

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans

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*Kokua Council
HSTA – Retired
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ADA/Hawaii*

Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition

(Submitted by email to: JUDtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov February 3, 2011)

Statement of Al Hamai, President, Supporting SB 232, SD1, Relating to Civil Unions

Hearing of the House Committee on Judiciary

February 8, 2008, 2:15 p.m. Auditorium, State Capitol

Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

I'm submitting testimony on behalf of HARA in support of SD 232, SD1. During the previous session, HARA supported HB 444.

The purpose of this bill is to establish civil unions for same-sex couples and provide such partners with the same rights, benefits and responsibilities granted to spouses in a marriage.

We concur with the purpose of this bill. Approval of this bill will be a big step toward eliminating discrimination against same sex couples and toward recognizing that they, as citizens and our neighbors, and our friends and our relatives, should have the same rights, benefits and responsibilities that married citizens have been granted by law.

HARA, with a growing membership of 21,000, urges this Committee to support and approve SB 232, SD1. Mahalo.

HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors; a diverse community-based organization with national roots; a grassroots organizer, educator, and communicator; and a trusted source of information for decision-makers.