

BILL025(21)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 6

EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)

**EXECUTIVE MATTERS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS (EMLA)
Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jan 10, 2023 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 59

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 1

| | | |
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| Name: Jo-Ann Adams | Email: jmainparadise@gmail.com | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 03:56 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support adding the protected classes of "sex, sexual orientation, [and] gender identity" to the bill.</p> <p>When I worked at the State level on improving the status of the LGBT++ community for over a decade, we began our work by adding these categories as protected classes as precursors on our ultimate quest for marriage equality.</p> <p>One of the bills modified was public accommodations. When marriage equality was legalized here in special session, the next move by the opposition was to attempt to legalize discrimination against gay weddings claiming religious persecution (as we also saw in the US Supreme Court Case, Masterpiece Cakeshop). Because we amended Hawaii's public accommodation law to add these categories as protected classes, the Commission on Civil Rights was able to argue the proposed legalization of discrimination based on sexual orientation.</p> <p>Even though Hawaii seems a "safe place" for the LGBT community, we must always remember that "the enemy never sleeps". Now that limited national rights have been passed by the federal government, expect to see efforts at the state level to roll back the rights for these and other marginalized communities.</p> <p>I ask you to allow the amended to the bill as proposed by Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam.</p> | | |
| Name: Kumalie Dias-Blake | Email: ku2019@gmail.com | Zip: 96744 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 03:56 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this matter</p> | | |
| Name: Michelle Tellio | Email: michelletellio31@gmail.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 03:57 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support Bill 25 relating to anti-bias and gender expression policy.</p> | | |
| Name: Kirk Southcott | Email: ksouthcott@gmail.com | Zip: 96782 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 03:58 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>This is needed to ensure that everyone no matter this orientation or expression is respected. This is needed to say to the world that Honolulu is a welcoming place</p> | | |
| Name: Alex Sirois | Email: siroisalex@gmail.com | Zip: 96741 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:27 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, a former resident of the City of Honolulu, and as a current resident of Kauai, who visits Honolulu often, I am in support of this bill. It is imperative that Honolulu pave the way and be a pinnacle of anti-bias and inclusion, particularly in a country that is so fractured on social issues of this kind.</p> | | |
| Name: | Email: | Zip: |

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| Clint Okayama | Clokamedia@gmail.com | 11102 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:27 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I was born and raised in Hawaii, where both sides of my family have lived since the late 1800s. I now live in NYC, partially because I know there is a thriving LGBTQ community, with laws that will accept and protect me and the community that has given me so much joy, love, freedom and acceptance.</p> <p>I one day hope to come back to Hawaii, to live with my friends and family. It breaks my heart to say that I cannot be sure that Hawaii, my childhood home, where all the generations of my family reside, and where most of my high school friends live, will have a political and legal system that will protect me and my community.</p> <p>By passing this legislation, you will help create a Hawaii that is a safe and fair home for us to live in, all protected by law. Personally, I would feel more incentivized to move back, and I am sure that many more sons and daughters of Hawaii will feel the same.</p> <p>The LGBTQ community only wants safety and security. We have very few places to go with legal protections. Please, take this step in creating a safe home for us.</p> <p>Thank you for your work.</p> | | |
| Name: Kris Najim | Email: knajim@live.com | Zip: 96701 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:30 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I fully support the inclusiveness and protections for sexual orientation and gender identity.</p> | | |
| Name: Taylor Kulhanek | Email: taylorkulhanek@gmail.com | Zip: 96741 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:34 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a member of the LGBTQ+ community and as a current resident of Kauai, who visits Honolulu often, I am in support of this bill. It is imperative that Honolulu pave the way and be a pinnacle of anti-bias and inclusion, particularly in a country that is so fractured on social issues of this kind.</p> | | |
| Name: Shawn Valente | Email: s2437913@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:36 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this Bill Because I want people to be included and safe for expressing themselves for who they are without fear.</p> | | |
| Name: Ani Apostol | Email: aniapostol@gmail.com | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:38 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am trans non binary and I fully support this bill.</p> <p>Thank you Hawaii for protecting and caring for me.</p> | | |
| Name: | Email: | Zip: |

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| Rhonda Kulhanek | rhondakulhanek@gmail.com | 96741 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:46 PM |
| Testimony: I support this bill! Inclusivity and equality are basic human rights. | | |
| Name: Leandro Coutinho | Email: leocoutinho@me.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:48 PM |
| Testimony: I support it! | | |
| Name: Raimel Garcia | Email: raimelgarcia@mail.com | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:49 PM |
| Testimony: I support this policy as it directly affects me, my family and community. | | |
| Name: Thomas Bond | Email: thomasharleybond@me.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 04:54 PM |
| Testimony: I support it! | | |
| Name: Brittney Shinsato | Email: britt21@hawaii.edu | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 05:08 PM |
| Testimony: For the State of Hawaii, as an entity, to move in a progressive way, these anti-bias and inclusion laws are necessary. As a nurse serving our community, it is disheartening to view the hatred spread by groups that do not display the welcoming nature Hawaii's melting pot represents. As someone who was born and raised here in the islands, in order to protect the future generations, there needs to be laws established to ensure safety against discrimination, so those generations are free to be themselves, whether they go by "he/him, she/her, they/them, (or the pronoun of choice)."Allowing each person the autonomy to be who they truly are, without fear of repressing that nature due to discrimination should be a top priority. | | |
| Name: Ryan Mandado | Email: ryanmandado@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 05:22 PM |
| Testimony: Many laws already protect sexual orientation and gender across lines of professions. This bill will elevate the importance of anti-bias in all work streams to create more inclusive spaces for people in Honolulu. | | |
| Name: Brett Keniston | Email: brettkeniston82@gmail.com | Zip: 96826 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 05:22 PM |
| Testimony: I fully support the notion that city (and state employees) be required to undergo training to help reduce instances of bias and | | |

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| discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community. | | |
| Name: Storm Arcana | Email: stormantic@gmail.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 05:39 PM |
| <p>Testimony: Anti-bias legislation is a step in the right direction to support the LGBTQIA+ community. More proper protections and training can only strengthen our communities and support the diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions that exist in Hawai'i and are a part of our traditions. Thank you for respecting our uniqueness. Mahalo for your support of this bill.</p> | | |
| Name: Cameron Gomez | Email: camgokez2014@gmail.com | Zip: 96789 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 06:20 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I am very proud of the current and new city council members for addressing these issues and providing protection for people in our community. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community it makes my heart whole to see that we have support from our elected officials. Thanks Tyler for standing up and showing the QUEER CONFIDENCE you exude. We are the confident and vocal members of our community that represent those who may not have the courage or ability to do themselves, and I thank you for that! Also shoutout to MATT WEYER! Thanks guys, REPRESENTATION MATTERS!</p> | | |
| Name: Maria Houar | Email: mhou@hawaii.edu | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 06:24 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I support this measure- mahalo!</p> | | |
| Name: Sarah Jane Brendlinger | Email: sarahjane2722@gmail.com | Zip: 18976 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 06:54 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I support and believe in this bill</p> | | |
| Name: Erin Kelly | Email: craptastic5ever@gmail.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 06:57 PM |
| <p>Testimony: Equal rights for LGBTQIA+ community, I support!</p> | | |
| Name: Krystle Richman | Email: krystle.richman@gmail.com | Zip: 96789 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 07:50 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I support this bill. Diversity and inclusivity matters.</p> | | |
| Name: Nikos Leverenz | Email: naleverenz@gmail.com | Zip: 96818 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 09:00 PM |

Testimony:

Aloha:

I am writing in strong support of BILL025(21), PROPOSED CD1 - TDST1, which clarifies that sexual orientation and gender expression are among those characteristics protected by Honolulu's anti-bias policy.

Sexual and gender minorities are unfortunately still subject to disproportionate treatment by city government officials in a variety of contexts, from business regulation enforcement to criminal legal system involvement.

The continued criminalization of behavioral health problems falls especially hard on sexual and gender minorities who are from Native Hawaiian and economically under-resourced communities.

It also appears that Honolulu has quite a bit of work to do in terms of hiring, retaining, and promoting sexual and gender minorities in its workforce, including the ranks of its first responders and law enforcement.

At minimum, data should be regularly collected and publicly reported on these fronts to ensure that our local government strives to operate as equitably as possible in the near-term future.

Mahalo,
Nikos Leverenz
District 7 (Aliamanu)

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| Name: GREGORY ST PIERRE | Email: stpierre.gregory@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 09:12 PM |

Testimony:
Support ANTI-BIAS AND INCLUSION POLICY

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| Name: Chelsea Rorer | Email: chelsearorer@gmail.com | Zip: 96791 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 09:58 PM |

Testimony:
Thank you for considering this bill and including sexual orientation and gender expression. They are imperative to protect and can save lives. Mahalo!

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| Name: Kristen Langis | Email: kristen.pleasant99@gmail.com | Zip: 96734 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 10:48 PM |

Testimony:
I support Bill 25 that there should be no bias or discrimination on any basis!

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| Name: Joshua Ofoia | Email: joshofa.shopping@gmail.com | Zip: 96744 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 6, 2023 @ 11:57 PM |

Testimony:
As a queer man who's grown up in Kane'ohe, I have been blessed by an accepting community who gives love to anyone, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. I believe this policy will protect the queer community of Hawai'i, paving the way for acceptance and respect.

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| Name: Rainier Villanueva | Email: juniorvoltage808@gmail.com | Zip: 96744 |
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| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 12:01 AM |
| Testimony: I fully support this bill. | | |
| Name: Corinne Powell | Email: cori.v.powell@gmail.com | Zip: 96825 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 12:56 AM |
| Testimony: People should never be discriminated against for being themselves or for who they love. We are the aloha state, time so show that aloha to some of the most vulnerable of us. | | |
| Name: Allyson Villanueva | Email: allyviallyvi@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 01:43 AM |
| Testimony: We all deserve respect and a safe space to live. I believe this bill will support a healthy community environment for all. | | |
| Name: Mardi Jaskot | Email: mardijaskot@gmail.com | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 06:11 AM |
| Testimony: I support training, equal protection, & access for all including LGBTQ+ people. | | |
| Name: Andrea Valencia | Email: kolohe_0920@hotmail.com | Zip: 96707 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 09:17 AM |
| Testimony: Personal biases have no place within the context of a state, city or county employees ability or willingness to do their jobs accordingly. An individuals prejudices cannot be allowed to impede with the standards afforded to all businesses and businesses owners. | | |
| Name: Chad Lum-King | Email: Chadlumking@gmail.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 09:20 AM |
| Testimony: It's Time For Hawai'i To Be More Inclusive. | | |
| Name: James Waring | Email: airforcewong@gmail.com | Zip: 96818 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 11:41 AM |
| Testimony: I support the amendment to the bill because it supports inclusion. | | |
| Name: Jan Freed | Email: janfreed@gmail.com | Zip: 96818 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |

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| Self | Oppose | Jan 7, 2023 @ 01:06 PM |
| <p>Testimony: Oppose.</p> | | |
| Name: Cameron Kadooka | Email: quiksilver01@gmail.com | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 03:04 PM |
| <p>Testimony: Including this language is important to protect all members of the community from discrimination that is so clearly still out there. We need the amendment to ensure that no person or business can be discriminated against because of sexual orientation or gender expression.</p> | | |
| Name: Adrienne Kadooka | Email: adriennekadooka@gmail.com | Zip: 96782 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 04:57 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I'm writing to support anti-bias and inclusion.</p> | | |
| Name: Amanda Ona | Email: amandaona85@gmail.com | Zip: 96706 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 06:04 PM |
| <p>Testimony: These laws to protect our LGBTQ population are necessary as we live with aloha in our hearts for all we must do what we can to protect vulnerable populations from discrimination.</p> | | |
| Name: Chasry Lum-King | Email: chasrylumking@gmail.com | Zip: 96795 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 07:11 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I support this bill.</p> | | |
| Name: Ember Bushaw | Email: emberbushaw@yahoo.com | Zip: 96701 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 08:24 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I support this bill. As a person who is a part of the LGBTQ+ community, inclusivity and protection is very important. We shouldn't be worried to come out to our friends, families or coworkers, training and education based on gender expression and sexual orientation is crucial for our safety and for others to better understand and possibly accept who we are.</p> | | |
| Name: Shay Wong | Email: shayb316@gmail.com | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 7, 2023 @ 10:46 PM |
| <p>Testimony: I support this bill as a member of the LGBTQIA community.</p> | | |
| Name: Dillon Barnes | Email: Dillonmbarnes@yahoo.com | Zip: 89002 |

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| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 03:21 AM |
| Testimony: It's important for everybody to feel welcomed to Honolulu and not have to worry about discrimination in anyway. With this passing, people can finally get the training to be able to help the community out. It's been a rough few years for everybody, especially on the islands. Hopefully with this, it'll be a small step towards unity with everyone. | | |
| Name: James Pestana | Email: jpkalama@yahoo.com | Zip: 96826 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 07:09 AM |
| Testimony: I support this | | |
| Name: Burton White | Email: burtonwhite@gmail.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 10:20 AM |
| Testimony: I'm writing in support of this measure with amendments. | | |
| Name: Larry Smith | Email: larrysmith808@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 12:08 PM |
| Testimony: I write to support the approval of Bill 25 WITH the amendment to include sex, sexual orientation, gender identity as protected characteristics. I am surprised that the proposed policies do not already exist. Rights are being attached nationally. It is important that protections are provided for Honolulu. Larry Smith 3178 Kaohinani Dr., Honolulu 96817 | | |
| Name: yancarlos esquer thomson | Email: yanesquer@gmail.com | Zip: 96815 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 12:43 PM |
| Testimony: I support including sexual orientation and identity as being protected and recognized as a human right. | | |
| Name: Anne Shiparski | Email: annies1252@gmail.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 07:02 PM |
| Testimony: As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, it is imperative that people in my community are included in an anti-bias bill such as this. Hawaiian society both indigenously as well as in a modern aspect, recognizes and values sexual and gender orientations beyond that of many states, having this in writing can only further perpetuate a fair and protected community for all residents. | | |
| Name: Robert Baldwin | Email: robbie@scarlethonolulu.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 07:13 PM |
| Testimony: | | |

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| The liquor commision could benefit greatly from the training laid out in this amendment. | | |
| Name: talia pagay | Email: zestyjinkies@gmail.com | Zip: 96822 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 07:40 PM |
| Testimony: very important to have lgbtq+ ohana to have protection !!! | | |
| Name: Naomi Cedeno | Email: nao_gabi@hotmail.com | Zip: 96818 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 8, 2023 @ 10:43 PM |
| Testimony: I strongly support this bill. | | |
| Name: Michael Golojuch, Jr. | Email: michael@hawaiiidemocrats.org | Zip: 96707 |
| Representing: Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 08:38 AM |
| Testimony: Aloha Council Members, The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports the proposed Committee Draft offered by Chair Dos Santos-Tam BILL 25 (21) - RELATING TO ANTI-BIAS AND INCLUSION POLICY. We hope you all will support the proposed draft and work to see this important piece of legislation passed by the full Council. Mahalo nui loa, Michael Golojuch, Jr. Chair and SCC Representative Stonewall Caucus for the DPH | | |
| Name: Cheryl Burghardt | Email: burgharc@gmail.com | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 11:11 AM |
| Testimony: I am in agreement and support that the city/county of Honolulu should have a clear definition of anti-bias and support this definition for these purposes as listed in the bill, "Anti-bias" means opposing or preventing discrimination against people based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, or other protected characteristics, including stereotyped attributions of particular qualities toward an individual or group. It is important that any city/county employee or contracted employee understand and follow the guidelines including training and follow ups. MY only concern is the usual for anything like this, who follows up and what are the consequences for not complying. In addition, will funds be established to cover the costs of these trainings or will the individual departments be responsible? | | |
| Name: Cameron Miyamoto | Email: mrcameron@aol.com | Zip: 96816 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 11:12 AM |
| Testimony: | | |

As director of the LGBTQ+ Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mnoa it is my professional opinion that including "sex, gender identity and sexual orientation" is a proactive step in creating a safer and more welcoming city and county of Honolulu for our residents. There is extensive research that demonstrates that such trainings increase well-being measures for our populations and reduces grievances and instances of harassment. This testimony is not the official opinion of the university but is my professional opinion based on over 20 years of academic service at the UH.

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| Name: Heather Lusk | Email: hlusk@hhrc.org | Zip: 96813 |
| Representing: Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center | Position: I wish to comment | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 03:25 PM |

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| Name: Denise Tsukayama | Email: dtsukayama@honolulu.gov | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: Department of Human Resources | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 04:33 PM |

Testimony:
Written Testimony will be submitted by the Department of Human Resources.

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| Name: Joe Wilson | Email: qwavesjoe@yahoo.com | Zip: 96712 |
| Representing: The Kapaemahu Project | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 04:37 PM |

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| Name: North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective | Email: nskdcollective@zohomail.com | Zip: 96731 |
| Representing: North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 05:35 PM |

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| Name: Isis Usborne | Email: isis.usborne@gmail.com | Zip: 96819 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 9, 2023 @ 08:14 PM |

Testimony:
Aloha Council members,

The violence that trans, gender expansive, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and otherwise queer people face as workers is widespread and unacceptable. Both directly and indirectly, actively and passively, we non cis-hetero employees have our identities erased and attacked daily. Please pass this bill so that our bosses and coworkers at least know the difference between sex, sexuality, gender identity, and gender expression (4 separate aspects of an individual's identity that are too often conflated). We will not be pushed out of our communities and we will not be silenced. We are valuable members of society who deserve to be heard and respected. Thank you.

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| Name: Rebecca Soon | Email: rebecca.ji.soon@gmail.com | Zip: 96825 |
| Representing: Self | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 10, 2023 @ 10:01 AM |

Testimony:
Aloha Members of the Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs:

I write in strong support of this Bill and particularly the CD1 presented by Chair Dos Santos-Tam. The updates to the definitions made in the CD1 are critical to update our recognition of all protected classes. We unfortunately continue to see discrimination in all parts of our community against many of our neighbors and family members related to their identities as humans. It is important for our community as a whole when the City ensures its own work does not contribute to that and actually begins to set the tone for how we treat all people with equality and respect.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share mana'o and support for this measure. Aloha.

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| Name: Zhizi XIONG | Email: Alohadinvedesign@gmail.com | Zip: 96817 |
| Representing: CARES Community Art Recreation Education Services | Position: Support | Submitted: Jan 10, 2023 @ 12:55 PM |

Testimony:
Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Members of the committee,

My name is Zhizi Xiong and I testify in support.

Sincerely,
Zhizi Xiong

Testimony for Bill 025(21), Proposed CD1 – COMMENTS

TO: Council of the City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director

DATE: January 10, 2023

HHRC’s mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai‘i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are adversely impacted by poverty, housing instability, discrimination, healthcare inequity and other social determinants of health. HHRC’s roots are in the LGBTQ+ community with a transgender health program, an LGBTQ+-specific smoking cessation program and more than 500 participants of other programs who identify as LGBTQ+.

The Hawaii State Department Health was the first health department in the country to publish both a sexual and gender minority health report (2017) and a follow-up report which focused on transgender youth (2018). These reports and the resulting Sexual and Gender Minority Work Group have highlighted the need for a statewide comprehensive strategy for our LGBTQ+ community to address discrimination and bias that results in health disparities and other social inequities in Hawaii.

HHRC agrees with amending the definition of “Anti-bias” to include sexual orientation and gender identity. We are well-aware of the discrimination and bias facing individuals of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities that happens in all settings. We also recommend extending this policy to City and County contractors as included in the original Bill 025(21) so that it will have greater impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

The Kapaemahu Project



January 9, 2023

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs:

As directors of a community-based project rooted in and dedicated to values of dignity, respect, inclusion, and equity for mahu, aikane, and LGBTQ+ residents of Hawaii, we write in Strong Support of Bill 25 (2021), and the amendment to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the language of the bill, in order to effectively, and fairly, promote an environment that embraces diversity and safety for the citizenry and employees of the City and County of Honolulu.

We also support requiring the establishment of a similar policy by certain private contractors having contracts with the City, and a provision that all such persons receive anti-bias and inclusion training.

While the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii have much to be proud of, there is work yet to do to ensure that the promise of justice and equality for all is fulfilled here in our island home.

We look forward to working with you on these and related efforts in the days ahead.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson, Dean Hamer, and Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu



North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective

9 January 2023

Chair and Members of the Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs:

As a grassroots network striving to bring people together across O'ahu's north and windward shores to ensure that the region we call home is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of LGBTQ+ individuals, the North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective offers its Strong Support for Bill 25 (2021), and the amendment to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in the language of the bill, in order to effectively, and fairly, promote an environment that embraces diversity and safety for the citizenry and employees of the City and County of Honolulu.

We also support requiring the establishment of a similar policy by certain private contractors having contracts with the City, and a provision that all such persons receive anti-bias and inclusion training.

With the many challenges we continue to face on these issues and concerns in our more conservative rural communities, we are particularly appreciative of the City and County's efforts to update and clarify its anti-bias and anti-discrimination policies.

Thank you for your attention,

*Joe Wilson, Liz Rago, Michelle Johnson Blimes,
Hao Le, Bethany Berry-Weiss, Kunane Dreier, Torrey Lock*

Organizing Committee