



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public employment

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
January 28, 2011

H.B. 546 – RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS

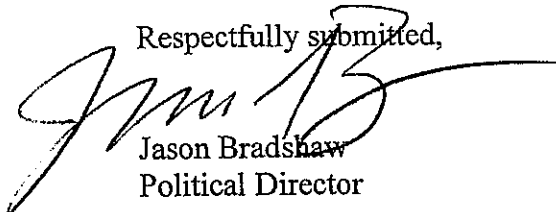
The Hawaii State AFL-CIO **supports** the purpose and intent of H.B. 546 which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression as a public policy matter and specifically with regard to employment.

Under current law, it is unlawful to discriminate because of race, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, color, ancestry, disability, marital status, or arrest and court record. However, gender identity and expression have been notably excluded from the law. That should no longer be the case. It is important that everyone is protected under the law and no longer discriminated against. Employees should feel safe and secure wherever they work without the fear of humiliation, embarrassment, and discomfort.

Furthermore, thirteen states, including the District of Columbia have policies that protect against gender identity discrimination in employment. Let's see that number increase to fourteen.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Bradshaw
Political Director