

COLAGE

August 9, 2024

Dear Hawai'i Task Force on Parentage Laws,

My name is Jordan Wilson, Executive Director of COLAGE, a national non-profit dedicated to empowering and supporting children of LGBTQ+ families. I am writing on behalf of COLAGE to address the inclusion of the 2024 Article 9 in the Draft Uniform Law on Parentage (ULP) presented by the Task Force for consideration by the Hawaii legislature.

For over thirty years, COLAGE has been the only national organization expressly dedicated to supporting people with one or more LGBTQ+ caregivers, uniting them with a network of peers and supporting them as they nurture and empower each other to be skilled, self-confident, and just leaders in their communities. We are committed to bringing about a world where children of LGBTQ+ parents are legally secure, respected, and valued for who they are.

After the Dobbs decision in 2022, it is clear that access to assisted reproduction, the umbrella term that encompasses many of the ways that LGBTQ+ people form their families, is at risk. We know that the number of LGBTQ+ families formed via assisted reproductive technologies is growing every year and that a lack of access to full reproductive autonomy harms our community in a multitude of ways. Still, the third-party reproductive entities that facilitate much of this process are under regulated.

Donor-conceived people with LGBTQ+ parents are a key demographic within the donor-conceived community that hold an outsized stake in ongoing conversations about the regulation of gamete donation and assisted reproduction. COLAGE recognizes that **anonymity in gamete donation is no longer a functional reality** but supports the ULC model parentage act regardless of the inclusion of Article 9. We are alarmed to see that some who oppose the inclusion of Article 9 have resorted to using dehumanizing language to describe donor-conceived people — we unequivocally reject any argument for or against Article 9 that does not recognize the autonomy and humanity of donor-conceived people, who express a wide variety of opinions on the subject of anonymity.

Ultimately, we need comprehensive protections securing the relationship between intended parents and their children. These deficits directly impact donor-conceived people with LGBTQ+ parents. It harms them in material ways and sends a message to our community that our families are not valued or worthy of protection. We hope the Task Force chooses to protect donor-conceived people with LGBTQ+ parents.

Sincerely,



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