥ Because of the purported necessity to cater to "LGBT health" issues, nearly every major Boston hospital has become an active supporter of the radical homosexual movement. This includes marching in the "Gay Pride" parades, holding homosexual events, and

♀ putting on numerous "gay health"-related seminars. This is one of the most disturbing things that's happened since "gay marriage" became "legal."

¥ A major Boston hospital threatened to fire a physician when he objected to its promotion of homosexual behavior. In 2011 a prominent physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston & a large Harvard-affiliated hospital & objected to the hospital being involved with "Gay Pride" activities. He also pointed out to his superiors the medical health risks of homosexuality, and said that he and others at the hospital considered homosexual acts to be unnatural and immoral. The hospital then threatened to fire him, telling him that same-sex marriage is "illegal" and that his comments constituted "harassment and discrimination." After a "hearing" he was allowed to keep his job, but was told to apologize and to keep his opinions on these matters to himself.

¥ In 2012 the Boston Medical Center purchased a prominent full-color ad (full page, inside cover) in the Boston Gay Pride guide book. The content? The entire ad promoted the hospital's STD and AIDS clinics for the "pride" participants & particularly its screening services for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, and HIV.

Domestic violence

¥ Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual domestic violence. Since "gay marriage" began, Massachusetts has one of the highest proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country. Given the extremely dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt the need to spend more and more money to deal with that problem. "Gay domestic violence programs" have also become a major lobbying push in the State House by the homosexual group MassEquality. This year it comprises a considerable portion of a \$5.5 million state budget item (according to MassEquality). This is up from \$100,000 budgeted in 2007.

¥ "Gay domestic partner violence" literature (funded by the state) is now distributed at virtually every public homosexual event including to children at "Youth Pride" events, GLSEN conferences, "gay straight alliance" high school clubs and especially at the various events and parades during "Gay Pride" week.

¥ It has become such a problem that a public candlelight vigil in downtown Boston is held every year by a coalition of Massachusetts homosexual groups to remember victims of recent LGBT intimate partner violence, and to raise awareness of this important community issue.

Business and employment

¥ All insurance in Massachusetts must now recognize same-sex "married" couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.

¥ Businesses must recognize same-sex "married" couples in all their benefits, activities, etc., regarding both employees and customers.

¥ People can now get fired from their jobs for expressing religious objections to same-sex "marriage." In 2009, a deputy manager at a Brookstone store in Boston was fired from his job for mentioning his belief to another manager who had kept bringing up the subject with him that day. Brookstone's letter of termination (quoted on local TV news) said his comment was "inappropriate" because "in the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal."

¥ The wedding industry is required to serve the homosexual community if requested. Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must accept same-sex marriage events or be held liable for discrimination.

¥ Businesses are often "tested" for tolerance by homosexual activists. Groups of homosexual activists go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient "equality"

Now that homosexual marriage is legal. Then they report tolerance violators to authorities, and businesses can be fined and punished. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce "marriage equality." Legal profession and judicial system

¥ The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex marriage "law." In 2007, a Boston man failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer a question about homosexual marriage.

¥ In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law must now attend seminars on homosexual "marriage." Issues regarding homosexual families are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In addition, there are now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.

¥ In 2011 the Governor appointed Barbara Lenk, a married lesbian activist, to be a state Supreme Court Justice. She has said that the

interpretation of law evolves and develops because minority groups [e.g., homosexuals] see certain things differently based on their own experiences.

Adoption and birth certificates

¥ In the year after the gay marriage ruling, the state's adoption and foster care workers went through a massive indoctrination on LGBT youth awareness. This included employees and managers at the Mass. Dept. of Social Services. These sessions were run by the radical National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (which once awarded a Leather Leadership Award to the owner of a pornographic video company). The emphasis was that those working with children must be trained that homosexuality (and transgenderism) are normal. At one session, the trainer announced that the new motto is, "To tolerate is an assault; you have to accept this behavior."

¥ Homosexual married couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children through any agency. In 2006 Catholic Charities decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.

¥ Adoption agencies have said that 40% of their adoptions are to homosexual couples. Anecdotal reports also indicate that many adoption agencies now favor homosexuals over normal couples.

¥ In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men married to each other as their Parents of the Year. The men had adopted a baby through DSS (against

the wishes of the baby's birth parents). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final, DSS approached the men about adopting a second child.

¥ The state-funded Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) has been pushing GLBT family formation and holds adoption parties where homosexual couples have been encouraged to attend (along with others) and see available children in person. MARE places prominent ads in GLBT publications.

¥ Birth certificates in Massachusetts have been changed from mother and father to mother/parent and father/parent. Two men or two women can now be listed as the parents on birth certificates! Homosexuals who adopt can revise children's existing birth certificates.

¥ A court ruled in 2012 that if a child is born of a same-sex marriage, there is no need for adoption by a non-biological parent. Thus, they would both be the listed as the parents on the child's birth certificate, without any formal proceedings necessary. (The other biological parent is not noted on the official birth certificate.)

Government mandates

¥ Marriage licenses and certificates in Massachusetts now have Party A and Party B instead of husband and wife. Imagine having a marriage license like that.

¥ In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired. Several Justices of the Peace immediately decided to resign. That order still stands. Also Town Clerks were forced by the Governor's office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

¥ In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws to include homosexual married couples in the coverage.
The public square

¥ Since gay marriage began, public Gay Pride events have become more prominent in the public square. There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. And the envelope gets pushed further and further. For example: the annual profane Dyke March through downtown Boston, and the 2008 transgender parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed (so they could become men). Governor Patrick even marched with his 17-year-old out lesbian daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a sadomasochist leather group brandishing a black and blue flag, lashes and chains!
Churches being harassed

Churches and religious people have been demonized, harassed and threatened with no punishment

for the perpetrators. Since the gay marriage ruling, those who publicly disagree with gay marriage or the normalcy of homosexuality do hold events promoting traditional beliefs and are targets of militant retribution by homosexual activists. Police and public officials have shown no interest in stopping this. We are not aware of a single homosexual activist arrested (or charged with any hate crime) for disrupting a religious event or threatening and harassing people at a church. For example:

¥ In 2012 someone threatened to burn down a Catholic Church in Acushnet which posted the words "Two men are friends, not spouses" on its outdoor sign. The church immediately received a flood of profane phone calls. At least one person threatened to burn down the church. An activist nailed a sign to church's fence saying, "Spread love not hate." Activists staged a protest outside of the Sunday Mass to intimidate parishioners with a sign saying, "It is legal for two men or women to be spouses." Neither the police nor the District Attorney pursued the threats as a hate crime or other offense.

¥ In 2010 a Catholic elementary school balked at letting a lesbian couple enroll their son. As a result, the school was excoriated in the media and even by the local liberal state representative as discriminatory. The privately-run Catholic Schools Foundation then threatened to withhold funding to the school unless it relented. The Archdiocese eventually backed down and the school reversed its policy.

¥ In 2009 angry homosexual activists terrorized the Park Street Church in Boston while it was holding an ex-gay religious training session inside. They demonstrated next to the doors and windows with signs, screaming homosexual slogans. One of them held a bullhorn against the window outside the meeting, bellowing at the participants inside. Police did nothing to stop them, even though they were standing inside the historic cemetery adjacent to the church.

¥ In 2006 dozens of screaming homosexual activists drowned out the speakers at an outdoor pro-marriage rally in Worcester organized by Catholic Vote, yelling "Bi gots" and disgusting chants. Police did not stop them, even though the rally had a permit. When one of the rioters rushed the stage and started shouting, a rally organizer tried to lead her to the side. She subsequently sued that organizer for assault! He went through a four-day trial and was acquitted by a jury. But no charges were filed against any of the rioters.

¥ In 2006 a group of homosexual activists with signs taunted and screamed at people entering and leaving the Tremont Temple Baptist Church in downtown Boston, which was holding a nationally televised pro-marriage event

inside.

¥ In 2005 hundreds of homosexual activists terrorized the Tremont Temple Baptist Church with makeshift coffins, screaming obscenities through loudspeakers as the national pro-family group Focus on the Family held a religious conference inside. The crowd was so threatening that attendees could not leave the church for the lunch break. The Boston riot police stood in front of the church doors, but did nothing to disperse the protesters who were also completely blocking the street.

The media

¥ The Boston media regularly features articles and news stories using homosexual "married" couples where regular married couples would normally be used. It's "equal," they insist, so there must be no difference in how marriage is portrayed. Also, the newspaper advice columns now deal with homosexual "marriage" issues and how to properly accept it.

¥ A number of news reporters and TV anchors are "out" homosexuals (at least one openly "married") who march in the "Gay Pride" parades and publicly participate in other homosexual events.

Politics

¥ A climate of fear has kept politicians at all levels from disagreeing with or criticizing same-sex marriage since it became "legal." Public officials are afraid of being accused of wanting to "take away rights." Those who support traditional marriage rarely discuss it publicly. And this fear has expanded to suppress any meaningful debate on all homosexual related issues. Additionally, it has brought a feeling of intimidation among pro-family people across the state.

¥ The Massachusetts Republican establishment has become arguably the most "pro-gay marriage" GOP in America. The state GOP House and Senate leaders now both publicly support "gay marriage," as did the recent Mass. GOP candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. GOP candidates for office are told not even to discuss it.

¥ In April 2009, the Chairman of the Mass. Republican Party told a homosexual newspaper that the GOP would no longer oppose "gay marriage." Then Chairman Jennifer Nassour, interviewed on the front page of Bay Windows, assured the gay community that the state GOP would "steer clear of social" issues such as "opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion." The newly elected chairman, Bob Maginn, does not talk about the issue.

¥ Every Massachusetts state-wide elected official and member of Congress (but one) now publicly supports "gay marriage." The one (apparent) holdout, Republican US Senator Scott Brown, strenuously avoids the issue, saying that it's "settled law" and not worth fighting over.

Rule of Law

¥ Same-sex marriage came to Massachusetts through a radical court's narrow ruling. Because of that, there is an often depressing sense of helplessness that pervades this issue. The marriage statute was never changed, and it

♀ has been convincingly argued that the whole process was in violation of the state constitution. The Governor simply went along. And the Legislature acted to block popular votes on two separate constitutional amendments protecting marriage, after sufficient signatures had been gathered for each. The rule of law seems further lost with every new outrage imposed on the people.

¥ Even the Massachusetts Law Library (online) shows no law legalizing same-sex marriage, only a court opinion. It is a dangerous precedent to allow such sweeping judicial activism to stand as law, enabling everything that has followed from it. It should serve as a warning to states across the country. In conclusion

Same-sex marriage hangs over society, hammering citizens with the force of law. Once it gets a foothold, society becomes more oppressive. Unfortunately, it was imposed on the people of Massachusetts through a combination of radical, arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians. The homosexual movement has used that combination to its continued advantage around the country.

It's pretty clear that this radical movement is obsessed with marriage not because large numbers of homosexuals actually want to marry each other. A small percentage actually marry. (In fact, over the last several months, the Sunday Boston Globe's marriage section hasn't had any photos of homosexual marriages; at first it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexual relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and real marriage as we know it isn't something they can achieve, or even truly desire.

The push for gay marriage is really about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and forcing its acceptance on (otherwise unwilling) citizens and our social, political, and commercial institutions.

To the rest of America: You've been forewarned.

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All of this concerns Massachusetts!

So what would happen in Hawai'i public schools if homosexual "marriage" became the law?

Here is the answer in the words of our own Governor# Neil Abercrombie:

At his news conference marking the day he called for the special session\$

Monday#

% October#

&' ()

* Office of the Governor:

QUESTION FROM A NEWS REPORTER:

"Do you expect that same sex marriage, if it passesÉwill change the Department of Education andhow they instruct students on relationships and those types of things?"

ANSWER FROM THE GOVERNOR:

"The Department of Education will do no differently than it has ever done. I was an assistant to the Superintendent of Education (sic) back when the question of the phenomenon of AIDS came into the forefront.

"What the Department of Education will do is reflect what our laws say; what our contemporary world is all about, as it always has.

"When there was slavery, it reflected one thing. When there wasn't slavery it reflected another. When women could not vote, there was one approach in terms of both history and current events. When women could vote, as you know, it all changed.

"And so civil rights, for those of us who helped participate in the modern contemporary advent of civilrights legislation; everything changed when the civil rights laws passed in the 1960's.

"So what will happen is, the Department of Education is not in the business of propagandizing; theDepartment of Education is in the business of educating our children and the context of the materials presented to the children will reflect that."

♀

Aloha,

I am a resident of Hawaii, born and raised here. As a resident of Hawaii, I feel I should have the right to vote on Same Sex Marriage. I also want you to know I strongly oppose this bill as I can foresee many problems which would impact my family. I am a mother of 3 three children. My husband was not born in Hawaii, however, has been a resident of Hawaii since 1994. Our goal has always been to raise our children in Hawaii for many reasons.

We are a Christian family and believe in God's word and believe marriage is between a man and a woman. I am not against individuals who are gay/homosexual, as I have numerous friends in this situation and love them regardless. I believe people have choices.

The following are key problems with SB1, which would personally affect me:

- 1. Provision of 572c The Rights of Parents: Blood Quantum and Birth Certificate**
 - Parental rights will be considered gender neutral.
 - These rights and benefits are based on marriage. Paternity and maternity cases.
 - What happens when both are same sex?

- 2. Divorce domicile – they can come to our courts and receive a divorce. Section 8 580-1 Jurisdiction;**
 - Why are we catering to non-tax paying, non-residents? Special treatment of our courts?
 - Right now, they need to reside 6 months in the state before can file for a divorce so that the court will have the time to look at the families, the children, and the assets
 - But for Gay Couples – they have no time minimum.
 - Hawaii's courts will be flooded.
 - People can come to Hawaii and create SSM for other states that do not have SSM.
 - Child support, child custody –

- 3. The Religious Exemptions do not work**
 - We don't just solemnize marriages it is way too narrow:
 - We counsel, We do outreach to children, youth, camps, marriage classes, retreats, baby showers, marriage showers, birthday parties
 - Will we be able to preach that homosexual behavior is sin?
 - What does it mean when it says that a church building can be considered "for profit"?
 - The courts will have to decide what that means.
 - What about hiring practices for church personnel such as staff, Pre Schools, Counseling Centers, interns, Summer Fun, etc?

- 4. Educational Slant**
 - Is there a violation of religious freedom for teachers and children?
 - Who will determine the Curriculum?

- What will happen for School Counselors if there is a different skill set for homosexual children?
- What will happen to educators and/or educators who don't agree with masturbation, or oral or anal sex or a homosexual lifestyle? Will they be fired?

5. Marriage Will Be Re-Defined

- What is there to stop marriage between two siblings? Father/daughter. Mother/son, brother/brother. Sister/sister. Polygamy.
- What about Age limits?
- As long as “love” is the definition of marriage, there will be no discrimination as it now stands in the above areas.

6. Parental Rights

- What will happen to parents who want to “opt” out their children from sexual education classes teaching a homosexual lifestyle which they disagree with? Will they have those rights?
- How will they “opt” out their children from other curriculum which promotes a homosexual lifestyle?
- What about students who want to “opt” out?

7. Freedom of Speech

- If I disagree and disapprove with a homosexual lifestyle because of my religious beliefs and speak forth my views, will I be subject to societal and governmental censure and oppression?
- Will I be considered a “hater” or a “bigot” even if I have love for all people?

8. Constitutional Amendment – HB 5 “Let The People Decide”

Too many unanswered questions, so WHY RUSH? What’s the rush in legalizing this? What’s in it for the keiki of Hawaii?

Sincerely,

Jody Adviento-Turner

October 30, 2013

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.

I do not believe that accommodating such a small percentage of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian is worth damaging the beliefs, morals, and lives of everyone else. Especially the lives of the children of Hawaii. I want to have my voice heard in what I believe is best for my family and my children. This world is already confusing enough and a decision of this magnitude would crumble the moral of this society. It will also decrease the amount of people who are attracted to this state. I drive tourists around the island every day. I promise this to be true.

This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Katherine Hoggan
Hilo, Hawaii

Lynnae Lee

1620 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste. 510, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 30, 2013

Senators and Representatives of the Hawaii Legislature

Re: Special Session and Same-Sex Marriage Bill [SB1]

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As a proud resident of the state of Hawaii and voter, I am writing to you concerning the Same Sex Marriage Bill (SB1) that is currently being addressed by the legislature. In 1998 the people voted overwhelmingly to allow the legislature to define marriage between a man and a woman. In my opinion, it does not grant the legislature any powers to define marriage otherwise. **I believe that marriage should be defined by one man and one woman. I am concerned that this bill will have wide and negative ramifications for our state and will deeply divide our community.**

In coming to my decision on this issue, I reviewed some materials on what has happened in other jurisdictions that have accepted gay marriage, specifically Massachusetts and Canada. I encourage you to review the pamphlet and/or video called "*What Same-Sex 'Marriage' has done to Massachusetts*" by Brian Camenker. [See www.massresistance.org] It's a synopsis of what has happened there, and gives a picture of what may happen in Hawaii if the current bill is passed. It was very eye-opening to me, especially the potential effects that could come to our schools. I was very disturbed by a "Little Black Book" pamphlet that was passed out to Massachusetts high school students in 2005 that listed gay bars and specific ways to practice gay sex.

My other concern is why the Same-Sex Marriage Bill is being addressed in a special session. Why should the issue be given such a short period of time to be debated? Why can't it be done in a regular session to allow the people time to voice their opinions? I do not understand the emergency in having to address this now. What about other issues like homelessness and education; why aren't those being taken to a special session? It gives the appearance of impropriety within our governing body, and can lead to a lack of confidence in those who have been voted into power.

Our country was founded on principles of religious and speech freedoms. My concern is that these principles will be infringed upon if Same-Sex Marriage is passed. It would be used as a hammer to force religious organizations to accept their agenda, or suffer consequences. It could create more social problems beyond the mere acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. It should not be used as a license to harass those who do not agree with the homosexual lifestyle, but I'm afraid that's a very real possibility. Thus, if any form of Same-Sex Marriage bill is to pass, it should contain specific and well thought out exclusions to protect speech and religious freedoms. The rights of traditional marriage believers should be respected. There must be a very careful balance struck within the bill, with carefully crafted language.

And perhaps my biggest concern is how Same-Sex Marriage will affect Hawaii's keiki. It will create a campaign to "normalize" homosexuality, which may conflict with the beliefs of many parents and teachers. The government should not be legislating parental rights. Parents should be given the opportunity to opt out of homosexual instruction, and teachers should not be forced to teach it if it conflicts with their religious beliefs.

I pray that you as our governing body will consider the possible ramifications for our state before issuing your vote. Please ask yourself whether our island community is ready for that. Please vote no. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of all issues that come before you and for your service to our state.

Mahalo,
Lynnae Lee

I am opposed to passing the Equity in Marriage Bill that Governor Abercrombie is proposing, also known as the Same Sex Marriage Bill.

It has been established for thousands of years and in fact since history began that marriage is between a man and a woman. There will be much confusion and deterioration in our society if we cannot even uphold what has been the foundation of the family.

We stopped the SuperFerry just because of an Environmental Impact Statement, yet it seems like our Senate doesn't care how this bill will affect our children and our future society. Please do not make the same mistake as this Senate Committee. Please be the voice of reason and prudence. Let us have a fair chance to show why this bill will be bad for Hawaii. Are the lives and health of our children and society less important than the health of the fish in the sea?

Gov. Abercrombie has caused a major injustice to our beautiful State of Hawaii by insisting on ramming through something as important as this issue. He has been led by these special interest groups that represent less than 3% of our society to make a law that will hurt our first amendment rights as well as our rights as parents to raise our own children.

Please consider the far-reaching effects of this bill and put more thought and consideration for the negative ramifications to our society if this bill is pushed through. You have been elected to protect the Constitution and the rights of the citizens of Hawaii and America...please fulfill your commitment to do this.

Please let the people decide.

Thank you respectfully,

Diane Koki

Date: Oct. 30, 2013

Karl Rhoads
Chair

Judiciary Committee

Subject: 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,

Lorianne Fukui-Steck

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.

This Bill attempts to redefine marriage and this will affect children, families and our society in a negative way. "Man's laws cannot make moral what God has declared immoral" Dallin H. Oaks. This bill should be address in a regular session. I do not understand the hastiness of a special session. I feel our representatives our being pressured and this process will not allow enough time to listen to the people.

I do not like hearing from representatives "I believe the same as you do but I have to play the game" or when asked about religious exemptions they do not have an understanding of the bill themselves. I feel like I have to be an attorney to understand my rights. To my understanding The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints under the SB1 Gov. Revised Bill part 572G will not be exempt from refusing our buildings for same sex services. This infringes on my religious rights and Freedoms. This part of the bill needs to be changed; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints should not to be deemed a public building because we allow Scouting and other programs the use of our building. I Value the Sacredness of my Sunday worship just as much as I value the good programs and activities throughout the rest of the week offered in our buildings State wide.

Protect our Countries foundation of Religious Freedom. My sincere prayers are that we will have more representatives that Serve God and their Country, have the Courage to say NO.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aubree Hanks
Mililani, HI

Date: Oct. 30, 2013

Karl Rhoads
Chair

Judiciary Committee

Subject: 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.

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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,

Lorianne Fukui-Steck

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

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

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

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 be properly vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of 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.

Mose and Carol Fuiava
Waipahu, HI 96797

Dear Senators, Representatives, Governor and other local political leaders,

I am writing in hopes that my views regarding the Marriage Equality Bill will be taken into consideration. I **strongly oppose the special session. I oppose and will do my part to vote out the leaders that have removed the right of public vote from the people and I oppose same sex marriage. I oppose not having stronger exemptions protecting religious organizations and people and small businesses.** You know that there will be law suits regardless of how the bill is written so at the very least create a bill that will limit such activity.

For something to be ethical or right would mean that it could be practiced by the entire population. If everyone was homosexual it would be the end of the human species within one generation.

It is immoral. Nothing changes that. The changing views and level of acceptance of the act does not make it right. Societal and cultural beliefs do not dictate or alter what has been truth since the beginning of time.

It is an injustice to the younger generation. Significant studies indicate that the best environment for children to excel is with a mother and a father. The children deserve this!

Please do the right thing and at least put it to a vote of the people. **Voting is a kuleana of living in this country.** You need to stop removing the rights of people and give it back to them. This country was founded to give people certain freedoms. The right to marry your brother, sister or someone of the same sex was not part of the founding fathers vision. The right to vote was.

Amber Dennis

Laie, HI 96762

Trust me we won't forget! Once your vote set so is mine.

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: 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. I support equality for all including the rights of religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to this bill 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 to protect ALL rights. My opposition to this bill is not directed towards same-sex marriage but to ensure that religious entities and private schools religiously affiliated are protected in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Vaiana Nakamitsu

Haleiwa, Hawaii

October 30, 2013

To: Chair, House Judiciary/Finance Joint Committee
Joint Public Hearing Thursday, October 31, 2013
10 a.m. Capitol Auditorium

From: Barbara K.T. Ching
1380 Manu-Laiki St., Kailua, HI 96734

Re: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

My name is Barbara K.T. Ching and I am a retired public school teacher. I am writing in opposition to the passage of SB1. As a Christian, I believe that marriage should be between one man and one woman as taught in the Bible, the Word of God. That tradition has long been held as the norm for the well-being and protection of the core foundation of our society – our families.

To legalize marriage between persons of the same sex is to establish by law a new normal which will have far-reaching effects upon our society. It raises numerous questions re: its consequences, e.g.:

1. How will it affect our public education system?
 - Will there be a mandatory curriculum from K-12 that same-sex marriage is the new norm?
 - Will our public school teachers be required to teach that curriculum even if they personally are against it?
 - Will parents have the right to know what their children are being taught re: same-sex marriage and to refuse to allow their children to participate in those classes if that goes against their beliefs?
2. How will it affect Christian and other faith-based clubs who currently meet in the public schools? Will they continue to be allowed to use those facilities along with, e.g. the Gay and Straight Alliance clubs?
3. How will churches and other religious groups be given the full protections provided by the Constitution re: the freedom to practice the teachings of their faith? I believe that the current bill does not provide, e.g. a Christian church, sufficient freedom and protection to worship God, to teach the Bible according to its beliefs and to conduct all of its ministries, given the wide scope of a contemporary church's ministry to its members and its outreach to the wider community.
4. There are many more questions re: the numerous ramifications of SB1 than can be properly dealt with in just one week. These ramifications are so wide-ranging that I believe true due process demands that there be more time given to allow for adequate study, public input and debate.

I remain opposed to SB1, the legalization of same-sex marriage. I believe it is critical that before this bill becomes the law for the entire state of over 1 million people, that much more time be given for the fullest understanding possible of all its wide-ranging ramifications. The only way to allow sufficient public input and debate would be to have this matter taken up at the upcoming legislative session in January 2014. To allow this bill to pass at a special session would be to short-change due process.

10-29-13

Dear Honorable Representative:

I am a mental health and family counselor, and have been living in Oahu for the past 12 years working with families, drug and alcoholic populations, those incarcerated, and CPS related custody cases. I would like to express my concerns on the special session on same sex marriage. Please note that: **I am strongly opposed to "Same Sex Marriage"**. I know that there will be a special session coming up in October. ***I believe that same sex marriage is bad for our Keiki's and bad for Hawaii.*** As a counselor I have seen that children do best in stable, healthy homes with both a mom and dad. Hawaii's children must have healthy examples **for the sake of our Keiki's**. Today, with the high rate of divorce and children who are abandoned to the foster care system, it is callous to the extreme to be rewriting our most basic marriage laws to suit the desires of a few adults.

Please respect the Tradition of marriage and family, as this should not be undermined. I support the definition that Marriage is the union of one man and one woman, which is God designed and naturally ordered for the good of the spouses and the procreation, rearing and education of children. Marriage is a foundation of human society that deserves special protection and recognition in the law and should not be changed by the state. Same-sex relationships should not be given the same status or recognition as traditional marriage, and my hope is that we will not deviate from the standard of marriage as the foundation of our society.

Please note: In 1998, the people of Hawaii sent a clear message that we support traditional marriage between a man and a woman. ***I plead with you to do what is right for the future of our Keiki's and for the future of Hawaii. Please support traditional marriage, and say NO to the special session.***

Respectfully,

Vicky Wong

98-675 Papalealii Street

Aiea, Hawaii

808-486-2080

October 28, 2013

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

From: FULL NAME

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. Where is the integrity of the government that the people had voted for? This process of the special session is too short with the rules and guidelines, which are slighted, making this session impossible to present a proper case and to hear all the people of that oppose the manner of how this bill is being railroad through the democratic processes. I implore you to use your voting right to vote no on this bill in the name of democracy to defer this to the regular session. Please listen to the thousands of testimony against this bill and act in for the majority of the people's will and not for any other reason.

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

Thank you,

Greg Ravelo

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 is 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.

Wayne Kimokeo

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.

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This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate 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.

Norma Kimoqueo

Oct 31, 10a
House Judiciary and Finance Committee
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

I will not be testifying in person.

I am writing in OPPOSITION to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I believe that by passing this bill, the sanctity of marriage will change our society forever...and it will NOT be for the good of the people, whether gay or straight.

I ask you to please consider the ramifications of this bill and what it will do to the future of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui,
Joette Ishibashi

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:

As a business owner I do not have the time to testify in person and so desire my voice to be heard through this letter. I am opposed to the passing of SB1 in its current form and urge the house committee members and the full house to understand the long-term effects of this bill.

In its current form, this bill goes beyond giving the rights of marriage to Same Sex couples, as it intrudes into the rights of religious and non-profit organizations. These rights that are at risk, due to SB1, is the right to choose who they can marry and the rights of which individuals can use their buildings as they see fit.

As the bill stands religious organizations are exempted from having to solemnize or celebrate same sex –sex marriage as long as their facilities are only used by members. However, if they allow non-members to use their facilities their exemptions are nullified and their facilities will be deemed open to public use, therefore mandated to allow same-sex marriage and celebrations.

As part of our business we rent a church twice a year to host recitals for our piano students. Practically all of these families who attend these recitals are not members and their attendance will nullify this church's exemption to SB1. This is just one example of how our small business will be affected by this bill. Imagine the thousands of other businesses that will be affected if this SB1 bill is not amended or shut down.

This bill has not had enough time to be analyzed by you and by the people. I urge you members of the house to be more diligent and do more research into the effects that this bill will bring upon the people of Hawaii.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Derrick Kim

Mililani HI

October 30, 2013

Dear Members of the House,

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

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

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

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

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

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

God bless you,

Desiree Ferguson

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

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

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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.

(Patrick L. Rodrigues Jr.)
(Waianae Hawaii, I just move to the Island of Maui. Wailuku.

JOSEPH & TASHANNA L.K. CORTEZ

RR3 BOX 1094 PAHOA HI 96778 * Phone: 808-345-3086* Fax: 808-982-8169 * Email: tashannacortez@hawaiiantel.net

Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

October 29, 2013

RE: SB1_ RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION
OF PROPOSED HAWAII MARRIAGE EQUALITY ACT 2013

Dear Honorable Representatives,

My husband and I will not be able to submit testimony in person, however, we respectfully urge your recommendation of **no passage** of **SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights**, which will recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex and will extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

We would like to respectfully submit this testimony on behalf of our family of 6; we are a married couple (man and women) and have 4 beautiful children and reside on the Big Island of Hawaii, in the Puna District. We stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION OF THIS BILL**.

I would never in my wildest dreams image that I would have to make a distinction when referring to marriage. As I read the draft of SB 1, my heart broke because all instances of the words "one man and one women" relating to the definition of marriage have been striked out.

While I understand that we live in the land of the free, I also believe that there are certain freedoms that can only be enjoyed within a set of "boundaries" and that these "boundaries" should never be crossed or removed. I also believe that while the opposition may view these "boundaries" as "imprisonment" or "discrimination", these boundaries actually provide real, true freedom when we operate properly within them.

These boundaries of the marriage covenant between one man and one woman are protective, holy boundaries, boundaries that have been set from the beginning of time by God himself for

the entire world to thrive! Our very own Hawaii State Constitution and motto speaks of these boundaries, where our preamble states "WE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII, GRATEFUL FOR DIVINE GUIDANCE". Our very State motto states: "UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO", the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Please do not stray from the foundation of our State, by which you swore an oath to protect.

Our motto speaks of boundaries and righteousness. We are a constitution, by the people and for the people, perpetuated in righteousness! Boundaries which have not been set to discriminate, nor withhold benefit, but for relationship, procreation of family, enjoyment of life and safety, and all IN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Our family feels that our rights are being stripped in this process, and that the boundaries that we have set for our family are being forcefully removed. We also feel our rights are not being honored.

We feel that we are being forced to accept a lifestyle that is against our faith and against natural law.

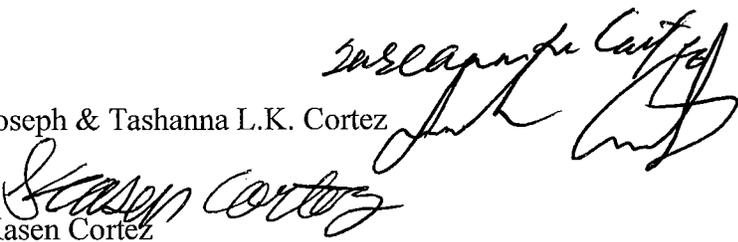
We respectfully urge the Legislature not to pass this bill and to please exercise due diligence, take the time to research the negative and appalling effects that gay marriage has had on other states, families, businesses, churches, schools, hospitals, and especially on children, who are our legacy and future.

We respectfully request that you will uphold these boundaries for the sake of all!

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph & Tashanna L.K. Cortez


Kasen Cortez

Diissa Cortez
D'Lissa Cortez

Jensen Cortez
Jensen Cortez

Brenson Cortez
Brenson Cortez

JOSEPH & TASHANNA L.K. CORTEZ

RR3 BOX 1094 PAHOA HI 96778 * Phone: 808-345-3086* Fax: 808-982-8169 * Email: tashannacortez@hawaiiantel.net

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October 29, 2013

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While I understand that we live in the land of the free, I also believe that there are certain freedoms that can only be enjoyed within a set of "boundaries" and that these "boundaries" should never be crossed or removed. I also believe that while the opposition may view these "boundaries" as "imprisonment" or "discrimination", these boundaries actually provide real, true freedom when we operate properly within them.

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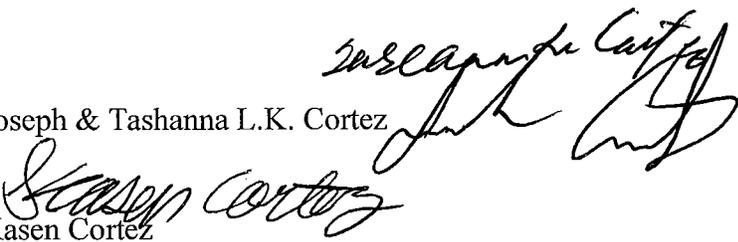
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We respectfully request that you will uphold these boundaries for the sake of all!

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph & Tashanna L.K. Cortez


Kasen Cortez

Diissa Cortez
D'Lissa Cortez

Jensen Cortez
Jensen Cortez

Brenson Cortez
Brenson Cortez

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 in OPPOSITION of said SB1. This is a democracy. Let the people vote. Since "WE THE PEOPLE" will be the ones affected by this bill, shouldn't WE have the right to vote on this matter?

I eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

Lesley Tanabe

Kihei, Maui, HAWAII

Aloha to those who will be deciding the fate of this bill.

My name is Joy Yamada and I live in Mililani. I am a concerned citizen who expects you as the representatives of the people of Hawaii to remember who you are representing. I oppose this bill. This bill will affect everyone for generations to come. Our country was and is based on freedom and free agency, this bill takes away that freedom and agency from churches and other religious institutions; by forcing them to go against their beliefs rights. We expect you to please protect this freedom and agency for the people and our churches. Do not rush this bill through, I expect as a citizen and voter to let us exercise our right to vote and let us vote on this matter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely a concerned citizen and voter,

Joy Yamada

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 passing of Bill SB1 would not only redefine marriage as it has always been defined it would also open the door to revisions down the road that would further erode the definition of both marriage and family. Today you are considering marriage between same sex couples but what will be the debate a few years from now? Will marriage continue to be limited to a couple? Why not three, four, or more people in "committed loving relationship?"

I humbly ask that you consider the long term consequences of passing this deeply flawed legislation.

There is no doubt that this is the most contentious social issue in our history and I, as a citizen of this great state am opposed to it. A decision of this magnitude should not be decided in a one to two week session. I 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.

Sincerely,
Randy Manley
PO Box 53
Hoolehua, HI 96729
(808)658-0076

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.

Kami Yuen

Laie, Hawaii 96762

October 30, 2013

House Judiciary Committee
House Finance Committee
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: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

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

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because:

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. I support the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman, which was voted on by the people in 1998.
2. It is in opposition to the will of the Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution. 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. Such consideration should be voted upon by the people and not by a select few (i.e. the legislation). A “yes” vote in special session is clearly a “no” vote to democracy.
3. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion. Religious organizations will not be required to host same sex marriage celebrations if they meet the requirements of the state but not according and in respect to personal religious beliefs. Further this bill would prevent churches from holding events of community outreach with the fear that their facility would then be compelled to host events not keeping with their religious/moral beliefs.
4. It will introduce a new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth. Separation of church and state bar teachers from referencing God in public schools. If religious references are excluded from being taught in public schools, then same-sex marriages and relationships should likewise be taught in the home and current legislation should respect all parties concerned.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Nevertheless, I understand that there are many in the legislature who have already made their decision. I urge you to express my voice on the above noted matters. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nathan Lee

Registered Hawaii Voter – District
#10

October 29, 2013

To our Legislators and Governor of Hawaii,

*We are AGAINST same sex marriage. Please do not pass SB1.

*This Decision will affect EVERYONE. So please let EVERYONE Vote. Please PASS House Bill 5.

*Genesis 5:2 "He (GOD) created them male and female..." Please let us continue to uphold traditional marriage as it was created.

*With all due respect I will NOT vote for anyone who supports this SB1 bill.

Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Very Respectfully,
Roland

Debbie Takai
PO Box 5236
Hilo, Hi 96720

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

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

My name is Debbie Takai a registered voter. Born and raised in Hawai'i and mother of a native Hawaiian daughter. I am OPPOSED to SB1.

My issue with SB1 is 572c.

I have raised this question to multiple legal experts and they have read this as an infringement of each person's nationality and true blood background.

Example: If a lesbian couple is married and gets artificially inseminated by a non-Hawaiian sperm donor. But one of the mothers is Hawaiian, now their baby becomes of Hawaiian descendant, because one parent is of this lesbian couple is native Hawaiian. This is not right for the Native Hawaiians, because their benefits will now be shared with non-Hawaiians. They already wait long enough for their land and other benefits. This does not only go for Native Hawaiians but for Native Americans too!

Please reconsider how this changes society throughout the world.

Thank you for your time and your service,

Debbie Takai

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.

Jazelle Aolahiko

Honolulu, HI 96818

Aloha,

I, Shemeeka, am opposed to SB 1. I support traditional marriage which is marriage between one man and one woman. I am concerned about the future generation of not only my family but all families. Some of my questions include, "What are some of the future effects that this is going to have that studies are not able to show currently." "Why or our voices not being heard?" Please let the people vote. Thank You for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shemeeka

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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 on Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow we the people to vote on this issue of marriage because a democracy process has been established in this great country of ours, in selecting what we believe is best for us; and if the masses is speaking out, I can only hope you are listening. Have you ever stop to think of how the institution of marriage did come about? I have, especially lately, with all that is going on. This is a question that you might want to give some serious thought, in your quiet place, away from all the voices because your decision on this issue will have lasting consequences on the future of this beautiful state. With due respect, members of the committees, decide wisely!

Thank you for your time.

To the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Regarding SB1:

I want to begin by thanking you for your dedication and desire to serve the people of Hawaii, trying to help protect our state and make it better for all of us. I know yours is not an easy task.

I am asking you to vote NO at the special session regarding the proposed Same Sex Marriage Bill (SB1). I am opposed to redefining the meaning of the word "marriage". That term was always meant to define marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. Same sex marriage debases the family, which is the basis for society and has been from the beginning. Let the term "civil union" stand which defines, by its terminology, what it is. If this bill is passed and becomes law, I am concerned about the effect on the culture, values, and the rich pro family pro life traditions of Hawaii. Is this really the legacy we want to hand down to our children and grandchildren?

Have each of you honestly researched and analyzed the effects on those states (like Massachusetts) and places (like Canada) that have already made same sex marriage legal? It has been shown that some of the LGBT leaders have specific plans to change school curriculum and to change laws about churches being able to follow their faith in choosing whether or not to perform marriages, etc. based on their belief systems. What about the freedoms of individuals and businesses who are not gay or lesbian to live out our beliefs, too?

I ask you to vote NO on SB1 until we, the people of Hawaii, can see what has happened in other places and decide if this is/will be in the BEST interests of the people of Hawaii. If you vote no on this issue, it will give time for greater debate and input from Hawaii's people. I believe that, regarding this issue, you will best serve the people by letting each one of us have a vote in determining the outcome that we are being asked to live by. Righteousness cannot be legislated. It is a matter of belief based on the principles and beliefs that our country was founded on. Legalizing immorality and attempting to legalize immorality into the culture is in direct opposition to our state motto: "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". We need to embrace our state motto.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my opinion,
Kathryn E. Mundy (registered voter, born and raised in Hawaii, residing on Maui)

Tiara Tevaga
1012 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
October 30, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representatives Scott Y. Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, Marriage.
2. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members, from lawsuits.
3. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution.
4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tiara Tevaga

Hawaii Voter

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.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nancy Navas
1011 Ilima Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

We all have a father and mother. We were created by them. Is it a good idea to create children with the intent of someone else raising them? Are we teaching our children that this is okay? Think of our children. What are we doing to the next generation? What are we doing to our future? I strongly oppose SB1. Please vote no.

Mahalo,
Verne Santos
1734 Oheke Pl
Honolulu, HI 96819