

Sent: Monday, February 26, 2007 7:12 AM

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Cc: Alexander, Marc; Kelly Rosati; Yoshimitsu, Walter (SSDC)

Subject: HB 908 (Civil Unions)

Honorable Representatives:

I am writing to ask your opposition to the proposed HB 908 regarding Civil Unions.

The family, formed by the mutual sharing of a couple of different but complementary genders, man and woman, has been the bedrock of society from time immemorial. The State and indeed the entire community has a compelling interest in the stability of marriage between one man and one woman, because on this foundation, children are brought into the world in an environment in which they can be cared for and nurtured by parents of different but complementary genders. It is to preserve this foundation that marriage has been defined – and should continue to be defined as a life-long commitment and public relationship between one man and one woman for the purpose of forming a family, the bedrock institution of society.

Giving legal recognition to Civil Unions is the same as giving legal recognition to same-sex marriages, and the people of Hawaii, of whatever religion or no religion at all, have already overwhelmingly stated that same-sex marriages are not the public more of our State community. Reciprocal benefits are already available under law to same-sex couples who choose to live together and to others who are not legally married. There is no need whatsoever for Civil Unions to guarantee rights and privileges that is already available under the law. The movement to legally recognize Civil Union is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to legalize same-sex marriage.

Please, I urge you to defeat HB 908 for the sake of all the people of Hawaii.

Thank you very much.

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu
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