



Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law

Legislative Reference Bureau, 1177 Alakea St., 6th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 587-0666; Facsimile: (808) 587-0681

Thomas P. Gill, Chairperson
Lloyd James Hochberg, Jr.
Robert H. Stauffer

Morgan Britt
Nanci Kreidman

L. Ku'umeaaloha Gomes
Marie A. "Toni" Sheldon

October 18, 1995

Thomas P. Coleman, Esq.
Executive Director
Spectrum Institute
P. O. Box 65756
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Thank you for agreeing to appear before the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law at our October 25 meeting, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Senate Majority Caucus Room, Room 605, 235 S. Beretania Street. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the Commission to hear a variety of positions and opinions relating to the third of three tasks assigned to it by the legislature in Act 5, Session Laws of 1995. The first task was to examine the legal and economic benefits extended to married couples but not to same-sex couples. The second task was to examine substantial public policy reasons to extend or not to extend such benefits in part or in total to same-sex couples. The item for discussion on the October 25 agenda reads:

"(3) Recommend appropriate action which may be taken by the legislature to extend such benefits to same-sex couples."

We hope you will be able to brief the Commission as to the positive and negative aspects of different types of legislation that the Commission could present to the legislature. If you wish to submit a memorandum or other written materials on these points it would be helpful to the Commission. There may also be questions from members of the Commission but we will try to keep your portion of the discussion within the limited ten-minute time period.

After the various resource witnesses, including yourself, have made their presentations, the Commission will hear testimony from the general public or other persons or groups who wish to put their positions or opinions on the record. The official notice and agenda of the meeting is enclosed for your reference. Enclosed is a draft of a proposed domestic partnership law that has been distributed to the Commission members and may be of interest to you.

Please call me or Pamela Martin at the Legislative Reference Bureau, at 587-0666, if you have any problems, questions, or need further information. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. Gill
Chairperson

Encs.



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August 24, 1995

Mr. Thomas F. Coleman, Esq.
Executive Director
P.O. Box 65756
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Coleman,

As you may be aware Act 5, Session Laws of Hawaii 1995, repealed the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law that was convened as a result of Act 217, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994 and convened a new seven member commission. The press release on the members of the new commission follows.

The new commission chairperson, Tom Gill, would like to orient the new commission members to the issues before the first meeting is called. One of the documents he would like to send each member is the Spectrum Institute's Special Report of March 1995, related to Gay Marriage in Hawaii. The Commission would be grateful if you could forward at least eight copies to the above address. I understand the Institute also has a report on Domestic Partnership Laws also issued in March 1995 that may be helpful to the Commission. If available, we would appreciate copies of this as well. Mahalo for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Martin".

Pamela Martin
Staff Attorney for the
Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law