

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 3:08:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carlos	Veterans Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

This bill provides equity for same-sex couples. Encourage the passing of this bill without delay.



February 11, 2019

House's Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 671 HD 1 – RELATING TO VETERANS SERVICES**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 671 HD 1 on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. HB 671 HD 1 provides that a surviving unmarried same-sex partner of a deceased veteran may be interred at any state veterans cemetery if the surviving partner provides evidence that the couple would have married but for a state law prohibiting same-sex marriage.

For a generation lesbian, gay & bisexual (LGB) service members had to service our country in silence. Then with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) LGB service members were able to serve out and proud. At the time that DADT was repealed there were approximately 13,000 LGB people serving on active duty (comprising 0.9% of all active duty personnel) with nearly 58,000 serving in the various guard and reserve forces (3.4%) [per the Williams Institute](#).

Prior to the repeal DADT coupled LGB service members were denied the rights and privileges their straight counterparts had. While this bill will not right all the injustices that our brave LGB services members faced it will allow them to be buried with their partners.

The LGBT Caucus hopes that you all will honor these LGB service members service and pass HB 671 HD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair

**LATE**

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 10:15:59 PM  
Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 671 H.D.1, RELATING TO VETERANS SERVICES

PRESENTATION TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN  
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 13, 2019  
3:00 p.m.

Good afternoon, Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in opposition with recommended amendments** for House Bill 671 H.D.1.

This measure provides that a surviving unmarried same-sex partner of a deceased Veteran (who meets all established Veterans Affairs internment eligibility criterion) may be interred at any State or National Veterans Cemetery if the surviving partner provides evidence that the couple would have married but for a State law prohibiting same-sex marriage. In the cited case in the proposed measure of Nancy Lynchild and subsequent written petition from her same-sex partner Lt Col Linda Campbell to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (SECVA), a waiver was granted and precedent set by the SECVA based on evidence of a committed relationship between Nancy Lynchild and the eligible Veteran.

**The main point of opposition resides with identifying the specific agency in writing that will adjudicate the waiver and ultimately the agency that has the authority to grant approval/disapproval for the waiver.**

We offer the following to clarify this issue. Recommend page 3 section 6-9 lines underscored be amended to read: **veterans cemetery if the surviving partner provides a written formal request for waiver and evidence to the SECVA that the couple would have married but for a State law prohibiting same-sex marriage, including a joint bank account, an affidavit, or a rental agreement or other case evidence deemed appropriate by the SECVA. The SECVA, after review of the waiver request, has the authority to adjudicate and to respond accordingly to the requester including approval of internment.**

We defer to the federal agency with direct responsibility for implementation and approval.

The OVS will not support this measure if its implementation impacts or replaces the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.

Ron Han, [ronald.han@va.gov](mailto:ronald.han@va.gov), (808) 433-0422

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 7:52:14 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB671. It is time to make up for discriminating against our LGBT veterans and their spouses or those who would have married their partner if the law had allowed at the time.

Please pass HB671.

Mike Golojuch, Jr., Lt Col, USAF(Ret)

**LATE**

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 9:58:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Morgan Bonnet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 12:01:43 AM  
Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support



**LATE**

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 7:38:27 AM  
Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George M Clifford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a military retiree and an Episcopal priest, I strongly support this legislation as a matter of justice, equity, and civil rights.

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 8:38:33 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I want to thank you for hearing this measure. As the wife of a 28-year combat Veteran I am writing in strong support of HB671. It is so important that we honor our LGBTQIA service members equally; with the same protocols as their heterosexual counterparts. Allowing for same-sex partners to be buried with their service member will go a long way toward healing the discrimination these service members have previously endured.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lynn Robinson-Onderko, Ewa Beach

**LATE**

**HB-671-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:12:26 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/13/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Acasio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: