



1           §    **-2 Eligibility to enter into a civil union.** A person  
2 shall be eligible to enter into a civil union only if the person  
3 is:

- 4           (1) Not a partner in another civil union, a spouse in a  
5                marriage, or a party to a reciprocal beneficiary  
6                relationship pursuant to chapter 572C;  
7           (2) At least eighteen years of age; and  
8           (3) Not related to the other proposed partner in the civil  
9                union, as provided in section       -3.

10          §    **-3 Civil unions void; when.** A civil union shall be  
11 void between the following persons: parent and child,  
12 grandparent and grandchild, two siblings, aunt and nephew, aunt  
13 and niece, uncle and nephew, uncle and niece; persons who stand  
14 in relation to each other of ancestor and descendant of any  
15 degree whatsoever.

16          §    **-4 Solemnization; license to perform; refusal to join**  
17 **persons in a civil union.** (a) A civil union shall become valid  
18 only upon completion of a solemnization by a person licensed in  
19 accordance with this section.

20           (b) Any judge or retired judge, including a federal judge  
21 or judge of another state who may legally join persons in  
22 chapter 572 or a civil union, may solemnize a civil union. Any

1 ordained or licensed member of the clergy may solemnize a civil  
2 union. Solemnization may be entirely secular or may be  
3 performed according to the forms and usages of any religious  
4 denomination in this state. Nothing in this section shall be  
5 construed to require any person authorized to perform  
6 solemnizations of marriages or civil unions to perform a  
7 solemnization of a civil union, and no such authorized person  
8 who fails or refuses for any reason to join persons in a civil  
9 union shall be subject to any fine or other penalty for such  
10 failure or refusal.

11 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require  
12 any person authorized to perform solemnizations of chapter 572  
13 or civil unions to perform a solemnization of a civil union, and  
14 no such authorized person who fails or refuses for any reason to  
15 join persons in a civil union shall be subject to any fine or  
16 other penalty for such failure or refusal.

17 (d) No agent may solemnize a civil union; nor may any  
18 assistant or deputy of the agent solemnize a civil union.

19 (e) No person shall perform solemnization of a civil union  
20 without first having obtained a license from the department of  
21 health. The department of health shall issue licenses to  
22 solemnize civil unions in the same manner as it issues licenses

1 pursuant to chapter 572. The department of health may revoke or  
2 suspend a license to solemnize civil unions. Any penalties or  
3 fines that may be levied or assessed by the department of health  
4 for violation of chapter 572 shall apply equally to a person  
5 licensed to solemnize civil unions.

6       **§ -5 Applicants for civil union; license required;**

7 **limitations.** (a) No persons may be joined in a civil union in  
8 this State unless both partners have:

9       (1) Met the requirements of section -2;

10       (2) Complied with sections -6 and, if applicable,  
11       section -7; and

12       (3) Been issued a license by the agent in the judicial  
13       circuit in which a civil union is to be solemnized or  
14       in which either person resides, which license shall  
15       bear the certification of the agent that the persons  
16       named therein have met the requirements of section  
17       -2 and have complied with sections -6 and, if  
18       applicable, section -7.

19       (b) The license, when certified by the agent, is  
20 sufficient authority for any person authorized to perform a  
21 civil union solemnization in this State to join the persons in a  
22 civil union; provided that the solemnization is performed not

1 more than thirty days after the date of issuance. The license  
2 shall become void thirty days after issuance.

3       **§ -6 Application for license for persons who wish to**  
4 **enter into a civil union; fee.** (a) No license for a civil  
5 union may be issued by the agent until both applicants have  
6 appeared before the agent and applied for a license. The  
7 application for the license shall be completed in its entirety,  
8 dated, signed, and sworn to by each applicant and shall state  
9 each applicant's full name, date of birth, birthplace,  
10 residence, social security number, whether single, widowed, or  
11 divorced, and whether the applicant is under the supervision or  
12 control of a conservator or guardian. If the application is  
13 signed and sworn to by the applicants on different dates, the  
14 earlier date shall be deemed the date of application. The agent  
15 shall issue a copy of this chapter to any person applying for a  
16 license.

17       (b) The fee for a license to enter into a civil union  
18 shall be an amount equal to the amount prescribed in section  
19 572-5, and all amounts collected by the agent as application  
20 fees under this chapter shall be retained or remitted and  
21 apportioned in the same manner as prescribed in section 572-5.

1           **§ -7 Persons under control of conservator or guardian.**

2       (a) No civil union license may be issued to any applicant under  
3 the supervision or control of a conservator or guardian,  
4 appointed in accordance with chapter 560, unless the written  
5 consent of the conservator or guardian, signed and notarized, is  
6 filed with the agent.

7       (b) Any person who enters into a civil union without the  
8 consent provided for in subsection (a) shall acquire no rights,  
9 by that civil union, in the property of any person who was under  
10 the control or supervision of a conservator or guardian at the  
11 time the civil union was entered into.

12           **§ -8 Record of solemnization; reported by whom;**  
13 **affidavit; evidentiary weight of certificate or affidavit.** (a)

14 Each person who solemnizes a civil union shall certify upon the  
15 civil union license certificate the fact, time, and place of the  
16 solemnization of the civil union and return the license to the  
17 agent within three business days following the solemnization of  
18 the civil union, or as may otherwise be prescribed by the  
19 department of health.

20       (b) If any person who has solemnized a civil union fails  
21 to return the certificate to the agent as required under  
22 subsection (a), the partners joined in a civil union may provide

1 the agent with a notarized affidavit attesting to the fact that  
2 they were joined in a civil union and stating the date and place  
3 of the solemnization of the civil union. Upon the recording of  
4 that affidavit by the agent, the civil union of the partners  
5 shall be deemed to be valid as of the date of the solemnization  
6 of the civil union stated in the affidavit.

7 (c) The certificate required by subsection (a) or an  
8 affidavit recorded pursuant to subsection (b) shall be prima  
9 facie evidence of the facts stated therein.

10 **§ -9 Benefits, protections, and responsibilities.**

11 Partners to a civil union lawfully entered into pursuant to this  
12 chapter shall have all the same rights, benefits, protections,  
13 and responsibilities under law, whether derived from statutes,  
14 administrative rules, court decisions, the common law, or any  
15 other source of civil law, as are granted to those who contract,  
16 obtain a license, and are solemnized pursuant to chapter 572.

17 **§ -10 Civil unions performed in other jurisdictions.**

18 All unions between two individuals not recognized under section  
19 572-3 shall be recognized as civil unions provided that the  
20 relationship meets the eligibility requirements of this  
21 chapter."

1 SECTION 3. Section 572-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 repealed.

3 ~~["§572-1.6] Private solemnization not unlawful. Nothing~~  
4 ~~in this chapter shall be construed to render unlawful, or~~  
5 ~~otherwise affirmatively punishable at law, the solemnization of~~  
6 ~~same-sex relationships by religious organizations; provided that~~  
7 ~~nothing in this section shall be construed to confer any of the~~  
8 ~~benefits, burdens, or obligations of marriage under the laws of~~  
9 ~~Hawaii."]~~

10 SECTION 4. A party to a civil union shall be included in  
11 any definition or use of the terms "spouse", "family",  
12 "immediate family", "dependent", "next of kin" and other terms  
13 that denote the spousal relationship, as those terms are used  
14 throughout the law.

15 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
16 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
17 begun, before its effective date.

18 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken.

20 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2010.



**Report Title:**

Civil Unions

**Description:**

Extends the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. (SD1)