

Emergency Civil Unions Alert!

This notice is also an official public policy announcement of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

Thursday, February 22, 2007
4:47 PM

Editor: Kelly M. Rosati, JD

HB 908 (Civil Unions) Scheduled for Hearing

We have just been informed by Judiciary Chair Tommy Waters that the civil unions bill ([HB 908](#)), (click bill number to read bill) which grants same-sex couples all the rights of married couples but with a different title, will have a public hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, Tuesday afternoon, sometime after 2 p.m. While the official announcement is not yet posted, both sides have been informed.

It is our belief that if we don't have a huge showing at the hearing and if we don't ring the phones off the hook of the Judiciary Committee members, we will lose. But, if everyone who gets this alert gets involved, we can win. The vote on the committee is very close.

ACTION:

1. E-mail ALL the members of the House Judiciary Committee below and **ASK THEM TO OPPOSE HB 908**, which would legalize civil unions (CUs) (Click on their names below to send an e-mail.) ([Click here for the HFF position paper on reciprocal beneficiaries.](#))

- ◆ CUs are simply marriage by a different title.
- ◆ The people of Hawaii have spoken on the same-sex marriage issue and have overwhelmingly rejected the idea.
- ◆ Part of the compromise during the same-sex marriage debate included passage of Hawaii's reciprocal beneficiary (RB) legislation. The RB law provides significant benefits such as health coverage, hospital visitation, property rights, wills and trusts and many more to people in need separate from sex partner status. Under the current RB law, elderly siblings residing together can access important benefits. Under the civil unions law, only same-sex couples can access the benefits.
- ◆ If the Legislature passes civil unions this year, it won't be long before gay marriage proponents argue over the title civil union and ask for marriage because "it is the same thing anyway!"
- ◆ *(Description in parenthesis below after committee member name indicates position on civil unions question in our 2006 voter's guide).*

Rep. Tommy Waters (did not respond to survey)	586-9450
Rep. Blake Oshiro (author of HB 908, did not respond to survey)	586-6340
Rep. Kirk Caldwell (did not respond to survey)	586-8475
Rep. Cindy Evans (opposed to civil unions on survey)	586-8510
Rep. Josh Green (did not answer question on survey)	586-9605
Rep. Ken Ito (undecided on survey)	586-8470
Rep. Sylvia Luke (did not respond to survey)	586-8530
Rep. Angus McKelvey (undecided on survey)	586-6160
Rep. Hermina Morita (did not respond to survey)	586-8435
Rep. Alex Sonson (opposed to civil unions on survey)	586-6520
Rep. Joe Souki (undecided on survey)	586-9444
Rep. Clifton Tsuji (undecided on survey)	586-8480
Rep. Ryan Yamane (did not respond to survey)	586-6150
Rep. Kyle Yamashita (did not respond to survey)	586-6330
Rep. Barbara Marumoto (did not respond to survey)	586-6310
Rep. Kymberly Pine (opposed to civil unions on survey)	586-9730
Rep. Cynthia Thielen (did not respond to survey)	586-6480

2. Call ALL the members of the House Judiciary Committee. Phone numbers are listed above. **Their phones need to ring off the hook.**
3. Write a short testimony in opposition to HB 908 focusing on the bullet points above. Once we receive a confirmation notice of the hearing, we will send out information on where and how to send in your testimony.
4. Come to the hearing even if you don't plan to speak. **WE NEED LOTS OF PEOPLE THERE TO SIMPLY SHOW OPPOSITION. PLEASE LET US KNOW (click on link to send us an email) IF YOU WILL MAKE THE SACRIFICE AND COME TO THE LEGISLATURE TO STAND WITH US THAT AFTERNOON.**
5. Forward this email to your friends and family and ask them to do the same.

HFF alert subscribers, to remove your name from our list, [click here](#). If you have been forwarded this message by some other organization (e.g. Transformation Hawaii network), please notify them directly if you do not want to receive these alerts.

For more information about Hawaii Family Forum, please [e-mail us](#) or call our office at (808) 203-6704.