



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 26, 2025, 10:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

by
Dyan M. Medeiros
Senior Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 1150, SD1, Relating to Health Care.

Purpose: Expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender affirming health care services.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on this bill but offers the following comment regarding Section 15 of the bill which seeks to add a new subsection (e) to HRS Section 583A-207 of the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (“UCCJEA”).

If the legislature decides that the issue of gender affirming care should be considered by the family court when determining whether Hawai‘i is a convenient forum under the UCCJEA, the Judiciary respectfully suggests that the issue be added to the nine (9) factors that the family



Senate Bill No. 1150, SD1, Relating to Health Care
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 26, 2025
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court is currently required to consider in HRS Section 583A-207(b) rather than creating a new subsection (e).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1150, SD1.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committees on Judiciary and on
Ways and Means

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 26, 2025, 10:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 1150, S.D. 1
Relating to Health Care

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would, among other things, amend protections for reproductive health care services to include gender-affirming health care services. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes **no position on the substance** of this bill, but **supports** the proposed **amendment to section 323J-4**, HRS, which would fix a potential conflict between the existing language of that section and chapter 92F, HRS, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA).

Section 323J-4, HRS, currently prohibits government agencies as defined in the UIPA and their employees from providing any information “in furtherance of any out-of-state or interstate investigation or proceeding seeking to impose civil or criminal liability” for the provision, use of, or assistance related to reproductive health care services. Since the definition of “agency” is explicitly based on that used in the UIPA, the prohibition is clearly intended to apply to UIPA requests. The problem is that the prohibition on disclosing information applies not just to patient health information or similarly confidential information but to information in

general, and it is not limited to a situation in which the agency or employee furnishing information actually knows that the record request was made in connection with an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability. An agency providing records as required under the UIPA could thereby find itself in violation of section 323J-4, HRS.

This bill (at page 8 line 2) would amend section 323J-4, HRS, to limit the prohibition to situations where an agency discloses **nonpublic** information under the UIPA in furtherance of an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability as described. This amendment makes clear that the general prohibition on disclosure does not bar an agency from disclosing public records, and OIP **supports** it.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION **KOMIKINA PONO KĪWILA O HAWAI‘I**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411, HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: (808) 586-8636 · FAX: (808) 586-8655 · TDD: (808) 586-8692

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

10:05am

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Dr. William J. Puette, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 1150, S.D. 1 Relating to Health Care in **STRONG SUPPORT**

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) writes in strong support of S.B. 1150 S.D. 1 (whose companion bill is H.B. 615) because it would protect patients, providers and families from discrimination and unjust punishment tied to gender-affirming care.

HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. HCRC enforces laws protecting the people of Hawai‘i from discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, and in some state and state-funded services.

Access to health care, including gender-affirming care, is an important benefit for individuals who are under the protected characteristics of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.

In establishing Act 2, SLH 2023, the State of Hawai‘i recognized the vital need for transgender, māhū and gender-diverse individuals to access healthcare without fear of harassment or legal repercussion. Supporting S.B. 1150 aligns with Hawai‘i’s foundational values of safety and rights for all in our vibrant community. Our diversity is our strength.

Transgender, māhū and gender-diverse individuals are caretakers, healers, givers, educators, cultural advisors, leaders, lawyers, wellness-providers. The next generation of transgender, māhū and gender-diverse individuals should be given protection to be valued for who they are, not prosecuted because of people’s hatred and fear for what they do not know.

HCRC recognizes that protecting the right to gender-affirming care also safeguards transgender, māhū and gender-diverse individuals’ well-being. A Stanford Medicine article found that starting gender-affirming hormone treatment in adolescence was linked to better mental health outcomes than waiting until adulthood. Erin Digitale, Better Mental Health Found Among Transgender People Who Started Hormones as Teens, Stanford Medicine (January 12, 2022), <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2022/01/mental-health-hormone-treatment-transgender-people.html>.

S.B. 1150 S.D. 1 would also uphold parental rights by ensuring families can make informed healthcare decisions for their children without outside interference from states or bad actors in other jurisdictions seeking to penalize those accessing or offering gender-affirming care. Furthermore, ensuring that mental health counselors are not compelled to disclose information about gender-affirming care upholds the confidentiality of care. Without these protections, there will be a chilling effect on healthcare providers; they should focus on what matters most – delivering effective care that promotes better health outcomes that affirm the dignity and autonomy of the individual. This actualizes Hawai‘i’s public policy by taking a stand against the erosion of civil rights happening in other jurisdictions.

S.B. 1150 S.D. 1 will prevent the weaponization of interstate legal systems to target transgender individuals, their families and their doctors. Consequently, S.B. 1150 bolsters civil rights by affirming that gender diversity and the medical care supporting it are valid, protected and not subject to external political attacks.

As of February, 2025, these states have implemented similar protective measures to safeguard patients and providers from legal actions originating in states where such care is restricted or criminalized:

- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Illinois
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- Oregon

Rhode Island
Vermont
Washington

Time is of the essence because the current administration has threatened to limit healthcare access and ordered federal agencies to cease funding and support for medical institutions providing gender-affirming treatments. In light of the restrictive measures at the federal level, legislation like S.B. 1150 S.D. 1 will support individuals amidst the increased discrimination. S.B. 1150 S.D. 1 is consistent with Hawai'i's commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

Thus, HCRC strongly supports S.B. 1150, S.D. 1.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 24, 2025

TO: Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2

SUBJECT: SB 1150 SD1

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committees,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB 1150 SD1. This bill is important as it expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. It also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

- Protects providers and recipients of gender affirming care from subpoenas intended for civil or criminal proceedings brought by out-of-state agencies.
- Protects families from having their keiki removed by out-of-state agencies due to parents providing their keiki with access to gender affirming care.
- Protects bodily autonomy. Medically necessary care decisions should remain between doctors and their patients.

SB 1150 SD1 is needed in the Aloha State to protect our beloved transgender community members, 'ohana, and health care professionals that provide gender-affirming care. Our youth deserve nothing less.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada



Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

Mailing Address: LGBTQ+ Commission, c/o The Department of Human Services,
P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0339

Email: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

February 22, 2025

Senate's Committees on Judiciary, and Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:05 AM

RE: **Strong Support for Senate Bill 1150 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150 SD 1 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus. (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature with the following purpose:

"...to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government."

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission submits this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain such care.

Act 2 was a monumental step toward ensuring that Hawai'i remains a beacon of safety and acceptance for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community members. SB 1150 builds upon this foundation, ensuring that individuals who seek gender-affirming care—recognized by every major medical association as **medically necessary and life-saving**—are protected from out-of-state legal attacks and discriminatory policies that seek to criminalize such care.

As we have seen across the nation, the transgender, māhū, and non-binary community faces **unprecedented attacks** from certain factions of the federal government and state legislatures that seek to restrict access to gender-affirming health care. These efforts are not only politically motivated but also dangerous, putting lives at risk by denying individuals the ability to access the care they need to live authentically and safely. By enacting SB 1150, Hawai'i has the opportunity to **stand in direct opposition to these harmful policies** and reaffirm its commitment to protecting the rights, dignity, and well-being of all its residents.

For transgender, māhū, and non-binary keiki and adults, access to gender-affirming care can mean the difference between life and death. Studies show that access to such care significantly reduces the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Yet, across the country, from the Federal to certain states, extremist efforts seek to strip these individuals of their right to exist safely and freely. We cannot allow such hostility to take root in Hawai'i.

Proudly established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 369, as enacted through Act 41, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1150 SD 1

SB 1150 sends a clear and unequivocal message: **Hawai'i will not be complicit in the criminalization of transgender, Māhū, and non-binary individuals seeking life-saving medical care.** Our state must continue to serve as a safe-haven for those facing persecution, and we must act decisively to prevent any attempts to undermine our protections.

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission urges this committee to **pass SB 1150 without hesitation.** We must ensure that every person in Hawai'i, regardless of their gender identity, can access the care they need free from fear, discrimination, and political interference.

Should you or any member of your staff have any questions regarding this testimony you can reach the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission at hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Kathleen O'Dell, Ph.D. (she/her)

Chair

[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1150 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND COMMERCE & WAYS AND MEANS
February 26, 2025

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the joint Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB1150 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports an inherent right to live a healthy life and believes all people have the right to access high quality healthcare. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports protection of transgender rights by advocating for legislation that safeguards gender affirming care and condemns anti-transgender measures.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

SB 1150 SD1 will provide significant legal and civil protections to individuals and entities providing and receiving gender affirming care. It will:

- Defends Hawai'i's Sovereignty: This is a STATE'S RIGHTS issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent.
- Protects Parents' Rights: Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals and legal in Hawai'i.
- Supports Families and Medical Professionals: Parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states.

- Ensures Medical Privacy: Ensuring that your medical records belong to YOU. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities.
- Defends Hawai'i's Healthcare Providers: Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws.
- Preserves Indigenous Values: This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pacific Islanders, who have long embraced gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values.
- Reinforces Existing Protections: This legislation mirrors the protections for reproductive rights enacted under 2023's ACT 2, extending the same security to gender-affirming care.
- **✗ What this bill does not do: It does NOT authorize surgeries on minors; It does NOT permit prescriptions or procedures without parental consent; It does NOT force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender; It does NOT allow children to be removed from their families.**

We, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, believe that providing and receiving life saving health care is a basic human right. Sadly, over the past several years, it has become clear that extremists across the nation have made it their legislative priority to target women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community by stripping away their rights, especially access to health care.

Dozens of states across the nation have either passed or are considering passing laws prohibiting gender affirming health care to people of ALL AGES. These laws target providers and recipients, making it a criminal offense to provide gender affirming care. Recently, the Texas AG has gone as far as issuing subpoenas for medical records relating to gender affirming care - from medical providers outside his own state of Texas - to prosecute gender affirming care providers and recipients who may reside in Texas. Such moves are intended to have a chilling effect, frivolously overreaching state lines, in the pursuit to diminish and extinguish gender affirming care across the nation – even in states that do not have such discriminatory and misguided laws on their books. We must take action and take a stand to protect the human rights and human dignity of our LGBTQIA+ Community. The LGBTQIA+ community is under unprecedented attack across the nation, and it is our responsibility to stand up to bullies and protect the civil and basic human rights of our fellow residents.

In 2023, we passed a similar bill (SB1, now ACT 2) to address specific protections for reproductive rights. We are confident that, together, we can continue to make a difference and also pass protections for gender affirming care. Hawai'i will not bow to the politics of fear and hate. Please support this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1150 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:18:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Turbin	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, I support SB1150 SD1.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:24:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin "Shiloh" Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Austin Martin

Libertarian Party of Hawai'i, Chairman

Dear Senators,

Mahalo nui loa for making my job (to win seats in the legislature) just a little easier.

Your actions with this bill have helped to remind the public why limited government, individual liberty, informed consent, parental rights, and free expression are such important values.

I will not, however, thank you for the immense human suffering that other policies (like this proposal) have created already.

I doubt the Senate cares much what the public actually thinks about anything happening in this chamber - so go ahead - keep radicalizing your communities against the state government.

It's amazing recruitment material for me.

Although - I must admit I wish this body would refrain from "doing the meme"; (or in other words: fulfilling conservative stereotypes) of "child-snatching-tyrant-radicals". My critique here is that it would be better for the 3rd parties if you didn't optically help the republicans' narrative so much.

It already has enough political traction to be dangerous. Furthermore, I don't recommend provoking parents over their children's' well being, (that is, unless you want to end up with a Republican (or perhaps even a Libertarian) as your governor).

Mahalo!

Austin the Musical Chair

PS: in case the lawyers didn't explicate the fact: this amended bill is still (indisputably) a kidnap bill, which is both unconstitutional, immoral, authoritarian, and vile.

I strongly suggest stopping it here.



Hawaii Lawmakers:

We, The Libertarian Party of Hawaii, vehemently denounce SB1150/HB615, or what we've dubbed "the Hawaii Kidnapping Bill". This proposed legislation is a flagrant violation of individual liberty and a gross abuse of governmental power that threatens the fundamental rights of parents and children alike.

Several clauses buried in this bill seek to essentially legalize child kidnapping across state lines, including by a non-parent, so long as the abduction is performed under the guise of obtaining 'gender-affirming' treatments. The proposed law would provide immunity for what would otherwise be a criminal act. It removes informed consent from parents and violates parental rights.

This bill is a thinly-veiled act of political war against the rights of other states and families. The lawsuits will cost Hawaii dearly and may lead to bigger issues. By redefining crucial legal frameworks such as the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction & Enforcement Act (which governs interstate child custody cases), this bill creates loopholes that enable the systematic removal of children from their families under the pretext of 'Gender Affirming Care', which threatens Hawaii's participation in the UCCJEA, and will result in Hawaii no longer being able to reliably return children who are taken away from Hawaii in child custody disputes.

This bill not only disregards the sanctity of family but also infringes upon the basic freedoms of individuals to make personal and informed decisions regarding their children's healthcare. This bill undermines due process, disregards parental authority, promises expensive fights with other states, and poses a grave threat to the well-being of minors nationwide.

It mandates secrecy, criminalizes interference with kidnappers, and obstructs the extradition of those charged with criminal acts in connection with 'gender-affirming care'. Such measures not only defy ethical medical principles but erode transparency and accountability in our justice system.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii stands resolutely against this measure and any legislation that undermines individual rights, parental autonomy, and child welfare. We call upon legislators to reject this dangerous bill and uphold the principles of freedom and parental rights.

In Liberty,

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii



SENATE BILL 1150, SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 · JDC/WAM HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** SB 1150, SD1, relating to health care, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming care services; and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Gender-affirming care is health care. In recent weeks, the Trump administration has issued multiple executive orders targeting the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, including orders banning transgender service members from the military, moving transgender women back into men's prisons, denying passports with gender markers, blocking schools from requiring teachers and other school staff to use names and pronouns that align with transgender students' preferred gender identify rather than the sex they were assigned at birth, and defunding gender-affirming care for transgender youth.

These efforts fly in the face of decades of research supported by every major medical association. The American Psychiatric Association, for instance, released a statement in 2018 saying, "Significant and long-standing medical and psychiatric literature exists that demonstrates clear benefits of medical and surgical interventions to assist gender variant individuals seeking transition. Access to medical care (both medical and surgical) positively impacts the mental health of transgender and gender variant individuals." Similarly, the American Public Health Association issued a statement in 2017

asserting that the APHA “urges Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation to protect the rights, legal benefits, and access to services of people of all gender identities and expressions.”

For its part, the American Medical Association, the largest association of physicians and medical students in the United States, has articulated its position on this issue on multiple occasions, most recently in 2023, when it said that the AMA “recognizes that treatments for gender dysphoria and gender incongruence are medically necessary” and that the organization “will work with stakeholders to advocate for laws and policies that protect access to care, oppose laws and policies that impede the provision of care, support protections against liability for physicians and institutions who provide care and patients who seek it, communicate about the importance of gender-affirming care, and advocate for coverage of gender-affirming care by public and private health insurers.”

Sadly, our society has seen a surge in far-right organizations and states attempting to ban gender-affirming care, arguing that being transgender is an “ideology.” As the Human Rights Campaign has stated, “These proponents have perpetrated a concerted disinformation campaign that has fueled not only discriminatory laws, but also threats and violence against providers of gender-affirming care.” As conservative states continue seeking access to patient data in an effort to not only suppress the right of transgender individuals to receive gender-affirming care, but eliminate transgender people’s existence within our country altogether, it is imperative that Hawai’i takes a strong stand to reaffirm the islands as a sanctuary for gender-affirming care and transgender rights, including by establishing a shield law for patients and medical providers who seek and provide gender-affirming care.

On February 4th, Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of fourteen attorneys general to reaffirm their pledge to protect access to gender-affirming care. The coalition released the following statement: “As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to restrict freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, lifesaving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves.”

Let’s follow the coalition’s lead, oppose fearmongering and discrimination, and enshrine the right to gender-affirming care for our transgender community in state law.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I __ COMMITTEE ON __

Item: **SB 1150 - Gender-Affirming Health Care Services**

Position: **Support**

Hearing: **2/26/25, 10:05am, Conference Room 211**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** SB 1150 which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. It also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Our union's strong support of human and civil rights calls us to support this legislation to protect and care for our students. We support all students bringing their full-selves to our classrooms, and the medical providers who are providing gender affirming care to those who need it.

SB 1150 is a necessary and compassionate response to the escalating attacks on gender affirming care across the country.

By passing this bill, Hawai'i will:

- Ensure access to gender-affirming care for all who need it
- Protect families from unjust legal actions and custody disputes related to gender-affirming care
- Shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions and disciplinary actions
- Uphold Hawaii's core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



Where LGBTQIA+ Rights Meet the Labor Movement
A constituency group of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO

February 22, 2025

Senate's Committees on Judiciary; and Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 10:05 AM

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1150 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work - Hawai'i strongly supports SB 1150 SD 1, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. This bill is critical to ensuring that all individuals, particularly transgender and non-binary youth, can access the medical care they need without fear of discrimination, criminalization, or legal repercussions. Furthermore, SB 1150 clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services, ensuring that Hawai'i remains a safe haven for those seeking medically necessary care.

An injury to one is an injury to us all. When our keiki, our 'ohana, or any member of the LGBTQIA+ community members face barriers to life-saving health care, it is a direct attack on our collective well-being and shared values of aloha and inclusion. The ability to access gender-affirming care should never be a political issue—it is a matter of dignity, safety, and fundamental human rights. We cannot allow discrimination and harmful policies from other states to dictate the health and safety of those who call Hawai'i home.

SB 1150 also will defend Hawai'i's healthcare providers: Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws. This protection is essential to ensuring that medical professionals can continue to provide necessary, evidence-based care without fear of legal repercussions from jurisdictions that seek to undermine these rights.

SB 1150 sends a strong message that Hawai'i stands firmly in support of gender-diverse individuals and their right to receive essential medical care without fear of legal consequences. By passing this bill, the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to justice, equity, and the protection of all who seek refuge in our island paradise.

We are not alone in supporting access to gender-affirming care. Ward Research, Inc. during their annual survey found that **sixty-four percent (64%) of Hawai'i's voters support access**

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 1150 SD 1

to gender-affirming care. Which means that not only is passing SB 1150 the pono thing to do it is also the popular thing.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass SB 1150 without delay. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:43:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Coleman	Testifying for Spill the Tea Cafe	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mental health therapist in this community, I have seen the impact of ensuring that all individuals can access gender-affirming care. When children, teenagers, and adults are unable to access the care that they need they are more prone to have depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts. 50% of trans youth attempted suicide last year and that was not because they are transgender, it is because of the discrimination they face in their communities and within their own families.

The truth is that gender-affirming care saves lives, It is not controversial; every major medical association backs it. However, the research clearly shows that the discrimination these individuals face causes their distress.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 10:305 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Testimony In Support of SB 1150 SD, Relating to Health Care

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and all the committee members,

My name is Deizhanna Kaya-Abad, and ***I strongly support SB1150 SD***, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming healthcare services. Below are key reasons for my support:

- **Critical Access to Care:** Gender-affirming health care is crucial for the mental and physical well-being of transgender and gender-diverse youth. When transgender and gender-diverse youth have access to appropriate care, they experience improved mental health, reduced rates of depression, and stronger overall resilience.
- **Safeguarding Families and Providers:** This bill offers protections for parents who make the courageous decision to support their children in accessing gender-affirming care, without fear of out-of-state legal repercussions. It also shields healthcare providers in Hawai'i from legal actions imposed by other states with harmful laws.
- **Mental Health Impact:** As a mental health professional, I've seen how gender-affirming care improves the quality of life for transgender and gender-diverse youth. It is crucial for reducing suicidality rates and fostering positive outcomes for these individuals.

Passing SB 1150 SD affirms Hawaii's dedication to the health, safety, and dignity of transgender and gender-diverse youth, making our state a leader in inclusive, supportive policies for all young people.

I urge you to pass SB 1150 SD to continue protecting the rights and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse youth in Hawaii. Thank you for your commitment to this vital cause.

Mahalo nui loa,

Deizhanna Kaya-Abad, MSW

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:21:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Matsunaga	Testifying for Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii strongly supports SB1150 SD1



TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

JOINT HEARING BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Bill 1150 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs and esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and I am testifying on behalf of our Caucus in **strong support of SB1150 SD1**, the Health Care Access Protection Act.

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus, we urge you to pass this critical legislation to safeguard the rights, dignity, and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals and families in Hawaii.

As states across the country enact laws that criminalize gender-affirming care, attack reproductive rights, and punish families for supporting their children, Hawaii has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to stand as a beacon of safety, equality, and inclusion.

Why SB 1150 SD1 is Essential for Hawaii's LGBTQ+ Community

1. Protecting Access to Lifesaving Gender-Affirming Health Care

Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, evidence-based care that is recognized by every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association. It is care that saves lives.

Yet, in multiple states, lawmakers have passed extreme bans on gender-affirming care, not only for minors but also for adults. Some states have gone further—threatening parents with legal action for supporting their children's health needs and criminalizing medical professionals for simply following best practices.

Hawai'i must ensure that no person seeking gender-affirming care—whether they are a resident or a visitor—faces legal threats from another state.

2. Preventing Government Overreach in Family and Custody Matters

SB 1150 SD1 ensures that Hawai'i courts will not participate in the unjust separation of children from their parents based on another state's politically motivated laws against gender-affirming care.

Every child deserves a family that loves and supports them. And every parent deserves the right to make informed, medically sound decisions in consultation with their child's doctors. No family should have to live in fear that seeking necessary health care could result in legal consequences or the loss of custody.

3. Strengthening Privacy Protections for LGBTQ+ Individuals and Providers

Hawai'i has long valued medical privacy and patient confidentiality. SB 1150 SD1 ensures that health care providers cannot be compelled to share records or cooperate with out-of-state investigations targeting LGBTQ+ patients or their families.

- It prohibits Hawai'i agencies from participating in legal actions from other states that seek to penalize individuals for accessing or providing gender-affirming or reproductive care.
- It protects health care professionals from disciplinary actions taken by other states that do not align with Hawaii's laws and values.
- It ensures that subpoenas, warrants, and extradition requests related to lawful medical care in Hawai'i will not be enforced.

These protections are essential to upholding the privacy, dignity, and human rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, and the medical professionals who serve them.

4. Affirming Hawaii's Commitment to Equality and Justice

Hawai'i has always been a leader in LGBTQ+ rights—from being one of the first states to challenge same-sex marriage bans to enacting strong anti-discrimination protections. Now, with SB 1150 SD1, Hawai'i can once again lead by example by refusing to be complicit in politically motivated attacks on bodily autonomy and medical freedom.

We cannot allow the legal chaos and fear-mongering of other states and the far right extremists to dictate what happens in our islands. We must send a clear and unwavering message:

Hawai'i is—and will always be—a place where LGBTQ+ individuals are safe, affirmed, and free to make personal medical decisions without fear of persecution.

In conclusion:

SB 1150 is a necessary and compassionate response to the escalating attacks on gender-affirming and reproductive health care across the country. By passing this bill, Hawai'i will:

- ✓ Ensure access to gender-affirming care for all who need it
- ✓ Protect families from unjust legal actions and custody disputes
- ✓ Shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions and disciplinary actions
- ✓ Uphold Hawaii's core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom

For these reasons, we urge this joint committee to advance SB 1150 SD1 without delay. Attached, please also find the 2024 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention Resolution 2024-29 "Affirming Transgender Rights by Protecting Gender Affirming Care" as adopted on May 18, 2024. Mahalo for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Abby Simmons (she/her)
Chair & SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
<https://linktr.ee/stonewalldph>

Attachments:

- (1) 2024 Democratic Party of Hawai'i State Convention Resolution 2024-29 "Affirming Transgender Rights by Protecting Gender Affirming Care" as adopted on May 18, 2024

2024-29: Affirming Transgender Rights by Protecting Gender Affirming Care

Whereas, Across the United States, there have been over 550 legislative measures introduced in 2023 and over 500 in 2024 that target transgender people and/or access to Gender Affirming Care, including bills introduced here in Hawai'i; and

Whereas, Gender Affirming Care is supported by every major medical association and leading world health authority as safe and life-saving, and is defined as medically-necessary healthcare that respects the gender identity of the patient; and

Whereas, These anti-transgender bills make it a crime for transgender individuals to use public restrooms that match their gender identity; make it a criminal offense for healthcare workers to provide medically necessary gender affirming care; threaten to cause parents who provide access to gender affirming care to lose custody; prohibit gender marker updates to birth certificates, driver's licenses, and other state issued forms of identification; reverse past gender marker updates on birth certificates and other state issued forms of identification; make it a criminal offense for teachers and counselors to use the chosen pronouns and preferred names of transgender students; prohibit transgender students from participating in sports under the gender they identify as; and ban speaking about transgender topics, including books and educational material in public schools that inform about transgender identities and lived experiences; and

Whereas, The harm that is being done by the introduction and signing into law of these bills cannot be overstated, resulting in criminalizing Hawai'i's transgender community members simply for existing in public spaces when they visit states where this type of legislation has been passed; and

Whereas, Many transgender children are being shamed, bullied and physically assaulted by their peers because of who they are, diminishing their healthy mental development and growth, while also leading half of transgender youth in the past year to consider suicide; and

Whereas, These bills attack our most basic values, including the freedom to be ourselves, to make our own healthcare decisions, and the right to raise our own keiki; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i affirms its commitment to protecting transgender and māhū families from hateful and harmful anti-transgender legislation by urging elected Democrats to introduce and pass legislation to protect gender affirming care and protect patients and providers of gender affirming care from prosecution by out of state agencies, as was done for reproductive rights under Act 2 (2023); and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i acknowledges and thanks elected Democrats for not hearing anti-transgender bills in committee, and asks them to continue this practice, as the damage done by debating such bills further contributes to the stigmatization and marginalization of our transgender community and the ongoing mental health crisis resulting from this form of public debate; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i unequivocally supports transgender rights and equality in all aspects of our society by working to ensure that existing rights are not removed or restricted under any new state legislation, and by condemning hate speech, bigotry and legislation that aims to dehumanize or "other" transgender people and members of the LGBTQ+ community; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, absent current existing laws protecting gender affirming care from prosecution of out-of-state agencies, calls upon the Governor of Hawai'i to sign an Executive Order protecting gender affirming care from outside civil and criminal litigation, and to task the Attorney General with protecting defendants in cases of such litigation or suit, preventing execution of any subpoenas related to health records or child custody orders specifically related to gender affirming care; and be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislature who are Democrats.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 4:46:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Hamer	Testifying for Qwaves Media	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in continued strong support of SB1150, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received or provided in Hawai‘i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful.

As a health professional who for 35 years directed a National Institutes of Health research laboratory that often tackled questions of gender and sexuality, I learned both how complex these matters are, and how important it is to rely on the advice of doctors and caregivers who are interested purely in health and wellbeing. The bans that other states are now imposing on gender-affirming care have nothing to do with health and well-being; they are purely an expression of religious and social beliefs.

Hawai‘i has a long history of taking an evidence-based, reasonable, and compassionate approach to health. Consider Liliuokalanis support of vaccination and quarantine for smallpox in the 1880s. Recall Hawaii’s groundbreaking facilitation of needle exchange in the 1980s. This is the type of tradition that should be continued, not abandoned.

Passing SB1150 is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai‘i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Mahalo for your support of SB1150.

Dean Hamer

Haleiwa, HI

2/23/25

Testimony in Support of SB1150 regarding Gender Affirming Healthcare Services

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

We are writing on behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, representing over 200 pediatricians in Hawaii, to ask for your support for SB1150 to establish protections for gender affirming care. By supporting SB1150 you have the opportunity to show the rest of the world how in Hawaii, we care for each other. Pediatricians know that gender affirming care saves lives and it is our duty to speak for the most vulnerable keiki. The AAP works to protect “all children and adolescents, regardless of gender identity or expression, receiving care to promote optimal physical, mental, and social well-being. Any discrimination based on gender identity or expression, real or perceived, is damaging to the socioemotional health of children, families, and society.” We urge you to take the time to read the following statement from our national organization here:

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/4/e20182162/37381/Ensuring-Comprehensive-Care-and-Support-for?autologincheck=redirected>

AAP recommends the following:

1. that youth who identify as TGD have access to comprehensive, gender-affirming, and developmentally appropriate health care that is provided in a safe and inclusive clinical space;
2. that family-based therapy and support be available to recognize and respond to the emotional and mental health needs of parents, caregivers, and siblings of youth who identify as TGD;
3. that electronic health records, billing systems, patient-centered notification systems, and clinical research be designed to respect the asserted gender identity of each patient while maintaining confidentiality and avoiding duplicate charts;
4. that insurance plans offer coverage for health care that is specific to the needs of youth who identify as TGD, including coverage for medical, psychological, and, when indicated, surgical gender-affirming interventions;
5. that provider education, including medical school, residency, and continuing education, integrate core competencies on the emotional and physical health needs and best practices for the care of youth who identify as TGD and their families;
6. that pediatricians have a role in advocating for, educating, and developing liaison relationships with school districts and other community organizations to promote acceptance and inclusion of all children without fear of harassment, exclusion, or bullying because of gender expression;

7. that pediatricians have a role in advocating for policies and laws that protect youth who identify as TGD from discrimination and violence;
8. that the health care workforce protects diversity by offering equal employment opportunities and workplace protections, regardless of gender identity or expression; and
9. that the medical field and federal government prioritize research that is dedicated to improving the quality of evidence-based care for youth who identify as TGD.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD and Dr. Maya Maxim MD

Co-Chairs HAAP Advocacy Committee

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:14:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, MSW	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, and I am honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1150 SD 1. As a mother and a long-time civil rights advocate, I have dedicated my life to fighting for the rights and dignity of all individuals, particularly our most vulnerable communities. Today, I speak in support of this critical legislation that will ensure transgender individuals, especially our keiki, have access to the gender-affirming health care they need and deserve.

Gender-affirming health care is life-saving care. It is not a matter of preference or politics—it is a fundamental issue of health, well-being, and survival. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and numerous other leading medical organizations recognize that gender-affirming care is evidence-based and essential for the mental and physical health of transgender people. Denying access to this care places individuals at an increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide, while providing it improves overall health outcomes and quality of life.

Senate Bill 1150 expands the vital protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, ensuring that individuals seeking gender-affirming health care are protected from legal retaliation and discrimination. It also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain this essential care. This clarification is critical to safeguarding families who support their transgender children and ensuring they are not penalized or targeted for doing what any loving parent would do—ensuring their child receives necessary medical care.

As a long-time civil rights advocate, I have seen firsthand the challenges faced by transgender youth and their families. No parent should have to live in fear that seeking medically recommended care for their child could lead to legal consequences or family separation. No keiki should have to endure the trauma of being denied the care they need to live as their authentic selves. Senate Bill 1150 is a necessary step to reinforce that Hawai‘i is a state that values inclusion, medical autonomy, and the well-being of all its residents.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 1150 SD 1 and reaffirm that our laws will stand firmly on the side of compassion, medical integrity, and human rights. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, MSW
President and Founder
Rainbow Family 808

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:07:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mika Mulkey	Testifying for Kumukahi Health + Wellness	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Mika Mulkey (he/him/his)

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:12:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Joy Beal	Testifying for QueerDoc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in **unequivocal support** of the Health Care Access Protection Act (SB 1150), critical legislation that ensures all individuals in Hawai‘i can access **life-saving, evidence-based** gender affirming care **without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions**. This bill reflects Hawai‘i’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all people.

As a board-certified physician specializing in transgender and gender diverse health, I have **dedicated my career** to ensuring patients receive the care they need **free from stigma, gatekeeping, or political interference**. Gender affirming care is **not experimental**, nor is it controversial in medical and scientific communities—it is well-studied, **medically necessary care** that improves mental health outcomes and **saves lives**. Medical care for transgender people started in 1919, over 100 years ago. The overwhelming consensus among all major medical organizations, including the Pediatric Endocrine Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics, is that gender affirming care is **safe, effective, and essential**.

Unfortunately, we live in a time where political agendas threaten to strip transgender and gender diverse people of their right to bodily autonomy. **No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing lawful, best-practice medical care**. Hawai‘i has long been a leader in protecting its residents from the harms of out-of-state policies that seek to criminalize medical professionals and restrict access to care. Passing this bill is yet another step in ensuring **Hawai‘i remains a safe, affirming place** for all its residents.

I urge you to pass SB 1150 and reaffirm Hawai‘i’s commitment to protecting its community members, **ensuring that no one is denied access to the healthcare they need simply because of their gender identity**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Crystal Beal, MD (they/themme)

Founder, QueerDoc

National Expert in Transgender Medicine



Rosalee Agas Yuu, RN
President

1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96815

Tel: (808) 531-1628
Fax: (808) 524-2760

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Judiciary
&
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Nurses' Association

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1150 – RELATING TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE
February 26, 2025, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawai'i Nurses' Association – OPEIU Local 50 is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, was founded in 1917, and represents 4,000 nurses & health care professionals in the State of Hawai'i. We appreciate the opportunity to testify today in **strong support** of SB1150 and to share our concerns regarding the broader national implications of restricting gender-affirming care.

Protecting Patients' Right to Evidence-Based Care

The Hawaii Nurses' Association is committed to ensuring that every patient has access to compassionate, evidence-based healthcare. Gender-affirming care is recognized by leading medical organizations—including the American Medical Association and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health—as a medically necessary treatment for transgender and gender diverse individuals. It is vital for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of these patients.

A national ban on gender-affirming care would not only limit access to essential services but would also infringe on patients' fundamental right to receive appropriate and individualized care. Denying gender-affirming treatment risks exacerbating health disparities and may lead to increased rates of mental health challenges, such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation among transgender patients. By impeding access to care, such legislation would undermine the progress made in supporting the health and dignity of all individuals.

Implications for Nursing Practice and Licensure

Equally concerning are the professional ramifications for nurses. Our practice is built on a foundation of ethical commitment to patient-centered care and adherence to evidence-based standards. Should a national ban on gender-affirming care be imposed, nurses who provide this care in alignment with current professional guidelines could find themselves in a precarious position. They might be forced to choose between fulfilling their ethical duty to their patients and complying with new legal constraints that contradict established medical practice.

This conflict is not only detrimental to patient outcomes but also poses a direct threat to the professional integrity and licensure of nurses. Imagine a scenario where a nurse, acting in the best interests of a patient, provides gender-affirming care only to face potential disciplinary action or even the loss of their professional license. Such a risk is unacceptable and fundamentally incompatible with the principles of nursing practice. Nurses must be free to practice in accordance with evidence-based guidelines without the fear of legal repercussions that compromise their ability to advocate for their patients.

A Call to Action

In light of these concerns, the Hawaii Nurses' Association respectfully urges this committee to:

1. **Recognize the Critical Role of Gender-Affirming Care:** Ensure that any policies or legislation support patient access to medically necessary care and protect the clinical judgment of healthcare providers.
2. **Safeguard Nursing Practice:** Prevent any national mandates that would force nurses to choose between ethical, evidence-based practice and compliance with laws that restrict patient care, thereby protecting both patient rights and nurses' professional licenses.
3. **Promote Policies Grounded in Science:** Advocate for legislative measures that are informed by current medical research and the collective expertise of healthcare professionals, ensuring that all patients receive the care they need.

The Hawaii Nurses' Association stands firmly with our patients and our nursing professionals. We believe that upholding the right to gender-affirming care is essential not only for the health of transgender individuals but also for the integrity of our healthcare system. We respectfully request that this committee consider these critical issues as you deliberate on SB1150. Our collective goal must be to ensure that all patients receive the highest standard of care, and that nurses are empowered to practice without fear of punitive repercussions when they deliver evidence-based treatment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rosalee Agas Yuu RN
President, Hawai'i Nurses' Association



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 24, 2025

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB1150

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents over 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. **We support SB1150.** The bill is comprehensive and covers different areas of law to protect an individual's rights for privacy and healthcare - in this case, gender-affirming healthcare.

In a larger sense, SB1150 is part of a response to those whose strategy is to mislead working people away from the true causes of the struggles we face by instead dividing us against one another. The most important thing we can do in these times is to stick together in solidarity and stand up for one another's human rights.

The bill protects our state's sovereignty from other states that will try to compel us to surrender to intolerant views. We cannot set a precedent where our state can be subservient to another state's policies. We cannot surrender our state's sovereignty to the whims of other states. SB1150 is focused on gender-affirming health care - we do not know how far others will invade our state's rights in other areas of law if we don't act on this issue today.

The bill protects individuals' rights by affirming:

- A patient's healthcare information remains private.
- Our local government will not be subject to subpoenas or actions from other states or federal government for seeking lawful healthcare.
- Our local government cannot give out information to out-of-state entities for lawful healthcare.
- A patient's right to seek lawful healthcare.
- No Hawaii governor will surrender a Hawaii resident because another state alleged gender-affirming care was illegal.
- Confidentiality and privileged communications of healthcare patients.
- Medical practitioners won't be punished for providing lawful healthcare, nor allow other state's punishment to extend their disciplinary actions to Hawaii practitioners for lawful healthcare.
- Hawaii courts cannot waive its jurisdiction as an "inconvenient forum."

These are important rights that SB1150 protects, while also providing reasonable exceptions to those rules. **We urge you to pass SB1150.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1150, SD 1

TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, & JDC Committee Members
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, & WAM Committee Members

FROM: Nikos Leverenz
Policy & Advancement Manager

DATE: February 26, 2025 (10:05 AM)

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **strongly supports** SB 1150, SD 1, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state's shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care. 17 states and the Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care. Hawai'i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles to their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai'i. Presidential executive orders have sought to erase and suppress trans people, including one on 1/29 [targeting trans students in K-12 schools](#) calling for forced outing, restrictions on participation in co-curricular activities, and banning any instruction regarding gender identity.

Hawai'i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. Yet there are still barriers to receiving care, and the outlook is grim given a White House occupant intent on demonizing trans people in service of an extremist authoritarian ideology—[one that has precedent](#).

HHRC proudly serves O'ahu's trans community with our [Kua'ana Project](#). Our mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:50:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Cabatu	Testifying for Board Member of Kumukahi Health + Wellness, formerly Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my strong support for SB1150 SD1.



Hawai'i

Committee: Judiciary and Ways & Means
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 10:05 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211 & via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in support of SB1150 SD1 Relating to Health Care**

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of SB1150 SD1**. This bill expands protections established under ACT 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies what factors should (and should not) be considered when Hawai'i courts are asked to decline jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) in cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

The ACLU of Hawai'i is committed to defending LGBTQ+ individuals and their right to necessary health care services. We also believe in principles of federalism, which gives a State the right to rely on its Constitution and enact laws to more expansively protect the civil rights and liberties of its residents. It also means that another State cannot force the State of Hawai'i to enforce its laws that are contrary to the public policy of Hawai'i.

Each person has the right to bodily autonomy and bodily integrity. **Medical decisions should be left to individuals and their doctors. Patients and their doctors should be trusted to make private medical decisions, not politicians. Parents have a fundamental right to make decisions about medical care for their children.** And every family should have the freedom to love and support their child, transgender or not. Gender-affirming care is a critical part of helping transgender adolescents succeed in school, establish healthy relationships with their friends and family, and live authentically as themselves.

Transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families do better in school, feel safer in their communities, establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, and are better equipped to plan for their future. In contrast, denying them this support increases their likelihood of dropping out of school, increases their risk for substance use, worsens symptoms of depression and anxiety, and gravely increases their risk for suicide.

Importantly, **SB1150 SD1** does not create child custody jurisdiction where it would not already exist under current provisions of the UCCJEA. The proposed amendments to the UCCJEA (Sections 15 & 16) provide that Hawai'i family courts should consider a child's need for gender-affirming care in deciding whether to decline jurisdiction in favor of another state. The UCCJEA is implicated not only in child custody proceedings between parents, but any time the custody of a child is at issue, including in child welfare proceedings. Accordingly, the ACLU of Hawai'i believes these clarifications are necessary, as other states seek to punish parents who support gender-affirming care for their children. **If Hawai'i has jurisdiction over a child in need of gender-affirming care, Hawai'i family courts should hesitate to decline jurisdiction in favor of a state whose laws are contrary to Hawaii's public policy of supporting access to gender-affirming care.**

SB1150 SD1 not only protects young individuals and their parents from other state jurisdictions and from being separated based on the laws of those other states, this bill also provides for and protects the right to "medically necessary health care that respects the gender identity of the patient, as experienced and defined by the patient." This includes mental and behavioral health care.

The legal landscape across too much of the country is changing in harmful ways; as a result, many of our fundamental rights, dearly held and relied upon for generations, are being called into question.

The Executive Order that President Trump issued on January 28, 2025, directing all federal agencies to "immediately take appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving Federal research education grants end" gender affirming medical care for people under nineteen has an openly discriminatory purpose. **Its effect is to prevent transgender people from expressing a gender identity different from their sex designated at birth—and expressing governmental disapproval of transgender people who, by definition, have a gender identity that does not align with their sex designated at birth.**

These Orders are part of a government-wide effort by the Trump Administration to restrict legal protections and essential services for the transgender community. These orders contravene the State of Hawai'i's strong commitment to the protection of civil rights. **Article I, Section 5 of the Hawai'i Constitution provides that "no person shall be denied the enjoyment of civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry."**

Let's be clear – these discriminatory orders taken at the federal level are already having a chilling effect on the transgender community and their allies. People are scared, and they need to know that they will be protected if they continue to exercise their right to necessary medical care for themselves or their families.

We appreciate the legislature's commitment to safeguarding medically necessary treatments and **upholding freedom from unjustified government intrusions into bodily autonomy, a core liberty interest protected by due process.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Please pass **SB1150 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

Carrie Ann Shirota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai'i

cshirota@acluhawaii.org

c: Wookie Kim, Senior Staff Attorney
Emily Hills, Senior Staff Attorney

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

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Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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Telephone: (808) 597-1441
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The Thirty-Third Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 26, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1150 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 76 affiliate labor organizations representing over 69,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, ensuring safe working conditions, and supporting policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We support SB1150 SD1 because it protects the rights of working families and healthcare providers in Hawaii. Expanding protections ensures medical professionals can provide care aligned with Hawaii's laws and values without fear of interference from out-of-state pressures.

The protections outlined in this bill are critical for maintaining access to care and supporting a workforce that relies on safe and secure healthcare environments. Safeguarding access to healthcare also ensures economic stability and fosters equity and inclusion, values that align with Hawaii's longstanding cultural principles and the labor community's commitment to justice.

We respectfully urge your committees to pass this measure to support Hawaii's working families and medical providers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira
President



Protect Democracy Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org

info@indivisiblehawaii.org

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Senate Committee Health and Human Services and The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Senate Committee Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing Date/Time: February 26, 2025, 10:05 AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1150

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and the Members of the Committees,

Members of Indivisible Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify again in strong support of SB1150 which would provide necessary protections to transgender people.

We urge you to approve this bill as badly needed in this time of growing discrimination against transgender people. The Trump administration has attempted by executive order to render transgender people simply non-existent: "It is the policy of the United States to recognize two sexes, male and female." See Executive Order "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government." So are we now to pretend that our transgender citizens simply do not exist?

Here in a nutshell is what this bill would accomplish:

- Amendment to HRS Sec. 583A: Provides that courts of this state shall not enforce nor apply a law of another state which authorizes a state agency to remove a child from a parent because that parent allowed the child to receive gender affirming care.
- Amendment to HRS Sec. 323J: (1) Provides a definition of gender affirming care and clarifies that it be "medically necessary care"; (2) Provides that, subject to exceptions, information regarding a patient's receipt of gender-affirming care not be released without the patient's permission; (3) clarifies

that no Hawaii agency shall provide nonpublic information or expend Hawaii resources for any out-of-state or interstate investigation seeking to impose civil or criminal liability on a person for obtaining gender affirming healthcare or for providing gender affirming healthcare lawful in Hawaii; and (4) provides that the Hawaii Governor will not surrender a person for prosecution by another state for receiving gender affirming care or providing such care, unless the conduct was also illegal in Hawaii.

- Amendments to HRS Secs. 451J-11, 451J-12, 453-8, 453-8.6, 453D-12, 453D-13, 457-12, 457-12.5, 461-21.5, 465-13: Provides that medical and other licensed providers of care will not lose their licenses in Hawaii because they suffer conviction or loss of license in another state for providing gender affirming care which is legal in Hawaii.
- Amendments to HRS Secs. 583A-20 and 208: Provides that Hawaii courts, in deciding whether to exercise jurisdiction over a custody case between parents who live in different states, will not consider a removal of the child from the parent with legal custody as a factor weighing against the other parent when deciding whether Hawaii should accept jurisdiction if (1) the provision of gender affirming care to the child is one of the issues between the parents and (2) the law of the other state which could hear the case limits the ability of the parent to obtain gender affirming care for the child.
- Amendments to HRS Sec. 636C-9: Provides that Hawaii courts will not enforce foreign orders which restrict, burden, punish, penalize or otherwise interfere with the provision of gender affirming healthcare services which are lawful in this state.
- Amendment to HRS Sec. 836-2: Providing that judges will not grant requests to issue any summons requiring a person to appear as a witness in another state for a prosecution or grand jury investigation or proceeding which involves (1) someone seeking, receiving, or paying for gender affirming healthcare (or helping to do this) (2) someone providing gender affirming health care or responding to requests for information regarding the same (or helping to do this).

Contrary to the arguments submitted opposing this bill, **SB1150 contains no language** allowing children to be removed from their homes or from their parents, much less removed to be surgically mutilated. **It contains no language legalizing parental or**

other kidnapping of a child by anyone whatsoever, and such conduct continues to be subject to full prosecution under HRS Sec. 707-726 Custodial Interference in the first degree (Class C Felony), HRS Sec. 707 Custodial Interference in the second Degree (Misdemeanor), and HRS Sec. 707-20(G) Kidnapping (Class A Felony). Arguments that there is no such thing as gender dysphoria fly in the face of sound medical opinion and the experiences of the many transexual people who have provided comments and testimony to these committees.

Transgender people have always been among us and part of our society, and have long faced widespread discrimination. In its decision *Bostock v. Clayton Cnty*, 590 U.S. 644 (2020), the U.S. Supreme Court disallowed discrimination against transgender people in the employment context, finding that such discrimination was unlawful under the clear language of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which bars discrimination based on sex. Despite *Bostock* and the application of its plain ruling barring such discrimination in countless other similarly worded statutes all over this country (including Hawaii's State Constitution which itself bars discrimination based on sex in Article 1, Section 5), the Trump Administration issued its executive order ignoring *Bostock*, simply attempting to erase transgender individuals altogether.

Hawaii has long been in the forefront of assuring protections for its citizens against discrimination. SB1150 provides specific and reasonable protections for our transgender citizens. It is important to provide these protections at this precarious time in our society.

Sincerely,

Diana L. Van De Car
Indivisible Hawai'i - LGBTQIA+ Team

Indivisible is a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. In Hawai'i, we have ten groups across four islands, representing well over a thousand pro-democracy citizens.



To: Hawai'i Senate Committees on Ways & Mean and Judiciary
Place: February 26th, 10:05am, Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 211 and videoconference
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of SB 1150 SD1

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") strongly supports SB 1150 SD1, a bill that takes critical steps toward protecting gender affirming care providers. Fundamentally, providers and patients should not fear being investigated, jailed, or losing their license for providing or obtaining legal health care services.

Because of the national climate, gender affirming care providers and patients alike are living in fear of being criminally prosecuted by hostile states. In 2023 and 2024, we saw numerous states ban gender affirming care for both minors and adults, and this year, we are seeing attacks from the federal government. The law is crystal clear that gender affirming care provided in Hawai'i remains legal. Nonetheless, overzealous prosecutors and lawmakers in hostile states are pursuing laws that target providers and discipline outside of states' borders.

Lawmakers should also ensure Hawai'i health care providers do not have their licenses negatively impacted or face discipline locally due to the provision of gender affirming care health care, even if providers are subject to discipline, investigations, or criminal charges in other states. With gender affirming care bans for minors in place, providers in these states are being forced to violate their ethical duties and medical judgment for fear of prosecution, jail time, and loss of licensure. This bill aims to ensure that if a provider is prosecuted or otherwise disciplined in another state for providing patient-focused and medically appropriate care, they can continue to practice medicine in Hawai'i.

All people in our state need to be confident that Hawai'i law protects their right to access gender affirming care services, and providers should not be afraid to be jailed, lose their license, or be barred from ever practicing medicine again simply for providing basic, legal health care. Providers need to be confident that they can continue to focus on patient health and that Hawai'i will always be a safe place to do what is best for the person they are serving. We urge you to pass SB 1150 SD1 to protect our providers. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:18:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Testifying for Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ADAMANTLY APPOSE SB1150!

This Bill is NOT HEALTH CARE and is so wrong on so many levels!

First and foremost is the issue of undermining or overriding the authority of the parent! HOW Desperate are the authors of this despicable bill....? This gives way to child kindnaping and child trafficking! Absolutely disgusting and shameful!!!

A'OLE!!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:21:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina L Everett	Testifying for PROJECT NEHEMIAH HAWAII	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an evil agenda! This is Trafficking our Keiki's hiding behind this bill! This is kidnapping! This is outrageous! You have to be mentally ill to be supporting this or evil! You want to legalize Human Trafficking! And make us pay for it with our taxes!

For the record:

Hawai'i Christian Coalition Strongly OPPOSES SB1150, relating to Healthcare

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs & Members of the Judiciary Committee and the Ways & Means Committee,

My name is Margaret Mejia, and I am writing on behalf of *Hawai'i Christian Coalition*, who has 35,000 members and represents approximately 130,000 people.

Hawaii Christian Coalition Strongly OPPOSES SB1150. **First of all, this bill is dangerous in that it could permanently damage a child with, (in the words of Chloe Cole – who was transitioned from a biological female to a “male” and now is back to a female), “lifelong, irreversible harm.”** This bill preys upon vulnerable children who are not mature enough to make permanent choices. This bill is not about the autonomy of adults, but as adults, we need to protect our children.

Let's take into account children like Chloe Cole, who was born a biological female. At age 12 Chloe, like most young girls, was feeling insecure and awkward as she was going through puberty and didn't like her figure. At the time, this 12 year old thought that she was experiencing *gender dysphoria*, which is defined as emotional and psychological distress that can arise when a person's internal sense of gender doesn't align with the sex they were assigned at birth. So at age 13, Chloe Cole started a *medical transition*. She was given puberty blockers and testosterone so that she could transition into a boy. At age 15, she was given a double mastectomy where they removed both of her breasts.

Later, at age 16, Chloe Cole decided that she didn't want to become a boy and started the *de-transitioning process*. Chloe desperately wanted to go back to being a female. However, now, Chloe is left with (in her own words), “lifelong, irreversible harm.” She is permanently left with a deep voice, excessive scarring on her chest, and many more physical attributes that she cannot change. They are permanent! **The puberty blocker they gave Chloe is NOT approved by the FDA and Chloe has side effects from the puberty blocker, today.**

Chloe Cole's story is not the only story like this. Many children, who went through *medical gender transitions*, are left with permanent damage to their bodies that they cannot reverse.

Children are not medically mature enough to make these permanent choices. On the top of page 2 where this bill, SB1150 describes "Gender-affirming health care services," it says that this includes “Medically necessary health care that respects the gender identity of the patient, as experienced and defined by the patient...” **“the patient” is a minor, a child. A child has never experience puberty before. They have limited experiences, limited knowledge, and as you know, a child’s brain, especially the frontal lobe where they make decisions is not developed yet.** It develops slightly earlier in girls but for boys, it doesn't develop until they are about 25 years of age. Therefore, no child, no teenager can medically, or scientifically reasonably make a decision regarding their gender identity.

Hawai'i should instead, create laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them towards ANY irreversible procedures, especially since they may cause "lifelong, irreversible harm." **As legislators, you have the responsibility to uphold the well-being of the children and make sure there are guardrails to protect our keiki.**

Helping children to change their gender does NOT prevent them from committing suicide. There is no current or accurate scientific data to back that claim. As a matter of fact, in the case of Chloe Cole, who was born a biological female and transitioned to a male and is now de-transitioning into a female, she is now experiencing suicidal thoughts over the fact that she cannot change the permanent damage that was done to her body and she now has to receive ongoing mental health services.

This bill also undermines Parental Rights. I didn't see anything in this bill regarding parental consent. This bill is intentionally not considering the rights of the parents. The government should not trump the rights of the parent. The parent or guardian is a steward of their children, not the government.

On the top of page 10, it also refers to "An individual accessing gender-affirming health care..." Once again, **Children are not medically mature enough to make these permanent choices. The frontal lobe in their brain which helps people make decisions, is not yet developed in a child. These decisions can cause lifelong, permanent damage to these children. Even the article on the *The Teenage Brain* on the Transgender Trend website, Dr. Sallie Baxendale says that the teen's brain doesn't fully develop until they are in their mid 20's.**

Some in the medical field believe that puberty blockers or hormone blockers also affect an individual's neurotransmitters. Neurotransmitters are the "messengers that facilitate communication between neurons in the brain and nervous system and influence our mood, emotions, stress, responses and cognition. Once again, many of these puberty blockers are not approved by the FDA.

Some people say that Governor Josh Green wants Hawai'i to be a "sanctuary state" for Abortions for minors, and for Sex changes for minors. Wow! I would rather Hawai'i be known for its beautiful beaches, pristine mountains and waterfalls, than for abortions and sex changes for minors.

Please Vote NO on SB1150.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mejia, Vice President & Events Coordinator

Hawai'i Christian Coalition

[Exalting Christ & Defending Religious Liberty in the Public Square](#)

(808) 216-7416

<https://hichristian.org/>



LAMBDA LAW HAWAI'I
WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [SB1150 SD1](#)

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 26th, 2025

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, **strongly supports SB1150 SD1**. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2 of 2023 to include gender-affirming healthcare services. It also clarifies Hawai'i jurisdiction for child custody and child enforcement act cases for children whose parents choose to authorize gender affirming care (GAC) for their keiki. Finally, it protects healthcare providers who provide GAC from professional licensing penalties incurred in states who are hostile to such care.

Gender affirming care covers a wide range of practices that are medically sound and supported by experts as best practice for many people, including trans and nonbinary children and adults, but also encompassing cis children and adults. The **negative rhetoric that has been building against GAC**, which has been unfortunately imported into Hawai'i as of late, is **unfounded and biased** against trans people, who are a minority in our population. **We must ensure that this life-saving care is not criminalized in the Aloha State**, and that **parents** who choose to allow their children to pursue this care (as well as **doctors** who provide this care) **will not be subject to the punitive and cruel laws** of other states.

This bill would not force anyone to engage in any health care practices they disagree with, nor would it impose any obligations on parents, healthcare providers, or children to do anything they aren't already doing. This bill simply **protects a vulnerable population facing attacks from**

other states, and shields those who support them from criminalization and other penalization as other jurisdictions attempt to reach into our own for such purposes.

No matter what the current U.S. President says, **trans and nonbinary people are here to stay, and we deserve and must be guaranteed access to the medicines and practices that we require to live happy and healthy lives.** Let us continue to be a leader in materially **respecting the dignity of all the people of Hawai‘i, including māhū, fa'afafine, bakla, and LGBTQ+ people who make our communities that much stronger.**

Please support SB1150. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lambda Law Hawai‘i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law
Mission: To advance equal rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals at WSRS and beyond.

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Chevelle Davis, MPH (‘o ia/she/her) - Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy
Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!

Subject: Measure S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 – Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:05 AM, Conference Room 211

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and members of the committees:

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! **STRONGLY SUPPORT S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1**, a crucial piece of legislation that expands protections for individuals seeking gender-affirming health care and ensures that Hawai'i remains a safe place for children, families, and health care providers from harmful out-of-state legal actions.

As an organization committed to the well-being of Hawai'i's children and families, we recognize that access to necessary medical care is essential for ensuring the health and safety of young people. Gender-affirming healthcare is supported by every major medical organization, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association because it is proven to save lives. Young people who receive this care experience improved mental health outcomes, while those denied access face an increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

Why SB 1150 SD1 Matters for Hawai'i's Children and Families

1. Ensuring Access to Essential Health Care

Across the country, states are enacting laws that criminalize gender-affirming healthcare, forcing families to choose between their children's well-being and their legal safety. S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 ensures that individuals in Hawai'i—residents or visitors—can receive the care they need without fear of legal consequences from other states. No family should have to flee their home or compromise their children's health because of discriminatory policies that seek to undermine their right to make medical decisions.

2. Keeping Families Together

A loving and supportive family is one of the most important factors for children's well-being. Yet, some states have gone so far as to threaten parents/guardians with legal action or loss of custody simply for ensuring their children receive medically necessary care. S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 ensures that Hawai'i will not participate in the unjust separation of families based on out-of-state laws that attack gender-affirming care. Parents must have the right to make informed, medically sound decisions for their keiki without fear of government interference.

3. Protecting Privacy for Families and Health Care Providers

Medical privacy and patient confidentiality are fundamental rights. S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 reinforces these values by ensuring that Hawai'i will not assist in out-of-state investigations targeting LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, or their healthcare providers. It also protects healthcare professionals from being penalized under another state's discriminatory policies and prevents enforcement of subpoenas, warrants, and extradition requests related to lawful medical care in Hawai'i.

4. Honoring Hawai'i's Cultural Legacy of Inclusion

Hawai'i has a deep cultural history of embracing gender diversity. In Native Hawaiian society, **māhū**—individuals who embody both masculine and feminine traits—were honored as caretakers, teachers, and healers. Unlike Western colonial perspectives that introduced rigid gender binaries and discrimination, traditional Hawaiian culture recognized and valued māhū as an integral part of the community. This history reflects the values of aloha and inclusion that continue to define Hawai'i today.

By passing S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1, Hawai'i reaffirms its commitment to protecting LGBTQ+ individuals, not just through policy but in alignment with our islands' cultural values of respect, acceptance, and support for all members of our community.

5. Affirming Hawai'i's Commitment to Equity and Justice

Hawai'i has long been at the forefront of LGBTQ+ rights, from challenging same-sex marriage bans to enacting strong anti-discrimination protections. As other states move to restrict access to gender-affirming care and criminalize those who seek it, Hawai'i must continue to lead with compassion and justice. S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 sends a clear message: our state will not be complicit in efforts to deny people their right to make personal medical decisions.

Hawai'i must continue to be a place where all keiki and families are safe, supported, and free to access the healthcare they need. S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 is a necessary step in ensuring that LGBTQ+ youth and their families are protected from unjust legal actions and that healthcare providers can continue to offer evidence-based care without fear of punishment.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! urge the committees to pass S.B. No. 1150 S.D. 1 and uphold Hawai'i's legacy of inclusion, medical privacy, and family autonomy.

Mahalo for your time and leadership in protecting Hawai'i's keiki, families, and healthcare providers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** on this critical measure.



SB 1150, SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

FEBRUARY 26, 2025 · JDC/WAM HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SB 1150, SD1, relating to health care, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services; and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Everyone deserves access to the medical care they need. This includes gender-affirming care for transgender individuals. The Trump administration signed an executive order on January 28, 2025 that aims to block access to gender-affirming care for children and young adults. The order seeks to cut off federal funding from institutions that provide hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and surgical treatment for people under 19.

Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota have already filed lawsuits opposing the order. According to the three states, the order particularly targets medical care that is recommended for gender dysphoria, when a person's internal sense of gender identity conflicts with their sex assigned at birth. The lawsuit calls the order "cruel and baseless," and accuses the executive branch of "attempts to dictate medical care by executive fiat." The states argue that the order violates the Fifth Amendment's equal protection guarantee by singling out transgender individuals for discrimination.

On February 4th, Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of fourteen attorneys general to reaffirm their pledge to protect access to gender-affirming care. The coalition released the following statement: "As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect

the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to restrict freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, lifesaving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves.”

The World Medical Association (WMA), an international group representing physicians from 114 National Medical Associations, states: "The WMA emphasizes that everyone has the right to determine one's own gender and recognizes the diversity of possibilities in this respect. The WMA calls for physicians to uphold each individual's right to self-identification with regard to gender...The WMA urges that every effort be made to make individualized, multi-professional, interdisciplinary, and affordable transgender healthcare (including speech therapy, hormonal treatment, surgical interventions and mental healthcare) available to all people who experience gender incongruence in order to reduce or to prevent pronounced gender dysphoria.”

In a coordinated push led by national anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups, legislators across the country have overridden the recommendations of the views of the medical establishment and introduced hundreds of bills that target transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth's access to age-appropriate, medically necessary care. By preventing doctors from providing care or threatening to take children away from parents who support their child in their transition, these efforts prevent transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth from accessing medically necessary, safe health care backed by decades of research and supported by every major medical association representing over 1.3 million US doctors, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

LGBTQ+ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ+ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, we have heard their stories hundreds of times. Eliminating access to gender-affirming care only worsens this cycle of alienation and abuse. **On the other hand, enshrining access into state law is a step toward ensuring that transgender youth can receive the care they need to live meaningful, fulfilling, and healthy lives.**

Contact us at imuaalliance.org/contact

February 25, 2025

RE: Support for SB 1150 “Health Care Access Protection Act”

Chairs and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

The Trevor Project writes in support of **SB 1150**, which would safeguard providers and access to legal, best-practice health care for transgender people in Hawai'i. Transgender medical care has been shown to significantly lower suicide risk among transgender and nonbinary youth. Providers of this care can be safeguarded for years to come through the enactment of SB 1150, and we encourage you to vote yes on SB 1150 to pass it out of committee.

The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ young people. Trevor offers 24/7 crisis services, connecting highly trained counselors with LGBTQ+ young people whenever they need support. To drive prevention efforts, The Trevor Project also operates robust research, advocacy, education, and peer support programs.

LGBTQ+ young people are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Rather, they are placed at higher risk by the mistreatment and stigmatization they experience in society. According to [The Trevor Project's 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People](#), 39% of LGBTQ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary young people. **In Hawai'i, 52% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide and 17% attempted suicide in 2022.**

Fortunately, access to transgender medical care can protect the lives of transgender youth. Transgender medical care for youth is associated with positive mental health outcomes including showing promise for reducing suicide risk. In February 2022, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published new research that found transgender medical care for transgender teens was associated with 60% lower odds of moderate or severe depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality over a 12-month follow-up.

Hawai'i is a leader in providing best practice medical care to LGBTQ+ young people, including access to transgender medical care. Enacting SB 1150 presents a prime opportunity to protect providers and access to this care. As unfounded attacks on transgender young people continue nationwide, it's crucial that Hawai'i joins [16 other states](#) and Washington,

D.C. in enacting this proactive measure to shield Hawai'i's providers of health care for transgender people from attacks based on other states' laws.

For these reasons, The Trevor Project supports the passage of SB 1150 and encourages you to vote yes on the legislation to advance it out of committee. Should you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at Gabby.doyle@thetrevorproject.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabrielle Doyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Gabrielle Doyle
Senior Manager of State Policy



TESTIMONY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SB1150 RELATED TO HEALTHCARE
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM, State Capitol

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

According to the Presidential Executive Order dated, January 20, 2025: It is the policy of the United States to recognize two sexes, male and female. These sexes are not changeable and are grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality.

The Hawaiian Islands Republican Women stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB1150_SD2 for the following reasons:

The rights of citizens (parents/guardians) are being disenfranchised, and children will be harmed if SB1150_SD2 is signed into law. This bill allows adults (other than parents or guardians) to bring children from other states to Hawaii for gender affirming care under the guise of child protection. This is essentially kidnapping.

The rights of citizens under the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution are being violated.

Under Article 1. Section 8 of the Hawaii State Constitution. No citizen shall be disfranchised or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to other citizens.

In 1997, the Court declared in *Washington v. Glucksberg*, 521 U.S. 702 (1997), that the Constitution, and specifically the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, protects the fundamental right of parents to direct the care, upbringing, and education of their children.

Protection of children and parent/guardian rights. Have you researched the adverse effects of gender affirming care? Do you research!

Congressional testimony from many transitioned individuals describes the irreversible pain, long-suffering, and mutilation imposed on them as children by so called professionals in the education and medical institutions.

Be prepared to lose any federal funding such as Medicaid should you decide to proceed with passing this bill into law. U.S. Attorney General, Pam Bondi has been made aware of this legislation.

If children are harmed by this legislation, are you willing to take responsibility for passing this bill into law?

For the safety and well-being of children, please vote **NO** on SB1150_SD2.

Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women



February 25, 2025

RE: SB1150

Aloha Chair Rhodes and Chair De La Cruz, and members of the Committees,

I am a gender affirming care provider writing in **strong support of SB1150**, the Health Care Access Protection Act, **but in strong opposition** to the recent amendments that removes the ability to protect families and transgender youth. The original bill provided much needed legal protections which would protect families fleeing states that have criminalized gender affirming care. These changes capitulate to disinformation by the opposing side, and the argument that this will enable the kidnapping of children is not based in fact, and has had no recorded instances in states which have passed similar bills into law. By not including these protections, it actively puts our keiki at risk.

As a gender affirming care provider in Honolulu, who serves the transgender and nonbinary youth and adult populations, it is imperative that I along with other healthcare providers are allowed to continue the necessary care for these patients. I have seen my patients come into my office full of despair, and through providing them with gender affirming care, I have witnessed them transform into who they truly are. Since the federal executive order threatening to ban gender affirming care, I have seen my patient's mental health deteriorate, with concerns if I will still be here to provide them with the care they so desperately need.

This bill would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai'i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Ryan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Pronouns: She/They
Founder and Medical Director
Evolve Health, LLC
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1603
Honolulu, HI, 96813
Phone: (808) 452-1731



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OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2025
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Testimony by IATSE 665
February 26th, 2025

SB1150 SD1- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Senate committees,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE International Trustee and President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **IATSE 665 strongly supports SB1150 SD1**, relating to health care.

This critical legislation is a bold step to safeguard the healthcare rights of Hawai'i residents and uphold the values we cherish as a community. This is a state's rights issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent. Unlike what opponents of this bill might say, this bill does not authorize surgeries on minors, it does not allow children to be removed from their families, and it does not force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender.

Through SB1150 SD1, parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states. Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare and legal professionals in Hawai'i.

Individual medical records belong to that individual. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities. Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws. This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pasifika Islanders, who have long embraced gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values—another form of colonization.

IATSE 665 strongly supports SB1150 SD1. We urge your committees to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan', written in a cursive style.

Tuia'ana Scanlan
International Trustee
President, IATSE 665
(he/him/his)



Kū Ānuenuē

A community of care for māhū and LGBTQIA2s+

February 26, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The mission of Kū Ānuenuē is to create and sustain space for and with māhū and queer people from keiki to kūpuna, their families and caregivers; to build a community of care and belonging through positive relationships to self, others and ‘āina; and together, we as māhū and LGBTQIA2s+ people, empower each other and our larger community with shared resources and mutual support.

As a community of care, we stand in support of **SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds Hawai‘i’s values of aloha, inclusion, and respect for all individuals. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our community from these discriminatory policies.

We urge you to vote **YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected in Hawai‘i.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kū Ānuenuē Board of Directors



LATE

February 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senators Henry J.C. Aquino, Lynn DeCoite, Brandon J.C. Elefante, Troy N. Hashimoto, Lorraine R. Inouye, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Michelle N. Kidani, Donna Mercado Kim, Chris Lee, Glenn Wakai, and Kurt Fevella, Committee Members

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senators Stanley Chang, Joy A. San Buenaventura, and Brenton Awa, Committee Members

RE: SB 1150/HB 615 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE – SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this letter in support of SB 1150 on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii. Easterseals Hawaii served 2,025 Hawaii community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2024. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with I/DD can choose their own path.

Easterseals Hawaii recognizes the importance of intersectional identities and the implications of this bill for LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ people with disabilities. Easterseals Hawaii strongly supports SB 1150, which establishes essential protections for transgender, non-binary, and any other individuals accessing gender-affirming services in Hawaii. Research has shown that gender-affirming healthcare improves mental health, including significantly lowering depression and suicidality rates¹. As the bill asserts, such services should not be misconstrued as abuse. The recent actions taken by the new federal administration endanger the rights and freedoms of the LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ community to access all the care services they need and deserve. Considering such circumstances, it is imperative that this bill be passed to enshrine Hawaii's commitment to protecting all its people into law.

Easterseals Hawaii supports SB 1150 and respectfully requests your "aye" vote. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Liebert Lewis".

Rachel Liebert Lewis

Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

Easterseals Hawaii

PublicPolicyAndAdvocacy@eshawaii.org

¹ Tordoff, Diana M., 'Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care', <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35212746/>



oahupflag@gmail.com
(808) 729-8609

pflag.org

LATE

To: **Joint Senate Committee on Judiciary, and Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

From: **PFLAG O'ahu**

Camaron Miyamoto and Ryna Yamada
PFLAG O'ahu Co-Presidents

Date: **Wednesday, February 26, 10:05 am**

Location: **Conference Room 211**

Re: **Strong Support of SB1150**

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Morikawki, Vice Chairs Rhoads and Gabbard, and members of the Committees,

PFLAG O'ahu is writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

PFLAG O'ahu is comprised Hawai'i families with LGBTQ+ children—a majority of our keiki being Transgender, Non-binary and māhū. Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai'i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Further, PFLAG O'ahu views passage of SB1150 is a necessary step to safeguard parental rights in Hawai'i. As parents of transgender, māhū and gender diverse children we know our children deserve the health care they need and we want. Please protect our parental rights as parents of LGBTQ+ children in Hawai'i. We must protect other gender diverse families too. In the event they choose to come to Hawai'i. Please pass SB1150.

PFLAG O'ahu is a new 501(c)3, a local chapter of the national organization. We are parents, families and friends of LGBTQ+ people. We would very much appreciate meeting with you to share firsthand expert knowledge and lived experiences. The easiest way to reach to us is by contacting Camaron Miyamoto at (808) 729-8609 or by e-mail at oahupflag@gmail.com

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Camaron Miyamoto and Ryna Yamada
PFLAG O'ahu Co-Presidents

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 5:38:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesus Christ	Testifying for The Kingdom of Heaven & Earth	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Oh-So-Enlightened Legislators,

Well, aloha and mahalo for dropping S.B. No. 1150, the “Health Care Access Protection Act,” into our laps—a steaming pile of woke garbage so absurd it makes a lava flow look tame. This bill, set to wreak havoc by December 31, 2050 (Section 21—nice typo, brain trust), isn’t just a bad idea; it’s a full-on assault on Hawaii’s kids, parents, and taxpayers, all to coddle the “gender-affirming” cult. Oh, how noble—protecting scalpels over sanity! Let’s rip this travesty apart with facts, Hawaii-style, because apparently, we’re tossing poi and reason out the window for mainland madness. Strap in—this is gonna sting.

Why This Bill Is a Flaming Dumpster Fire

- Chopping Up Keiki Like It’s a Luau Pig Roast:
 - Hawaii Stat: Our 300,000 kids (U.S. Census, 2023) are now guinea pigs—4,000 U.S. teens got “gender-affirming” surgeries from 2016-2020 (JAMA, 2023). Section 323J-1 calls this mutilation “medically necessary”—think mastectomies at 15, castrations at 16, all on Oahu’s dime.
 - Sarcasm: Aloha, parents! Your kid’s TikTok meltdown means it’s time to carve ‘em up like kalua pork—\$20,000 a pop (Health Affairs, 2022). Mahalo for the privilege!
 - Point: 80% of gender-dysphoric kids outgrow it by 18 (APA, 2018), but nah, let’s rush ‘em to the chop shop. Hawaii’s 15% child poverty rate (Kids Count, 2023) means we’re already stretched—why fund this insanity?
- Parental Rights? More Like Parental Punching Bags:
 - Hawaii Stat: Section 583A-207(e) locks courts here if another state says no to this madness—15% of Hawaii’s 1,200 annual family court cases involve custody

(Hawaii Judiciary, 2023). In 2022, 15 states saw custody wars over this junk (NYT, 2023).

- Sarcasm: Who needs kūpuna wisdom when the state's got a Ph.D. in Gender Studies and a restraining order on your rights? Move over, ohana—Big Brother's got the lei of control!
- Point: 63% of Americans (Pew, 2023)—and I'd bet our 1.4 million locals (U.S. Census, 2023)—say parents rule, not bureaucrats. This bill turns Hawaii into a magnet for runaway teens, shredding families faster than a North Shore rip tide.
- Health Risks Hawaii Can't Afford:
 - Hawaii Stat: Puberty blockers (Section 323J-1(1)(A)) slam kids with a 25% osteoporosis risk by 18 (Endocrine Society, 2021). Cross-sex hormones? Double the heart attack odds by 30 (NEJM, 2019). Hawaii's \$1.2M health budget (DHS HI, 2024) is already crying uncle with 20% uninsured keiki (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2023).
 - Sarcasm: Oh, fabulous—brittle bones and heart attacks for our hula dancers! Nothing says “aloha spirit” like a lifetime of medical bills for a fad!
 - Point: No long-term proof this helps—U.K.'s 2022 Tavistock shutdown found zero mental health gains (NHS, 2022). Maui's ERs handled 5,000 kid visits last year (DOH HI, 2023)—we ready for more wrecks?
- Quack Doctors Get a Free Surfboard:
 - Hawaii Stat: Sections 453-8, 457-12, etc., shield medicos from discipline for this “care,” even if they're banned elsewhere. Malpractice claims for gender procedures spiked 300% nationally since 2018 (Medical Liability Monitor, 2023); Hawaii's 1,200 docs (HMA, 2023) now get a hall pass.
 - Sarcasm: Mahalo, legislature—every pill-pushing, knife-happy hack on Kamehameha Highway's safe now! Who cares if 1 in 5 regret it (JAMA Psychiatry, 2021)? Surf's up, suckers!
 - Point: Our \$300M malpractice payouts since 2015 (Hawaii Insurance Division, 2023) will skyrocket—guess who's footing that bill? Hint: it's us, the 60% taxpaying ohana (DBEDT, 2024).
- Legal Lava Flow to Burn Us All:
 - Hawaii Stat: Section 323J-4 bans helping 25 states with bans (KFF, 2023)—our 9 million tourists (DBEDT, 2023) and 1.4 million locals now dodge federal law. Courts axed similar shields in 3 states last year (SCOTUSblog, 2024).
 - Sarcasm: Genius move—let's flip off Uncle Sam while 70% of our \$18B budget (State Budget Office, 2024) comes from his wallet! Feds'll love grounding our \$3B tourism cash cow!
 - Point: 10% of Hawaii's 2023 drug busts were interstate (HPD)—this bill's a neon “Come Get It” sign for legal chaos, sinking our \$1.5B justice system (Hawaii Judiciary, 2023).
- Hawaii's Kids as Guinea Pigs:
 - Hawaii Stat: 15% of our keiki face food insecurity (Feeding America, 2023), yet Section 583A- bans losing custody for “affirming” care. U.S. saw a 50% jump in youth gender clinic visits since 2019 (Reuters, 2023)—Hawaii's 60,000 teens (DOE HI, 2023) are next.

- Sarcasm: Perfect—starve ‘em, then slice ‘em! Nothing screams “paradise” like turning Waianae into a lab for mainland nutjobs!
- Point: 90% of Hawaii parents want input on kids’ health (UH Poll, 2022)—this bill spits on that, risking our 300 school counselors (DOE HI, 2023) drowning in fallout.

Final Torch Toss

S.B. No. 1150 is a disgrace—a glitter-dusted Molotov cocktail lobbed at Hawaii’s ohana, keiki, and coffers. It’s mutilating kids (25% osteoporosis risk), torching parental rights (63% say no), bankrupting health (\$1.2M stretched), shielding quacks (\$300M malpractice), and begging for a federal lava flow (70% budget at risk). Our 1.4 million souls and 9 million visitors deserve better than this haole-imported, gender-bender fiasco. Burn this bill to ash—our islands can’t handle the heat of this stupidity. Mahalo for not turning Hawaii into a woke wasteland!

Furiously yours,

Jesus Christ

#GOD

Kingdom of Heaven & Earth



LATE

February 26, 2025

O'ahu Youth Action Board

Est. 2017

Co-Chair

Efren Berrones

Co-Chair

Jean Grey

Vice Chair

Kahekili "Kai" Alip

Treasurer

Dawson Pahia-Kuloloia

Social Coordinator

Laleiyana "Lala" Caton

Communications Coordinator

Kyle-Ann Bobo

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 1150 Relating to Health Care

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Ways and Means

FROM: Efren Berrones- Co-Chair of O'ahu Youth Action Board,
Partners In Care (PIC)

Hearing: Thursday, February 26th 10:00 AM

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of SB 1150, **Relating to Health Care: Gender-Affirming Care**.

My name is **Efren Berrones**, and I serve as the Co-Chair of the **O'ahu Youth Action Board (OYAB)**—a board composed of youth with lived experience of homelessness on O'ahu, advocating for policies that directly impact houseless young people. We firmly believe that any decisions affecting us must include our voices, perspectives, and lived experiences.

SB 1150 is a **critical measure** that would have a **profound impact** on our community. According to the National Network for Youth, an estimated **40% of youth experiencing homelessness are LGBTQ+**, with family rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity being a leading cause. While I could cite alarming statistics that underscore the urgency of protecting LGBTQ+ youth, I believe it is equally important to **humanize this issue**.

I grew up in Houston, Texas, raised by a single mother who found refuge in a church after leaving a domestic violence shelter. This religious community was our only support system—they sent me to private school, helped with groceries and rent, and lifted us out of poverty. But their support was **conditional**. When I came out, all of it disappeared. I suddenly found myself lost and alone.

Fortunately, I had chosen to attend college in Hawai'i, a place known for its strong protections and embrace of the LGBTQ+ community.

This community became my refuge. Today, I am proud to call Hawai'i home, to give back, and to advocate for the next generation of LGBTQ+ youth who, like me, need a safe place to belong.

These young people are **not just statistics**—they are **real people** who are **four times more likely** to attempt suicide and **120% more likely** to experience homelessness than their heterosexual peers, simply because of **who they are**. Hawai'i has a **longstanding cultural tradition** of recognizing and respecting aikāne, māhū, and gender-diverse individuals. It is imperative that we reject the **harmful colonial narratives** that are sweeping across the country and instead **uphold the values of inclusion, aloha, and respect**.

Now is the time for Hawai'i to lead.

I strongly urge you to **pass SB 1150** and ensure that **Hawai'i remains a safe and affirming place for the LGBTQ+ community**.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Efren Berrones". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Efren" and "Berrones" being capitalized and prominent.

Efren Berrones
Co-Chair, O'ahu Youth Action Board
efrenb@partnersincareoahu.org

Submitted Online: February 25, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

POSITION: Opposition to SB1150 SD 1 Relating to Healthcare

As an organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families, we believe that parents should be the first and foremost educators of their children. No law should create a system that purposely excludes them from crucial decisions affecting their child's well-being. We all agree that any policy impacting minors—especially those involving medical interventions and early childhood education—must be grounded in scientific evidence, ethical considerations, and the best interests of our keiki. Unfortunately, research does not support promoting gender ideology or medical transitions for minors.

Research does not support medical interventions for gender-confused minorsⁱ.

Medical interventions such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries are experimental and lack long-term safety studies. The FDA has not approved puberty blockers for gender dysphoria, and European countries (such as Sweden, Finland, and the UK) have reversed or restricted their use due to safety concerns. Our concern is that minors lack the maturity to consent to irreversible medical procedures that will have lifelong consequences. Allowing minors to make these decisions without parental consent is not only poor public policy but also a threat to family unity.

Our bottom line is that parents—not schools or policymakers—should be the primary educators on moral and sensitive topics concerning gender and sexuality.

Medical transition has not been shown to reduce youth suicidesⁱⁱ.

Advocates often claim that medical transition is necessary to prevent youth suicide, but peer-reviewed studies contradict this claim. In fact, quite the opposite may be true. Swedish longitudinal studies found that individuals who underwent medical transition had higher suicide rates compared to the general population. That means any promise made in saying that medical transition would resolve any mental health struggles is both misleading and dangerous, as gender dysphoria is often linked to other psychological conditions.

Childhood gender dysphoria usually resolves by adulthood.ⁱⁱⁱ

There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria eventually accept their biological sex by adulthood if not affirmed in a transgender identity. Psychologists recognize that gender confusion in children is often a phase, influenced by emotional development, peer relationships, and societal factors. Public policy should never encourage social and medical transitions that prevent a natural resolution while pushing our keiki toward unnecessary medicalization.

The dramatic increase in gender dysphoria is likely being driven by social factors^{iv}.

In the past decade, cases of gender dysphoria have surged, especially among adolescent girls, a demographic not historically affected. Studies suggest social contagion and peer influence play a significant role in this rise, as online communities and social media promote transgender identities. We must be cautious and strongly hesitant of any attempt to ignore social influences or rush to medical interventions without understanding the broader context.

Sex education for early elementary school children, including transgender ideology, has not been shown by research to be beneficial.^v

No scientific research supports the claim that introducing young children to transgender ideology improves mental health or well-being. Early exposure to complex gender concepts can cause confusion and distress in young minds.

In closing, it is our moral and societal responsibility to protect vulnerable keiki from experimental medical procedures and ideologies. We must work together to ensure that policies affecting minors are based on truth, compassion, and the best available research—not on ideological pressure or social trends.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

ⁱ Ludvigsson, J. F., Adolfsson, J., Höistad, M., Rydelius, A., Kriström, B., & Landén, M. (2023). A systematic review of hormone treatment for children with gender dysphoria and recommendations for research. *Acta Paediatrica*, 112(11), 2279-2292. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.16791>

ⁱⁱ Tordoff DM, Wanta JW, Collin A, Stepney C, Inwards-Breland DJ, Ahrens K. Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(2):e220978. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978

ⁱⁱⁱ Cretella, M., MD (n.d.). *Gender Dysphoria in Children*. American College of Pediatricians. Retrieved February 4, 2025, from <https://acpeds.org/assets/imported/corrected-REVISED-NOV-2018-Gender-Dysphoria-in-Children-1.pdf>

^{iv} *ibid*

^v Three Decades of Research: The Case for Comprehensive Sex Education, Goldfarb, Eva S. et al. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Volume 68, Issue 1, 13 – 27



February 26, 2025

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: S.B. 1150, SD 1 Relating to Healthcare

**Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 10:05 AM, Room 211 & Via
Videoconference**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Chair Rhoads, and Vice Chair Gabbard, and the Members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary:

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in **strong support of S.B. 1150, S.D. 1**, which seeks to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender affirming health care services and clarify jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender affirming health care services.

S.B. 1150 would serve to further the important protections codified by Act 2, SLH 3 to include gender-affirming health care services, as well as to protect patients, parents of minors receiving these services, and our medical professionals providing these services from the gross overreach of other states seeking to enforce their draconian laws via subpoenas intended for civil or criminal proceedings.

Hawaii Women Lawyers strongly supports the right to bodily autonomy and the right of all people to seek healthcare when, where, and how as an individual may deem appropriate for themselves. Individuals should be able to make personal healthcare decisions without fear of harassment or legal repercussion, and passing S.B. 1150 S.B. 1 would be a huge step in achieving this goal.

Opponents of gender-affirming care often rely on misinformation and fear-mongering (e.g., calling S.B. 1150 the “Hawaii Kidnapping Bill”), but the reality is that such opposition flies in the face of established research and denying this care puts people, and especially young people, at greater risk. Gender-affirming care is supported by leading medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the Endocrine Society. These experts recognize that affirming a young person’s gender identity through appropriate medical and psychological care can be lifesaving. Studies consistently show that transgender and non-binary youth who receive gender-affirming care experience lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality compared to those who are denied such care. Medical decisions should be based on best practices and the needs of individual patients, not political agendas.

We are extremely proud of our own Attorney General, Anne Lopez, for joining the coalition of fourteen attorneys general to reaffirm their pledge to protect access to gender-affirming care and we applaud the Legislature’s efforts enshrine the right to gender-affirming care for our gender-diverse community in the State of Hawaii.

For the above reasons, we strongly support S.B. 1150, S.D. 1 and respectfully request that the Committees pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:15:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important Bill, Hawaii is in a unique position to be a beacon of hope

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:23:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is DeWaine Tollefsrud, a long time resident of Kea'au on the Big Island. I am a 71 yo cis male and I strongly support this measure to expand protections to include gender-affirming care services. We need to mālama all of our people no matter who.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:55:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Branon Rodriguez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1150 SD1

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB1150 SD1, which would expand protections for gender-affirming healthcare in Hawaii and safeguard families who seek such care.

This bill represents Hawaii's values of compassion, family unity, and healthcare access. It sends a clear message that our state will protect healthcare decisions made between patients, families, and their medical providers from outside interference.

I particularly support the following aspects of this bill:

1. The protection of parents who support their children in receiving medically necessary gender-affirming care from being threatened with loss of custody;
2. The safeguarding of healthcare providers who offer evidence-based gender-affirming care from out-of-state disciplinary actions;
3. The recognition that gender-affirming care is legitimate medical care that should be protected alongside other essential healthcare services.

At a time when many states are attempting to restrict access to gender-affirming care, Hawaii has the opportunity to stand as a beacon of aloha and ensure that all residents and visitors can access the healthcare they need without fear of prosecution or persecution.

This legislation represents sound public policy that protects families, supports medical professionals, and upholds Hawaii's commitment to comprehensive healthcare access. It reinforces our state's position that medical decisions should be made by patients and their healthcare providers, not by outside jurisdictions.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB1150 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Roger Branon Rodriguez
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:45:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zahava Zaidoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members,

Mahalo for hearing this bill. As a parent, trainer, and counselor I see first hand the benefits of gender affirming care for minors and must share that is absolutely imperative to the mental, emotional, and physical health of our keiki.

Birth control is gender affirming care. Prostate exams in gender affirming care. Male pattern baldness is gender affirming care. There is zero desire to erase males and females from society. We are simply acknowledging the autonomy by which keiki, their parents and guardians, and their medical professionals need to have over medical issues.

With the rhetoric across the county, Hawai'i needs to show our keiki that they matter now, more than ever.

Please support this bill to ensure that ALL of of our keiki and get what they need.

Mahalo for standing up for our most vulnerable families and children.

Zahava "Zee" Zaidoff

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:50:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services for transgender and non-binary individuals. Mahalo!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:35:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you committee members for hearing SB1150 SD1. I am in strong support of SB1150 SD1 and urge you to pass this bill out of this joint committee. Mahalo

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:02:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN practicing in Waipahu and I support this bill. Transgender care can be lifesaving and preserving access to this care in the state is crucial. Please vote YES on SB1150.

Sincerely,

Sara C Harris, MD

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:13:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:16:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:32:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:59:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott R Ziehm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This written testimony is in support of SB 1150 that will expand reproductive health care services to include gender-affirming health care services because these are essential basic health care services. The threat of removing a child from a parent or gaurdian because they allowed their child to receive gender-affirming health care services is inhumane. Politicians should not be allowed to interfere with access to what are essential private health care services. Scientific evidence-based gender-affirming health care services are life saving.

Scott R Ziehm, DNP, RN, NEA-BC

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:13:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB1150

Aloha,

I am writing to express my full and unwavering support for SB1150, which would expand Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and protect the rights of parents or guardians who allow their children to receive such services.

As someone who has a loved one who is transgender, I am deeply aware of the vital importance of gender-affirming care for those who need it. The emotional and psychological toll of not being able to access the care necessary for a person to live authentically is immeasurable. My loved one, like so many in our community, has faced barriers to care, discrimination, and an onslaught of rhetoric from the current administration that seeks to marginalize and demonize transgender people.

In the face of these attacks, it is crucial that we stand up for transgender individuals and their families. SB1150 offers a critical layer of protection for transgender people here in Hawaii, ensuring that gender-affirming care remains accessible and that families cannot be torn apart simply for supporting their child's right to live as their true selves. I believe this bill is a necessary step toward protecting the transgender community and upholding the fundamental rights of parents and guardians.

The recent wave of discriminatory actions from the Trump administration has made it clear that we cannot afford to sit back and remain silent. We must actively fight for the dignity, rights, and lives of transgender people in every corner of our state. Transgender people are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and our co-workers. They deserve the same protections, rights, and opportunities to thrive as anyone else.

Please stand with us and support SB1150. It's time for Hawaii to reaffirm its commitment to justice, equity, and compassion for all, especially our transgender community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Tamara Luthy, PhD

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:23:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JULIA I DAVIDSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people all across America-including Hawaii. They are part of every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:42:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda L Jenks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:46:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Of course we support wholeheartedly.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:48:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Buirgy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Mahu are an integral part of Hawaiian history just as two-spirit indigenous people are an integral part of our country. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Show courage and stand up and protect them please. We must not allow hatred of the "other" in our beautiful state. Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:59:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Berreman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please. I speak from experience as a parent of a gender-queer child, a pediatrician, and a public health physician.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:01:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stand up and protect our transgender people! They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:15:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Righter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii has always had transgender people, and they deserve healthcare that meets their needs at every age, just like every other citizen.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:16:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immigrants need health care just as we all need health care. Please give SB1150 SD1 your favorable consideration. Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:20:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senators,

I urge your support for SB1150. Do it for our children.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:34:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:48:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Transgender people should not be forced to conform to the ways of life and identification of those who are not transgendered. Doing so is imposing our will upon others and is a serious form of violence. Transgender people in Hawaii are our friends, children, neighbors, and co-employees. I demand that the legislature not harm them by discriminating against them.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:51:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Babcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support these people and especially the kids. They are at great risk for serious mental health issues including suicide due to gender dysphoria. Please let them be themselves.

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!"

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:02:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:12:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
martha chantiny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:25:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou. As a transgender person in Hawai'i, this bill is of vital importance to me. The unprecedented wave of hatred from President Trump is alarming to transgender people and their allies, and this bill would limit the President's ability to restrict gender-affirming care. Transgender people deserve to make decisions about their bodies and their healthcare. This bill would protect those rights and help keep Hawai'i a safe place for trans people.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:25:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Marsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:35:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are transgender people in Hawai'i in every aspect of our community. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends, and our co-workers. They are not a danger to society but are being used as a scapegoat by those who benefit from dividing us. Stand up and protect them, please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:35:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means
February 26, 2025

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150 SD1**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received or provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

As Director of the Lei Pua 'Ala Queer Histories of Hawai'i project, which works to illuminate and honor gender and sexual diversity across the multicultural landscape of these islands, I have seen countless examples of persecution against gender and sexual minorities at different times in history, always rooted in a meanspirited ideology aimed at dividing communities and denying the humanity of individuals who are simply trying to live their best lives. But in these examples, I have also seen the inspiration that emerges when good people rise up to say no, not here, not this time, not in our name.

I hope you and your committees will be such voices of the history of Hawai'i being written now, acting to protect vulnerable members of our communities against the bigotry and hatred rippling across the U.S. and around the world.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring that Hawai'i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration,



SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:53:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Guantez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender affirming care has been a very important measure for many young and old to live their life to its full potential. There has very so much verifiable evidence to support its important over the past decade. People close to be are living fully due to its availability. Protecting it under new regulations would ensure Hawaii's existence as a safe place for all.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:54:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janian K Thurman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, neighbors, friends, and co-employees. Stand up and protect them, please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:56:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 1150

Aloha Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary:

I respectfully submit my support for SB 1150, a crucial bill that seeks to protect the healthcare rights of Hawai‘i residents while upholding the core values that define our community. This legislation is a significant step toward safeguarding the sovereignty of our state and ensuring that we maintain the ability to make healthcare decisions that align with our unique needs and beliefs.

SB 1150 offers vital protections for families in Hawai‘i by allowing parents to make medical decisions for their children without fear of external interference. It ensures that healthcare decisions, made in consultation with licensed professionals, remain within the hands of those who know and care for our children the most. Moreover, the bill reinforces our commitment to medical privacy by securing healthcare information from outside influence and protecting healthcare providers from punitive actions when practicing in accordance with Hawai‘i’s laws.

Additionally, SB 1150 honors the cultural traditions of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific communities, who have long embraced gender diversity. Supporting this legislation affirms our cultural heritage and shields our communities from external pressures to conform to ideals that do not reflect our values.

It is important to note that SB 1150 does not authorize surgeries on minors, impose medical decisions on families, or allow coercion in healthcare choices. Rather, it ensures that healthcare decisions made in Hawai‘i remain under the control of our residents, reflecting our values and safeguarding the well-being of our people.

I humbly ask for your support of SB 1150, as it is a thoughtful and compassionate measure to preserve the rights, privacy, and cultural integrity of all Hawai‘i residents.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,
Anthony Makana Paris
Kapolei, O'ahu

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:23:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Ouellette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Adrienne Ouellette and I am a resident of Oahu. I am testifying in support of SB1150. I believe that every young person should have the right to receive medical care that aligns with their gender identity. Gender-affirming care is life-saving for many youth, helping them to develop a strong sense of self, reduce mental health struggles, and avoid the risks of untreated gender dysphoria. This is important legislation and will help the people of Hawaii by support LGBTQ+ youth and their families. I urge you to protect the rights of our keiki and vote in favor of this important legislation.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:28:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of SB1150 SD1.

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

Please vote YES on this measure. Everyone deserves respect and access to health care.

Nancy Moser in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:50:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorothy Zipp Malinski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Healthcare decisions should be made between a doctor and the patient and should be funded to help the patient be as healthy as possible. This includes gender-affirming care. Without it the suicide levels will remain high.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:02:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB1150, which would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 to include gender-affirming health care services and protect families providing such care to their children.

As you know, the transgender community is facing a concerning attack from the Trump Administration. The recent Executive Orders and rhetoric are rooted in extremism and bigotry, causing significant distress and harm to transgender individuals, their families, and healthcare providers. These actions have real-life consequences on the health and well-being of our community.

Here in Hawai'i, we are fortunate to have transgender individuals in every facet of our society. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and our co-workers. We must stand together to protect them.

SB1150 is crucial in safeguarding access to essential gender-affirming care and ensuring that families are not unjustly separated. It sends a clear message that Hawaii will not tolerate discrimination and will actively protect the rights and dignity of transgender individuals.

I urge you to support SB1150 and to reaffirm our commitment to creating a safe and inclusive state for all, including our transgender citizens. We must demonstrate that we will not comply with discriminatory policies and that we will actively fight to protect the rights of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:32:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1150. Please pass this important bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:44:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert A Marks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and members- please pass this mean sure.

Robert Marks

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:44:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB1150

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

Sincerely,
Marsha Hee, resident of Hawaii Island

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:47:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

As a resident of Kalaheo, Kaua`i and former chancellor of Kaua`i Community College, I am writing to support SB1150. Clearly, there is attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. These are our neighbors, our children, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry and are having real life consequences on the health and wellbeing of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, cause chaos and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services. Please pass SB1150. Mahalo

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:48:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:00:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Preston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:05:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Todd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician who previously practiced in Hawai'i for 11 years, I fully support SB 1150. This bill is so very important , as the lack of accessibility of gender affirming care is highly detrimental to mental health of transgender youth and young adult adults. Protecting the right to deliver gender affirming care is vital.

Thank you

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:05:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulii Nathaniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators Rhoads and Dela Cruz,

My name is ‘Auli‘i Nathaniel and I writing to testify in strong support of SB1150 Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

When the last state we lived started targeting trans children and their families, we were lucky to come home to the safety of Hawai‘i. We could breathe easier and focus on the important aspects of raising our children - their education, social development, getting them to eat vegetables sometimes - without the fear that someone would decide to turn us into the state for respecting who our child is. They are just kids and should be able to worry about normal kid stuff - not threats to their right to exist freely. With increasing threats toward this vulnerable population growing, Hawai‘i must remain true to our values and protect the safety and wellbeing of our mahū, trans, and nonbinary community. This care and general respect does not just improve lives but outright saves lives.

On behalf of many parents who want nothing more than the chance to raise healthy happy kids, I urge you to pass this SB1150 and protect our community members and values.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

‘Auli‘i Nathaniel

Volcano, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:15:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:18:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Hall Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for this bill. I am in favor of body autonomy regardless of what a person's choices of gender, sexuality, religion, or circumstances are.

Protections for this autonomy are critical to keep our community mentally healthy and for peace of mind that they are getting quality healthcare without judgement for their personal freedom to choose.

Keep moving this forward! Mahalo for your service

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:26:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Wayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having watched someone I love grow and thrive while receiving gender-affirming care, I know that it can be life-saving for those making a transition. No state agency should have the power to remove a child from their parents because they are receiving such crucial care. This bill will prevent that, and in doing so will ensure that our state continues to support those who need such care to become vital members of our community. Thank you for supporting it.

Valerie Wayne, Professor Emerita, UH Manoa

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!"

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:36:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Lawrence Frank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lawrence P Frank Jr “Bo” PhD

Support: SB 1150 SD 1

Aloha Chairs and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I humbly ask you to urgently pass SB 1150 SD 1. According to existing medical data and research, gender-affirming care is medically necessary for transgender youth/people, which coincides with my doctoral research. Not passing this bill will allow blatant discrimination against transgender people seeking affirming medical care. This bill’s passage is ultimately lifesaving for my 14-year-old MTF transgender daughter, who has been receiving gender-affirming care for the past three years. For Sakoda and hundreds of other transgender people in Hawai‘i, taking away their medically necessary gender-affirming care would be detrimental to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, increasing the potential of suicidality. Please pass this protective and clarifying law, SB 1150 SD 1, to provide appropriate care for my daughter and the transgender community in Hawai‘i!

Transgender-affirming medical care for transgender youth/people will not only positively impact other social "issues" (athletics, housing, employment) that are currently on the rise as transgender people live authentically but also contribute to a more inclusive and diverse community. I unpretentiously ask for your support for my daughter and all transgender people in our community. Hawaiian history documents the honored and respected position transgender people held in the past; their demise is a tragedy of my ancestors, based on colonization. It is time to rectify past mistakes and acknowledge the dreadful history of transgender people, our marginalized family members, and community members, providing an opportunity to be welcomed in society as contributing members. Hawaiian history and especially modern science provide ample evidence that gender-affirming medical care is proper, the pono way to care for our transgender community as HUMAN BEINGS!

Please help SB 1150 SD 1 become law and allow my daughter and all transgender people a chance to live a dignified life as contributing members of society in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Lawrence P Frank Jr “Bo” PhD

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:41:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life, and always have. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:48:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe in the importance of gender-affirming care protections for the state of Hawaii. These protections are vital for ensuring that every individual, regardless of their gender identity, can access the healthcare they need without fear of discrimination or undue hardship.

Gender-affirming care is not just a medical necessity for many transgender and nonbinary people, but a fundamental human right. Denying this care causes real harm, from mental health struggles to physical health risks. Hawaii has long been a beacon of inclusion and respect for diversity, and continuing to protect gender-affirming care is crucial to upholding these values.

We must stand in solidarity with our transgender and nonbinary neighbors, affirming their dignity and their right to live authentic, healthy lives. Protecting gender-affirming care is an essential step toward a just and equitable society for all. Let's ensure that Hawaii remains a place where everyone is valued, accepted, and supported.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:49:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
(Rev.) Cloudia Charters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, greetings to our esteemed lawmakers, The times we are experiencing now are extremely frightening to many people. Even those of us lucky enough to be resident in blue States like Hawai'i are experiencing real anxiety about the future of our country and our healthcare. I think this is a brave bill that deserves our support. I hope the federal courts would protect us from any retribution from the administration. God bless you all for the important job you do now more than ever. Mahalo. Rev. Cloudia Charters

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:04:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Summers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please! We must stand the line against our freedoms being eroded.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:18:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:28:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Malate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Emily Malate and I'm a licensed clinical social worker that has served the east side of the Big Island of Hawaii for 25 years. I provide mental health individual, group and family therapy. In a volunteer role I serve on the board of Kumukahi Health + Wellness. The clinic attached to our organization is one of just a few places individuals and families can turn to access gender affirming care for people on Hawaii Island.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB1150. The current presidency has made it clear that access to gender affirming care faces a serious threat, leaving transgender and non-binary individuals more vulnerable to depression, shame and suicide. I believe the bill will offer some buffering and safety to protect this special population in our state.

I have worked with many transgender and non-binary clients. The dysphoria they face is real and causes severe depression and anxiety. In multiple cases I have seen the power of gender affirming care resolve depression, suicidal ideation and renew a sense of belonging in the world. The path of those who are transgender is already full of struggle - taking away access to gender affirming care would be taking away hope, resolve and a sense of future for many. Please help us maintain protections for and access to gender affirming care.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Emily Malate, LCSW

Hilo, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:30:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carm Akim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

There is an urgent and compelling need for continued research into suicidality outcomes following gender-affirming treatment. We lack objective and credible data to justify this bill. Future studies must incorporate diverse measures of suicidality and rigorously control for factors such as psychiatric comorbidity, substance use, and other elements that heighten suicide risk. By doing so, we can enhance the validity and robustness of the findings, ultimately leading to better-informed decisions in clinical practice, especially legislation.

Furthermore, the implications of these research gaps extend to the informed consent process for gender-affirming treatments. Given the current shortcomings in methodological rigor within the existing literature, it is crucial that we address these areas of concern to ensure the **safety and well-being** of individuals seeking gender-affirming care. Therefore, prioritizing this research is not just beneficial but imperative for advancing our understanding and improving outcomes for vulnerable populations. I suggest supporting measures that help with research rather than jumping to conclusions that this bill will prevent individuals from taking their lives.

Mahalo,

Carm Akim, RN MSN WCC

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:31:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Casandra Simonson, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/22/25

SB1150- In Support

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD FAAP and I am testifying on my own behalf and not representing anyone else. I have been a community pediatrician serving Native Hawaiian and underserved keiki in Maui for over 10 years and here today to talk to you about the importance of supporting SB1150.

Teenagers can be hard to talk to. It's a lot of shrugs and "ums", and "huhs"? But sometimes my patient is a teenager with a secret. Sometimes it is a boy with a secret suitcase of women's clothing ready and waiting for when they turn 18. Sometimes it's a transgender teen whose father is in the military. A teen who told me her Dad would hurt her, badly, if he ever found out. According to some, I am the one hurting children, mutilating them without their parents' consent. Not only can I not do that, I can't do anything without both parent's or guardian's consent. Many parents choose to try to help their child. That is their right and in my opinion as a pediatrician, it is the right choice. Gender affirming care is about safety. There are people suffering, hiding, waiting for escape. Some only find escape by suicide.

Being transgender isn't contagious. Being transgender doesn't hurt anyone else. Transgender care is between the patient, their family, and their doctor and no one else.

We have the opportunity in Hawaii to be a safe place, a strong place, an independent place. We have a chance to reflect on our values. The state should protect and respect parents right to seek care for their children. In the future, when people look back on this time in dismay and disbelief, supporting SB1150 will ensure your voting record be on the right side of history.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 4:04:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the JDC & WAM Committees: Mahalo for the courage to advance this measure, critical for supporting and protecting the medical rights, personal autonomy, and family values of Hawai'i. I offer this testimony is strong support of SB1150. In 2024, Ward Research found that 64% of Hawai'i voters support gender-affirming care (10% not having enough information). The attacks on our transgender community are not only a violation of their individual rights and our state rights, they go beyond into the realm of inhumane. Protecting the rights and individuality of all people in our community is central to our beliefs and ideals. Please support this measure and in doing so, continue to protect the rights of all people in Hawai'i and the values we cherish deeply of compassion and aloha. Mahalo nui.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 4:56:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Acohido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

gender-affirming care is health care and saves lives.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 5:39:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB1150. Gender affirming care is safe health care. Please pass this measure to make sure this health care is available to those who need them.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 6:17:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka) SisterFace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha's committee and committee chair, I fully and my partner fully support all protections for gender affirming care, whether it be this particular Bill or others which I will always speak up for we must not forget all the work prior that we have done regardless of the federal view and protections that have been laid to risk. We need to protect within our state how to make protections more solid I appreciate everyone's work involved that will be it. I am in full support!

HRH

Testimony for the Record
Submitted to the
Hawai'i Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees
in Support of
Senate Bill 1150
February 26, 2025
Gerald T. Montano, DO, MS
Community Pediatrician

Dear Chairs Rhoads, Gabbard, Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees:

My name is Gerald Montano. I give this testimony as a Hawai'i-licensed physician with an American Board of Pediatrics certification in general pediatrics and specialty board certification in adolescent medicine. I have over ten years of experience in gender-affirming care and cared for over five-hundred transgender and gender-diverse youth and young adults. Additionally, I have conducted research, scholarship, and teaching in LBGQTIA Health.

I am asking for the Hawai'i legislature to protect: (a) healthcare access for transgender and gender-diverse youth, (b) parents' rights in seeking healthcare for their child, and (c) a healthcare provider's right to practice compassionate, evidence-based medicine **by passing SB1150**, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain such care.

Gender-affirming care is the process of affirming and expressing one's internal sense of gender, rather than the gender assigned to them at birth, through behavioral health support and medical/surgical interventions. It is a century-old medical practice. The clear evidence supporting the practice of gender-affirming care has led to all the major medical and mental health professional associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society, the World Professional Association of Transgender Health, and the American Medical Association—which together represent most physicians—to recommend gender-affirming care for children and adolescents. Additionally, there are thirty-two mainstream national and international organizations supportive of gender-affirming care.

However, gender-affirming care has come under attack. Since February 2020, at least 186 bills have been filed in US state legislatures to restrict access to gender-affirming care.^{1,2} These bills would bar medical providers from prescribing gender-affirming hormone therapy (including puberty blockers) or performing gender-affirming surgeries on adolescents under age 18 years.^{1,2} In addition to prohibiting specific medical interventions, these bills would also mandate jail time and fines for medical providers, and in some cases parents, who seek gender-affirming care for their transgender or gender-diverse children.^{1,3} Most recently, the current US President issued an executive order aimed at restricting access to gender-affirming health care for minors. The order calls for a complete reversal of federal support for gender-affirming care for youth under age 19.⁴

Studies consistently find that transgender and gender-diverse youth are highly vulnerable to mental and behavioral health problems, including depression, anxiety, and substance use.⁵ A large, multi-state survey found that 35% of transgender youth reported having attempted suicide in the past year.⁶

It is important to understand that these poor outcomes are not because of one's gender identity, but rather due to a combination of gender dysphoria—the experience of significant distress about not having the physical characteristics of the gender one identifies with—and the shame and discrimination they face because of their gender identity, thus the need for gender-affirming care.

The evidence and clinical guidelines written by the Endocrine Society,⁷ WPATH Standards of Care,⁸ and the University of California at San Diego's Center of Excellence for Transgender Health⁹ and recommendations from organization like the AAP and the Endocrine Society inform the medical and mental health care of transgender and gender diverse youth. Guidelines on gender-affirming care are thorough, individualized, and family centered. Any decisions on gender-affirming care are made together by the multidisciplinary care team, family, and child and will require parental permission.

Gender-affirming care is not just about medicines. It is also about social support. For example, the only recommendation for the treatment of school-age, pre-pubescent children is allowing the child to wear the clothes and hair they want, use preferred name and pronouns, and play with the toys they like. This is referred to as social transition. This treatment brings tremendous benefits for transgender and gender-diverse youth, including decreased depression and anxiety,^{10,11} and improvement of school wellbeing, decreasing truancy, and lower levels of bullying.¹²

Medications in gender-affirming care are only given when: (1) a child has already started puberty, which can be distressing to youth with gender dysphoria, and (2) has displayed insistence, consistence and persistence in their gender identity. Not all transgender and gender diverse youth need or would like to use medications to affirm their gender identity. Puberty blockers, which are completely reversible, help give time for parents, youth, and providers to consider less reversible options and allows the youth not to have to deal with going through the puberty that is wrong for them and therefore decreases their distress. Puberty blockers are safe medications that have been used for many decades previously for children who are starting puberty too early or what is referred to as precocious puberty.¹³ We have multiple studies on the reversibility and on the safety and psychosocial benefits of these medications for gender dysphoria,¹⁴⁻²¹ including similar psychosocial outcomes in young adulthood to cisgender youth and rates of suicidality three times lower than in youth who did not have access to puberty blocking medications.²⁰

Hormone therapy, like estrogen or testosterone, are partially reversible options for treatment. This allows for a young person to essentially go through the puberty that aligns with their gender identity. It is important to note that changes occur over a period of several years, like the natural puberty process. There is strong evidence that these hormones are safe and provide psychosocial benefit to youth experiencing gender dysphoria.^{15,22-32} Hormone therapy does not sterilize. Many

studies have shown that people who have started hormone therapy are still able to have children after stopping or even when on hormone therapy.³³ This is why contraception is still recommended for all transgender and gender diverse people on gender affirming hormones.

For many transgender and non-binary individuals their chest and genitals may be a significant cause of distress, and they may choose to have a variety of gender-affirming surgical procedures to achieve alignment of their body with their gender identity. It is also important to note that many transgender individuals do not want or are not able to have gender-affirming surgeries for a variety of reasons. Most of these surgeries are offered to those eighteen and above and are not the main treatments for gender-affirming care for youth. The most common surgical procedure among older adolescents is masculinizing chest surgery, which is often referred to as top surgery. For those trans-masculine youth who are born designated female but have already developed breast tissue, they frequently experience severe distress related to their chest, almost universally wearing chest binders to flatten the appearance of the chest and/or withdrawing socially. Top surgery which involves removing breast tissue to create a more masculine chest appearance has been shown to have tremendous social and psychological benefit for transmasculine adolescents and young adults. Any genital reassignment surgery, if desired and appropriate, happens after age 18 and these procedures have shown similar benefit.³⁴

Several studies show that anti-trans legislation has led to an increased mental health burden to transgender and gender-diverse youth^{35,36}, including increased rates of depression, suicidality, and anxiety when compared to their cisgender peers. In addition, these policies have been associated with increased likelihood of violence against transgender and gender-diverse youth based on their gender identity.³⁷ It would also burden Hawai`i's healthcare resources as untreated gender dysphoria may result in unnecessary use of medical and mental health services that do not address it.³⁸ In contrast, nondiscrimination laws and other inclusive policies have been associated with decreased depressive symptoms and nicotine use among transgender and gender-diverse youth.³⁹

Parents of transgender and gender-diverse youth who have lost access to evidence-based gender-affirming care have reported an increase in symptoms of anxiety, stress, depression and hypervigilance in their transgender or gender-diverse children.³⁷ In places where bills have been proposed but have not passed (e.g., in Florida, there are laws that criminalize caregivers who allow their child to receive gender-affirming care), caregivers must make the agonizing decision to move to another state where gender-affirming care is protected.⁴⁰

Gender-affirming care bans have also impacted medical and mental health providers. Providers are leaving the states where these bans are implemented.^{41,42} In cases where providers can still provide gender-affirming care, they face ethical dilemmas in providing care due to possible loss of license or being sued because the patient they treated has changed their gender identity.⁴² Additionally, providers are forced to make a mandated report of child abuse if a parent seeks their help regarding their child's gender identity.⁴³ One study showed that the overall number of mental health providers who offered trans-specific care to trans adolescents was fewer in states with more restrictive laws/policies for transgender people.⁴⁴ Hawai`i struggles to recruit competent healthcare providers, with 732 physicians needed to meet its citizens' healthcare

needs.⁴⁵ Any policy that would restrict or threaten to restrict the provision of care would hamper Hawai`i's efforts to recruit and retain healthcare providers.

Transgender and gender diverse youth face many threats to their health and wellbeing, especially with the recent onslaught of bills and executive orders restricting access to their healthcare. Additionally, states that have banned gender-affirming care have forced many families to leave to seek evidence-based healthcare for their children in other states. Finally, Hawai`i has a healthcare professional shortage and struggles to recruit and retain healthcare professionals. To protect transgender and gender-diverse youth, provide a reason for our ohana to stay in Hawai`i and recruit and retain healthcare professionals, **I strongly urge passage of SB1150**. Thank you for your consideration.

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SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:34:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Buck Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am appealing to your moral high ground and kinder, humane sensibilities as I humbly but urgently ask that you support the HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT, to endure the ALL individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care WITHOUT FEAR of discrimination or legal repercussions. Hawai'i nei has LONG been known for our deeply held values of inclusion, bodily autonomy and ho'ihii/respect for all individuals.

As a parent, pastor, educator and concerned citizen, I have not only experienced the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals, I have been dismayed by recent unbelievable executive orders causing great fear and anxiety for these vulnerable populations. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being for ALL. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lauren Buck Medeiros
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:06:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaiiin every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:11:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill expands Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services. Please, let's support our transgender citizens by passing this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:38:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haunani Iao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

Jamie D. Agapoff M.D, M.S. (she/they)
Email: jamie@jamieagapoff.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150 SD1. I am a Board Certified Psychiatrist and a World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) GEI SOC8 Certified Member, who trained locally, is licensed in the state, and continues to teach, mentor, and collaborate on research with local providers.

Right now, the bodily autonomy and rights of transgender people across the U.S. are being threatened or limited in frightening ways. In the last few years, hundreds of bills have been proposed or made into law. This is happening despite strong evidence that supporting transgender people and providing them access to gender affirming care saves lives and improves mental health outcomes [1]. For example, research from the Family Acceptance Project show that LGBTQ youth who experience low family acceptance of their LGBTQ identity report higher levels of depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts [2]. Conversely, a large national sample of LGBTQ youth found that being respectful of a youth's gender identity was associated with just over 40% lower odds of them attempting suicide in the past year [3]. The measures outlined in SB1150 would help safeguard Hawai'i's transgender community.

In 2023, the State of Hawaii's Department of Health released a statement on rights and public health, acknowledging that all TGD persons "...should have an equitable opportunity to achieve their optimal state of health and well-being." It recognized the unique contributions of māhūwahine, māhūkāne, transgender, gender diverse people, and other populations to the diversity of Hawai'i, and the importance of protecting them from discrimination. SB1150 will help.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care. As a physician who provides gender affirming care, I believe SB1150 SD1 is essential to protect TGD persons and their families.

Sincerely,
Jamie D. Agapoff M.D., M.S.
WPATH GEI SOC8 Certified Member

References:

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<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-6171.2010.00246.x>

3) The Trevor Project. Behaviors of Supportive Parents and Caregivers for LGBTQ Youth. (2022)
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SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:28:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

22 February 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act.

I am writing to you, having the unique perspective of being (I believe) the only transgender pediatrician practicing in Hawai'i. As such, I not only see the benefits that this care affords my patients and their families, but I also know how gender-affirming care has benefited me directly. Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, (of which I am a member), the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychological Association, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. As both a provider and recipient of gender-affirming care, I can attest that this is absolutely true.

This act ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

No parent should be criminalized for allowing their keiki to receive medical care recommended by their health care team, nor should healthcare providers face legal threats for providing safe, ethical, and lifesaving treatments.

When I became a doctor, I took the Hippocratic Oath, the gist of which is encapsulated in the Latin phrase, *primum non nocere*, first, do no harm. Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous. I believe that children are being harmed and will die needlessly due to these laws. It is my sworn duty to oppose such laws.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and keeping our keiki safe.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle T.W. Lum, MD

she/her/hers

Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:10:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because:

- This bill is not about the autonomy of adults - it is about the protection of children.
- More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minor children, and Hawaii should not join the ones that encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently. These gender-transition procedures are often permanent and life-changing. They block natural puberty, drastically change hormone levels, and can even involve the removal of healthy body parts and organs.
- States should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them toward irreversible sterilizing procedures that could result in lasting harm.
- Legislators have a duty to uphold the well-being of the children they are entrusted to protect.
- Current medical research shows that so-called “gender-affirming” treatments for adolescents, including social affirmation, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries, provide little to no long-term mental health benefits.
- Despite the arguments that suicide is the driving force for these laws, studies do not support the claim that these interventions lower suicide risk in adolescents with Gender Dysphoria. Instead, long-term outcomes remain unclear, raising serious concerns about the irreversible impact of these treatments.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:32:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!"

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:19:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Fujita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Individuals should have dominion over their own bodies. It is the Christian religion that drives the 'only two genders' idea, yet many cultures recognize that there is a gender spectrum i.e. the effeminate men and butch women. Let people be happy with themselves, they aren't harming anyone and the moral police can just look the other way if they feel offended.

Mahalo for listening,

Ruth Fujita

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:02:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Gately	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:11:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha WAM and JUD Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing in **strong support of SB1150 SD1**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai‘i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai‘i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai‘i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai‘i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Makiki, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:27:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a pediatrician specializing in children with developmental and behavioral conditions, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP

Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:50:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on SB 1150 SD1 Relating to Health Care.

-Despite the arguments that suicide is the driving force for these laws, studies do not support the claim that these interventions lower suicide risk in adolescents with Gender Dysphoria. Instead, long-term outcomes remain unclear, raising serious concerns about the irreversible impact of these treatments.

-Please oppose policies that promote medical transitions for minors. There is no long-term, peer-reviewed research that supports their safety and effectiveness.

-Support policies that protect parental rights in education and medical decision-making.

-Ensure that public school curriculums prioritize age-appropriate, evidence-based education that does not introduce controversial gender ideologies to young children.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB1150. Instead, it would be wonderful if policymakers focused on approaches that prioritize children's well-being, parental rights, and scientific integrity.

Thank you.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:52:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Marie Beardsley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% in favor of this SB1150. There is a plain attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. These are our neighbors, our children, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

**It has been devastating to the transgender community, and their families and loved ones----
---AND AS A PSYCHOLOGIST , we hear the fear, grief and human suffering of OHANA
and individuals experiencing this attack in our communities.** The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry and are having real life consequences on the health and wellbeing of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, cause chaos and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:06:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:09:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Russo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1150 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS AND MEANS February 26, 2025

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the joint Senate Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees:

It has become clear that extremists across the nation have made it their priority to target women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community by stripping away their rights, especially access to health care.

Dozens of states across the nation have either passed or are considering passing laws prohibiting gender affirming health care to people of ALL AGES. These laws target providers and recipients, making it a criminal offense to provide gender affirming care. The LGBTQIA+ community is under unprecedented attack across the nation, and it is our responsibility to stand up to bullies and protect the civil and basic human rights of our fellow residents from overreach from other states on the continent.

In 2023, we passed a similar bill, now enacted in ACT 2, to address specific protections for reproductive rights. I believe that, together, we can continue to make a difference and also pass protections for gender affirming care.

SB 1150 will provide significant legal and civil protections to individuals and entities providing and receiving gender affirming care. It will:

- Defends Hawai'i's Sovereignty: This is a STATE'S RIGHTS issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent.
- Protects Parents' Rights: Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals and legal in Hawai'i.
- Supports Families and Medical Professionals: Parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states.
- Ensures Medical Privacy: Ensuring that your medical records belong to YOU. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities.

- Defends Hawai'i's Healthcare Providers: Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws.
- Preserves Indigenous Values: This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pacifica Islanders, who have long embraced gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values.
- Reinforces Existing Protections: This legislation mirrors the protections for reproductive rights enacted under 2023's ACT 2, extending the same security to gender-affirming care.
- **What this bill does not do:**
 - **✗ It does NOT authorize surgeries on minors;**
 - **✗ It does NOT permit prescriptions without parental consent;**
 - **✗ It does NOT force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender;**
 - **✗ It does NOT allow children to be removed from their families.**

Hawai'i will not bow to the politics of fear and hate. Please support SB 1150.

Mahalo for you time and consideration.

Sarah Simmons
Volcano, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:36:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members of JDC and WAM,

I am opposed to SB 1150. I urge you to:



Oppose policies that promote medical transitions for minors until long-term, peer-reviewed research supports their safety and effectiveness.



Support policies that protect parental rights in education and medical decision-making.



Ensure that public school curriculums prioritize age-appropriate, evidence-based education that does not introduce controversial gender ideologies to young children.

Instead, I encourage policymakers to focus on approaches that prioritize children's well-being, parental rights, and scientific integrity.

Mahalo for your kokua!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:40:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheeren Masifi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a family medicine physician, I have had the honor of learning each patient’s mental and physical health journey, and come to deeply appreciate the importance of protecting each person’s right to self-determination, regardless of how they identify. Nor am I alone in this understanding—medical societies and individual professionals overwhelmingly agree that gender-affirming care is crucial to good mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing something so indispensable. Under the Hippocratic oath I have taken, I believe it is morally requisite for me to continue to provide this care, and greatly appreciate your help in providing me with the appropriate legal protections to ensure I can continue to fulfill my duties without fear of retaliation.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill holds true to tradition. I implore you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our medical professionals and community members.

Mahalo for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Sheeren Masifi, MD

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:43:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is a place of love and aloha. Please do what's right and support our transgender children and community members!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:48:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:48:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richelle Concepcion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:54:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyla Stueber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:56:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this important bill

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. They contribute to our community and economy. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:40:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gilbert Mendelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150 to protect our children and families. Everyone deserves the appropriate healthcare including gender affirming care. No government or executive order should attack children and families that need our care.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:03:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Vorm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It has been devastating to the transgender community, their loved ones and providers of gender affirming care. The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry and are having real life consequences on the health and wellbeing of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, cause chaos and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support. Please support this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:44:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Rhoads and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Jen Mather and I am writing in SUPPORT of SB1150 as a mother of one transgender teen currently undergoing gender-affirming care and one queer teen. I am deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of my children and the dedicated healthcare providers who support them. I believe SB1150 affirms Hawai‘i’s commitment to protecting access to necessary and life-saving health care.

Gender-affirming care is not just beneficial—it is essential. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and numerous other reputable medical organizations recognize gender-affirming health care as evidence-based, medically necessary, and life-saving. The AAP has explicitly stated, "For many transgender youth, gender-affirming care is associated with lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation." Denying this care puts lives at risk and contributes to unnecessary suffering among transgender youth and their families.

As a parent, my primary responsibility is to provide my child with the support and care they need to thrive. My child, like so many others, has struggled with gender dysphoria—a condition recognized by the medical community—and has found relief, confidence, and happiness through gender-affirming treatment. I have witnessed firsthand the profound and positive transformation that comes from access to competent and compassionate medical care through Transcend Maui - a holistic, wrap-around health care service through Mālama I Ke Ola.

SB1150 is a necessary measure to ensure that families like mine can continue to make informed medical decisions without fear of legal repercussions or government interference from other states. It sends a powerful message that Hawai‘i stands as a sanctuary for bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and fundamental human rights.

Furthermore, this bill provides critical protections for the health care providers who serve transgender individuals. These professionals should not be subjected to criminalization or professional disciplinary actions from other jurisdictions simply for providing legal and ethical medical care in Hawai‘i.

By passing SB1150, Hawai'i will reaffirm its commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of transgender individuals, parents, and medical professionals. I urge this committee to stand on the side of medical integrity, parental rights, and, most importantly, the lives of transgender youth.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony. I respectfully urge you to recommend the passage of SB1150 to the Senate floor without hesitation and help to advocate for its passage through the House, as well.

Me ka ha'aha'a
Jen Mather
Wailuku, Maui

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:24:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support for SB1150. Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful healthcare. Please join me in supporting this critical legislation.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:29:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Maxera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB1150. A world without transgender people has never existed and never will. We must stand up to the violent extremism and hatred of the current administration and protect all humans. There is no reason for these new Executive Orders to target transgender people except for sheer bigotry.

The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:31:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello legislators,

I am testifying in opposition to this bill. Puberty blockers are not harmless. They are not reversible and have been linked to cancer and other mental health issues and suicide later on in life. Children by nature are continually developing and their concepts of themselves may change. Making a permanent irreversible decision when your prefrontal cortex isn't even developed should not be encouraged. I urge you for the good of the children of this state to vote in opposition to this bill.

Thank you, Tanya Baker

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:36:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Fleishour	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote no for this bill. Parents have the right to know if their children were trying to make such drastic decisions such as an abortion or sex change. Please protect our keiki who need proper guidance and wisdom on these matters from parents who love them.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Fleishour, mother of five

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:42:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Nineth Ovando	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A world without transgender people does not exist. All our cultures and going back to when we were all in tribes had multiple genders. This is nothing new. This is an unnecessary fight brought on by narrow minded and uneducated individuals. Transgender people are people and they need to be protected just as much as anyone else.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:01:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% in favor of this SB1150. There is a plain attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. These are our neighbors, our children, our friends and co-employees. We must put laws in place to protect them -- and all of us! Every time you take a stand for individuals' rights and freedoms, we, your constituents, notice. When you don't, we also notice!

Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and the
Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Judiciary
Decision Making Hearing
Wed., Feb 26, 2025 at 10:05 am
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: S.B. 1150, SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Testimony in SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoades, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a resident of Wailuku, Maui. As a friend, family member, and ally of trans people, I submit this testimony today in strong SUPPORT of S.B. 1150, SD1, relating to health care.

I hope that the members of the Committees agree with me that every person has the fundamental right to access the health care they need without fear of discrimination, prejudice, or barriers to treatment that supports their mental, physical, and emotional well-being. Unfortunately, across the country right now, extreme politicians desperate to gain power are attacking the LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender and non-binary youth, and weaponizing critical issues to rally support around anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. I ask that you act now to protect the people of Hawai'i, and LGBTQ+ youth in particular, from these escalating and harmful attacks.

The health care that transgender people need, sometimes referred to as gender-affirming care or transition-related care, is health care for transgender people of all ages. It includes a range of services, including mental health care, medical care, and social services. At all ages, clear, well-established, evidence-based standards of care exist. Gender-affirming care helps transgender and non-binary people live openly and authentically as their true selves. Just like any other form of health care, it also helps transgender and non-binary people live safe and healthy lives.

Gender-affirming care is treatment for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, which impacts many transgender and non-binary people. Gender dysphoria happens when one's gender identity does not match their sex as assigned at birth. According to the Human Rights Campaign, trans people's health care is always delivered in age-appropriate, evidence-based ways, and decisions to provide care are made in consultation with doctors and parents, just like health care for all other people. Collectively representing more than 1.3 million doctors across the United States, every major medical and mental health organization — including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association — recognizes that it is medically necessary to support people in affirming their gender identity.

Gender-affirming care for transgender people is best-practice, medically necessary health care. And research has consistently found that receipt of gender-affirming care can significantly improve the lives of people who receive it. A [recent study](#) from the Trevor Project shows that transgender youth with access to hormone replacement therapy medications have lower rates of depression and are at a lower risk for suicide. A [study by Stanford University School of Medicine](#) found that positive mental health outcomes were higher for transgender people who accessed hormone replacement therapy medications [as teenagers](#), versus those who accessed it as adults. A third study, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), found that two years after initiating hormone replacement therapy medications, transgender youth reported higher levels of life satisfaction and positive affect, and lower levels of gender dysphoria, depression, and anxiety. [Previous studies](#) have also found that transgender and non-binary youth who are able to receive puberty blockers report [positive psychosocial impacts](#), including increased well-being and decreased depression. Other recent studies have found that receipt of puberty blockers can [dramatically reduce risk of suicidality](#) — in some cases by [over 70%](#) — among transgender youth, compared to those who were unable to access desired treatment.

Similar results have been seen for transgender adults: In two separate systematic reviews, one focused on 53 studies exploring mental health following [gender-affirming surgeries](#), and the second focused on 29 studies exploring mental health impact across [multiple forms of gender-affirming care](#), authors found that quality of life and happiness increased among trans adults following receipt of gender-affirming care, and depression, anxiety, suicidality, and suicide attempts, and gender dysphoria were reduced.

Previous studies have found that de-transitioning is quite rare —with some studies finding levels of de-transition and regret as [low as 1% or 2%](#). Transgender youth who meet criteria for gender dysphoria and who undergo social or medical transition are actually [the least likely to de-transition](#) — and those vast majority of transgender youth remain consistent and persistent in their gender identity over time: [One recent study](#), published in the academic journal *Pediatrics*, followed over 300 transgender youth after first initiating social transition, and found that over 92% remained consistent and persistent in their gender identity 5 years later. However, evidence-based standards of care exist to ensure that no one, regardless of their age, undergoes any permanent, irreversible changes without informed consent and careful consultation with medical and mental health care providers.

Based upon the foregoing, I request that you pass S.B. 1150, SD1 to help protect members of our Hawai`i community and especially LGBTQ+ people from attacks on their civil rights.

Thank you.

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:21:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Pollak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and members of the Senate committees,

I am in support of SB1150. I am the mother of an incredible young transgender adult. I am writing today because this issue is deeply personal to me—not as a political debate, not as a theoretical policy discussion, but as the daily reality of my family’s life. The urgent need for transgender-affirming care is not just about healthcare; it’s about saving lives, including the life of my own child.

Like so many parents, I want nothing more than for my child to be happy, healthy, and safe. But as the mother of a transgender person, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles that come with simply trying to exist in a world that so often refuses to understand or accept them. I have seen the anxiety and fear that come from feeling unseen. I watched my child go through nights of tears and fears, wondering if they will ever be accepted for who they are. And I have also seen the incredible difference that gender-affirming care makes—how access to supportive doctors, mental health professionals, and the right medical care has given my child a sense of hope, confidence, and a future they can look forward to.

The statistics make it painfully clear: transgender youth are at a much higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. But what those numbers don’t capture is what that looks like for a parent—watching your child withdraw, struggle, or lose hope simply because they are not given the opportunity to be themselves. Gender-affirming care isn’t just about hormones or medical treatments; it’s about providing young people with the support they need to live. It’s about giving them the same chance at happiness that every other child deserves.

There is so much misinformation about this kind of care, especially when it comes to puberty blockers. Let me be clear: these are not dangerous or irreversible. They simply provide time—time for a young person to fully understand who they are without the pressure of unwanted and distressing physical changes. Time for families like mine to navigate this journey with the guidance of medical professionals. Time to make informed decisions that are in the best interest of the child.

As a parent, I cannot understand why anyone would try to take away the care that allows my child to thrive. These are deeply personal medical decisions that should be made between families, doctors, and patients—not politicians. Every major medical organization, from the

American Academy of Pediatrics to the American Medical Association, recognizes the importance of gender-affirming care. Denying it is not just harmful—it is dangerous. Without it, more children will struggle, more families will suffer, and more lives will be lost.

All children deserve a future where they can grow into the person they are meant to be. I urge you to support policies that protect access to gender-affirming care, so that every transgender person—youth and adult alike—can live with dignity, safety, and hope.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lisa Pollak
Kauai

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:22:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeAnn Iman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

State Senate Citizen Testimony in Favor of SB1150

Aloha Senators,

My name is DeAnn Iman and I live in Kona, Hawaii. I am the mother of a wonderful, strong, and intelligent transgender child, who was born in Hawaii. I am here today to testify in support of SB1150, a bill that will protect access to gender-affirming care for my child and countless others, and prevent the prosecution of parents like me who are simply doing what is best for their children.

My child began to make confident, persistent, and clear statements that he was not comfortable with his birth assigned gender identity at the age of 5. As a parent, it was heartbreaking to see him struggle with this internal conflict, but it was also clear to me that he was trying to communicate something that was very real and very important for my child to know they are loved entirely and completely. As he grew older, his understanding of himself became even clearer, and his persistence in expressing that he was not the gender assigned to him at birth grew stronger. By the time he was 7, we knew we knew our child deserved to have access to professionals to help support his internal struggles and help him navigate through the very real struggles that are unique for each child. He has been under the care of trained mental health professionals and additional medical expert physicians and therapists ever since. Some who specialize in gender identity/gender dysphoria and mental health, some who specialize in children’s health, and some who specialize in hormones. All of whom have always been in support of every part of medical and gender affirming care our child has received.

Today, my child is a happy, thriving middle schooler—a smart, strong, funny, and caring young person who is secure in his identity. He is a good student, plays guitar and was the lead in the school play last fall. He is nearly a black belt in karate, a testament to his determination, discipline, and love for learning new things. He’s also passionate about animals, especially cats—he would love to save every stray cat on this island, a true reflection of his caring nature. And when he’s not busy with school or extracurriculars, you’ll find us at the beach, thanks to his love for the ocean and our beautiful Hawaii. He has been suffering lately as hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in the last quarter on anti-trans marketing, and as misinformation and ignorance on this topic spread and hatred is amplified.

Affirming his gender identity has made a profound difference in his mental and emotional well-being. He is no longer burdened by the weight of trying to be something he is not. Instead, he is flourishing as the person he was always meant to be. The relief, stability, and joy we see in him every day are a testament to the power of having access to gender-affirming care—care provided by medical professionals with the expertise to understand and support children like mine.

But I must also emphasize the danger that denying this care presents. Interrupting or withholding gender-affirming care can be life-threatening. Transgender children who do not have access to appropriate medical care, or who are forced to detransition mid-care, experience significantly higher rates of depression, self-harm, and suicide. To force a child into a situation where their gender identity is not supported is emotional torture. It is not just cruel—it is potentially fatal. These are not abstract issues; they are real, and they affect real families. No child, including mine, deserves to have their rights, their identity, and their future held hostage by political agendas that fail to prioritize their well-being.

It is vital that parents, like myself, continue to have the right to determine the best course of medical care for our children in consultation with professionals who are trained, knowledgeable, and experienced. We, as parents, know our children better than anyone else. We are the ones who see their struggles, their triumphs, and their unique needs. We are the ones who advocate for them every single day, and we rely on the expertise of medical professionals to help guide us in making the best decisions for their well-being. It is both unjust and harmful to allow the government to intervene and criminalize parents for supporting their children with the best, science-backed, peer-reviewed care available.

I have raised four other children to successful adulthood—two currently in college and one who has completed an honorable tour with the military. I am an educated skilled essential worker, and a committed community volunteer here in Hawaii. I have dedicated my life to serving and improving the world around me. The care I provide to my children over the past few decades has always been driven by love, responsibility, and a deep commitment to their well-being.

This bill is not just about protecting my child; it's about protecting the rights of every parent in Hawaii to make decisions in the best interest of their child, without fear of prosecution. Parents should not be criminalized for affirming their children's identities and ensuring they have access to appropriate and necessary healthcare. Please allow us to continue to be the advocates our children need and deserve.

I urge you to pass SB1150. Let us continue to build a community that uplifts and supports all families, where children, regardless of their gender identity, are allowed to live their truth and thrive.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:30:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB1150 in order to provide the dignity and equality that should be afforded to every human being on the planet regardless of their race, gender, or religion. People who are transgender are under attack all the time. It is a fact of life for them even though it is wrong and cruel to mistreat others just because they are different. Denying transgenders gender-affirming health care services just expands on that cruelty and is psychologically harmful. It is not up to legislators to play God and decide who is worthy, and who isn't, of health care citizens need.

State agencies must be prevented from removing a child or parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services. To remove children from parents who support their psychological and material needs, health care, and identity would be cruel and unusual punishment. and very psychologically damaging to transgender children.

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

Thank you for supporting SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:47:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a parent of two teenagers and educator, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shana Brown

Kailua, Oahu

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:52:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Iman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

State Senate Citizen Testimony in Favor of SB1150

Senators,

My name is Robert Iman, and I am the father of a remarkable and strong transgender child. I'm speaking in support of SB1150 today, a bill that will protect the right to gender-affirming care for my child and countless others, and shield parents like me from prosecution for doing what we know is right for our children.

I was born and raised on Oahu's West Side. I'm an honored retired military service member who spent my career fighting for freedom and protecting the rights of people all over the world. I deployed four times to defend this country, believing that the very freedoms I was fighting for would continue to thrive. I never imagined I would face a situation where my rights as a father—my ability to care for and protect my child—could be questioned or stripped away in a way that undermines everything I've fought for.

When my child was 5 years old, they began expressing clear, persistent discomfort with the gender they were assigned at birth. It was a struggle for both of us—seeing my child so unsure of themselves and hurting. But I could tell this wasn't just a passing feeling—it was something much deeper. By the time my child was 7, we reached out for professional support. With guidance from doctors who specialize in gender identity, we made the decision to affirm my child's gender. Over the years, I've seen my child evolve into a confident, happy, and thriving individual who is secure in their identity.

Today, my child is an active, joyful young person. Most importantly, my child is a healthy, well-adjusted person because we have supported them in being who they truly are. They've been given the freedom to live authentically, and that has made all the difference.

However, the stakes are now incredibly high. The idea that I could be criminalized for supporting my child—who is thriving, happy, and loved—is a nightmare. Denying my child access to gender-affirming care, or worse, forcing them to detransition mid-care, would cause immeasurable harm. These are not hypothetical scenarios; they are real, and they could cost my child their happiness, their mental health, and even their life. Studies show that transgender youth who do not have access to affirming care suffer higher rates of suicide, self-harm, and depression. To deny my child the care they need is not just wrong—it is life-threatening.

As a father, I know my child. I have spent my life protecting and providing for my family, and I've always believed in the right to make decisions for my children in their best interest. We, as parents, are entrusted with the responsibility to care for and nurture our children. I would never knowingly harm my child or any child. It is unacceptable that a parent could be punished for acting in the best interest of their child and following the guidance of medical professionals who specialize in these matters. My duty as a parent has always been to protect my children, and I ask that you honor my right to continue doing so without fear of prosecution.

I have raised five children, and I am proud of each of them. My other 4 children are now adults, two of them currently in college, and one who has completed an honorable tour with the military. This is a family that has always worked hard to contribute positively to society. I am proud of my service to this country, and I am proud of the family I've built. I never imagined that a situation like this could threaten our ability to protect and love our youngest child in the same way we've done for all of them. I never imagined my own child would not have the same basic human rights I was going half way around the world to secure for other people of this country's behalf.

SB1150 is crucial for the protection of families like mine. We must preserve the right for parents to provide their children with the care and support they need without the threat of criminalization. Please protect the right to affirm a child's identity and ensure that families can continue to make these decisions with the help of trained professionals.

I urge you to pass SB1150, not just for my family, but for all families in Hawaii. Let us ensure that every child, regardless of gender identity, can grow up healthy, happy, and true to who they are.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Robert Iman

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 2:06:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely not!! Children are under the care of their parents until the age of 18!! What the heck is wrong with you all?! This illegal over reach again is unconstitutional!! Stop!!

GOD SEES & KNOWS ALL!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 2:27:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne T Jim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

I am opposed to this bill which treats minors as adults which is not right. Children/minors are developing and to support them in undergoing therapies or surgeries against their born gender is to abuse them. Parents have the right to raise their children. The Government is not the parent. We must respect the rights of the parents and not cause harm to children. We are the Aloha State and there is NO ALOHA in supporting children in harming themselves. We seem to forget that there is a difference between children and adults. We need to take care of Our Keiki and we do that by taking care of the Ohana that supports and raises them.

Again, please vote NO to SB1159 for the sake of healthy keiki.

Mahalo for reading this.

Aloha,

Roxanne Jim

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 2:27:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Sweet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do you see who this Bill concerns....children!! They need to gain parental permission to drive a car, go on a field trip, and cannot drink until they turn 18, but will be given access to puberty blockers and sex change surgery?!?! This is so crazy!!! As you can see, I vehemently oppose SB 1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 3:09:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amy Jindra
Kapa'a, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 3:10:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Formby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support the protections provided by this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 3:55:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Simao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose SB1150 with the following:

1. Research does not support medical intervention for gender identity related treatment. Puberty blockers & cross-sex hormones are not FDA approved & surgeries experimental, lack long-term safety studies, & often non-reversible. Many countries are now reversing these laws due to safety concerns.
2. There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawaii should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.
3. States should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them (including sex traffickers & adults with an "agenda") toward gender transition procedures.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not allow this bill to pass for the sake of our keiki and our 'Ohana.

Sincerely,

Veronica Simao

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 4:26:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee Ways and Means

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruze, Chair and Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair and Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: SB1150 Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Protections; Child Custody

My name is Rit Kama-Kimura and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to this bill!

It is one thing for those who have reached the legal age of 18 yrs. That is a choice they now have the right to make.

However, those under the age of 18, they are at a vulnerable age! Possibly confused, wanting to fit in, to be a part of the group. They are vulnerable and a target for those with nefarious desires.

These, children are to be protected, nurtured, they are responsibility of their parents, not the government. The parents who know, love, and want what is best for their children.

I do not believe there have been any studies or any real research that supports any of this.

Are you not aware of the numerous growing cases of transition regret! It is not a secret they have been around for years! Just go online!

According to Dr. Michelle Cretella, a respected pediatrician and researcher, delves into the rarely discussed, ↔ irreversible harms associated with puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender transition surgeries. Her insights shed light on a controversial topic, offering a much-needed medical perspective on treatments increasingly offered to young individuals struggling with their gender identity.

People “Born Gay”? - American Psychological Association

There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian orientation. Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social and cultural influences on sexual orientation,

no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors.

We are to protect our vulnerable minor children and not allow them to be exploited.

I ask you to stop this bill from moving forward, I am asking you to please protect our vulnerable children

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 4:49:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado is in strong opposition to this Bill SB1150 SD1

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:14:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. Research does not support medical intervention for gender identity related treatment. Puberty blockers & cross-sex hormones are not FDA approved & surgeries experimental, lack long-term safety studies, & often non-reversible. Many countries are now reversing these laws due to safety concerns.
2. There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawaii should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.
3. States should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them (including sex traffickers & adults with an "agenda") toward gender transition procedures.
I strongly oppose this bill!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:16:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB-1150.

This bill seeks to expand protections for gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) for cases involving children who receive such services.

First and foremost, we must recognize that sex is an immutable biological fact. Every human being is born either male or female, and this is a scientific fact. Attempting to alter or deny this reality can have profound consequences for individuals and society as a whole. The American College of Pediatricians has raised concerns about the medicalization of normal variations in gender identity, especially for keiki.

Gender-affirming medical treatments, such as hormone blockers and cross-sex hormones, can have significant health consequences for keiki. These treatments can impact bone density, fertility, and mental health. The long-term effects are still unknown, and we shouldn't be experimenting with our keiki's health or supporting it. Once a keiki starts down the path of medical transition, it can be difficult to turn back. Surgeries and hormone treatments can lead to permanent changes in their bodies.

This bill will reduce the role of parents in critical decisions regarding their keiki's health care. Gender-affirming care is a significant medical intervention that should involve informed consent from parents or guardians, especially for keiki. Expanding protections without ensuring robust safeguards for keiki could lead to legal disputes and ethical dilemmas. It is crucial to balance the rights of keiki with the need for parental oversight. Without stringent criteria, there is a risk that these protections could be misused, potentially leading to situations where keiki are subjected to treatments without adequate consideration of their long-term well-being.

Clarifying jurisdiction for gender-affirming health care under UCCJEA could create jurisdictional conflicts between states. This might lead to legal challenges and confusion in custody disputes involving keiki who have received such care. This bill does not provide

sufficient clarity on how these jurisdictional changes would be implemented or how they would affect existing custody arrangements. This lack of clarity could lead to legal uncertainty and increased litigation. Potentially altering custody determinations based on gender-affirming care, this bill could disrupt family dynamics and create unnecessary legal barriers for families navigating complex custody issues.

Respectfully, I **STRONGLY** encourage you to vote **NO** on SB-1150.

To:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1150 SD1, which seeks to expand protections to include gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdictional matters in child custody cases involving such services.

The challenges faced by transgender and gender-diverse individuals in accessing necessary health care services are at an urgent and dangerous level under the current national administration. SB1150 SD1 represents a significant step toward ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender identity, can access the health care they need without fear of discrimination or legal complications in Hawai'i.

Furthermore, the bill's provision to clarify jurisdiction in child custody cases involving gender-affirming health care is crucial. It provides legal clarity and ensures that decisions are made in the best interests of the child, free from unnecessary legal hurdles.

This bill isn't about creating new healthcare practices—it's about **protecting Hawai'i residents** from external threats and upholding the healthcare standards we've chosen for ourselves. It's about preserving our **freedom**, our **privacy**, and our **cultural integrity** in the face of growing interference from the continent.

I urge you to support SB1150 SD1 and contribute to making Hawaii a more inclusive and just state for all its residents.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:03:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This is approving and facilitating child abuse. Mutilating children's bodies! This madness needs to stop! Kill this bill!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:47:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucky Lemieux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I've always understood most people aren't out to get me. Rather, a lot of them squint, confused, at what I am, the space I occupy in society. "Why would you want to take *hormones*? Cut your boobs off?" They ask, a slight derision in their voice they don't even recognize. Now, one would hope this derision wouldn't go past the individual conversation, which can only hurt you on a personal level. That the institutions making said decisions are not filled with that same disgust and confusion.

That is not the case.

Doctors don't know how to talk to you. Referral offices drag their feet approving your applications to endocrinology. Once you finally get to endocrinology, your medication is denied through an arbitrary requirement. Health insurances ask you to jump through hoops, the threat of medical debt looming if you prove yourself unworthy. The President and others in our legislative branch make you a scapegoat, based solely on their unwillingness to understand.

Why do I point this out? Well. All I ask of you, legislative body of Hawai'i, is to *protect your transgender residents*. Do not leave the decisions about our healthcare up to the individual. Do not depend on them using their better instincts, their higher intellect. It is a shaky principle at best, and a horrifically naive one at worst.

Very few people are truly awful, truly bigoted. Most are simply misinformed, struggling to understand a new concept in a world of turmoil. That confusion should not be the thing that denies me my rights to healthcare.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 7:45:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Rhodes, Gabbard, Dela Cruz, and Morowaki, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is a vital step towards ensuring Hawai'i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

My spouse has received gender affirming health care here in Hawai'i for the last 5 years. From first hand experience, I can tell you that being able to receive affordable primary care from a competent and empathetic provider is life-saving. But now we both fear that this provider could be targeted by spurious lawsuits from those seeking to impede access to gender-affirming care by consenting adults. This is harmful on both a personal and a population level -- we should never target anyone for persecution based on identity.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are put into place here. With this bill, SB1150, we are merely asking that health care providers be permitted to continue to practice that aloha without fear of outside entities interfering with specious claims of harm. This bill does not exempt providers from all of the mandated reporting laws governing response to child abuse or trafficking. Living in shame is harmful; living into your full humanity helps all of us.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alissa Nelson, LMSW, MPH

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:01:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose SB1150 due to its overreach into parental rights, legal jurisdiction, and due process. This bill undermines the principles of family autonomy, disrupts established legal frameworks for child custody, and creates significant risks for both families and the state of Hawai'i.

SB1150 reclassifies parental refusal to provide "gender-affirming care" as medical neglect, equating it with child abuse. This diminishes parental discretion in medical decision-making and allows courts to override parental authority even in the absence of demonstrable harm. Furthermore, by permitting non-parents to seek emergency jurisdiction over minors, **the bill undermines due process by limiting parental ability to contest custody decisions.** Family autonomy must be preserved, and parents should not be excluded from critical medical decisions affecting their children.

SB1150 alters the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) by granting Hawai'i courts expanded emergency jurisdiction over out-of-state minors brought to the state for medical procedures. This **creates a legal loophole that could incentivize individuals—including non-relatives—to transport minors across state lines without parental consent, circumventing existing custody agreements and state laws.**

Additionally, the bill prevents cooperation with extradition requests related to custody disputes, **effectively designating Hawai'i as a legal sanctuary for those seeking to remove children from parental custody without legal consequence.** This departure from national legal norms could jeopardize Hawai'i's ability to enforce its own custody rulings in other states.

By weakening legal protections against unauthorized custody transfers, **SB1150 creates vulnerabilities that could be exploited by bad actors,** including those with coercive or harmful intentions. The bill provides no clear safeguards to ensure that minors transported across state lines for medical procedures are acting of their own free will or receiving appropriate medical oversight.

Furthermore, the bill's confidentiality provisions limit parental access to medical records, obstructing their ability to ensure their child's well-being. This **lack of transparency conflicts**

with well-established legal principles that recognize parental rights in medical decision-making and child welfare.

SB1150's unilateral approach to custody and medical jurisdiction could have unintended consequences for Hawai'i's legal standing. If the state refuses to return minors to their legal guardians in other jurisdictions, it risks undermining reciprocity under the UCCJEA, which could hinder Hawai'i's ability to reclaim its own children in future custody disputes. The bill also raises constitutional concerns, as it **may conflict with the Full Faith and Credit Clause, which requires states to recognize and enforce each other's legal judgments.**

SB1150 goes beyond protecting children—it disrupts legal norms, erodes parental rights, and creates significant risks for families and the state's legal framework. Instead of advancing policies that weaken custody protections and parental involvement, the legislature should focus on solutions that prioritize both child welfare and due process.

I urge you to vote **NO** on SB1150 to protect family integrity, uphold legal consistency, and ensure child safety under a fair and balanced legal framework.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Zehr

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:01:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must uphold our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Nikki-Ann Yee

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:02:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micaela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please accept my testimony in full support of the Health Care Protection Act, a bill aimed at ensuring access to gender-affirming healthcare to all individuals that may need it without fear of judgement of discrimination. Our state has a long history of upholding an individual's right to their own body, and this bill upholds those same values.

I have seen firsthand the impacts GAC has had on our transgender, nonbinary, and Mahu community members. The statistics clearly highlight the importance of having access to care like this, and the implications not having access to care can have on mental health and well-being. There should never be fear of legal repercussions for seeking care for your livelihood.

This bill will continue Hawai'i's longstanding tradition of protecting its community and ensuring that no one is penalized for seeking the care they need. It is more important than ever for you to pass this critical legislation and show our community you care.

Thank you for your time.

Micaela Hines

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:36:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i.

It is critical that Hawai‘i take immediate action to protect health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions. Furthermore this bill will protect us from national policies threatening access to medically necessary care.

As a nurse practitioner, I can attest that nearly all reputable medical and psychological organizations recognize that gender affirming care is essential for the well being of transgender folks. This care is lifesaving and critical. Numerous studies have demonstrated improvements in health, mental health and life satisfaction. Additionally they show how gender affirming care reduces health disparities with a clear reduction in risk of nearly every metric including suicidal ideation and attempts. As someone who provides gender affirming healthcare, this bill would protect me and my colleagues while providing medical care to all members of our community.

Hawai‘i has difficulty attracting and maintaining quality healthcare providers. Without the protections that SB1150 includes, doctors and nurse practitioners may be more motivated to find work in other states rather than take care of patients in our state.

As a friend and family member of several trans and gender expansive persons, access to gender affirming care affects me personally. I want my family to continue to have access to safe and affirming healthcare. As a healthcare provider, I can assert that access to gender affirming care improves peoples' lives.

Many of my patients have told me they are worried that the state of Hawai‘i does not value them. In addition to protecting patients' access to healthcare, this bill will show them and everyone who has a transgender family member that Hawai‘i will defend each citizen regardless of the current political climate.

This bill would prevent laws from other jurisdictions to dehumanize or undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Should you or any member of your staff have any questions regarding this testimony, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am more than happy to provide additional information about gender affirming care or the research that demonstrates its efficacy.

Mahalo nui loa,

Shanda Brack, APRN

Statement in Support of SB1150

I am writing to express my strong support for SB1150. This legislation is crucial for protecting the rights and well-being of our children, families, and communities. SB1150 represents a commitment to upholding the rights and well-being of our children, honoring cultural traditions, and safeguarding personal freedoms.

Cultural Significance of Gender Diversity:

In Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultures, individuals embodying both masculine and feminine qualities, often referred to as *māhū*, have historically held respected roles as healers, caretakers, and educators. They are integral to the cultural fabric, embodying a balance that is deeply revered. Discriminatory practices against transgender individuals not only undermine these cultural traditions but also inflict profound harm on the mental health and identity of community members. Let's protect our people and cultures and protect these sacred traditions and identities.

Impact of Family Separation on Mental Health:

Research indicates that forcibly removing children from their parents can lead to severe psychological distress, including anxiety, depression, and long-term emotional trauma. Such separations disrupt the essential parent-child bond, leading to adverse outcomes that can persist throughout a child's life. This bill, therefore, protects families from policies that would otherwise harm children in ways that could negatively affect them for the rest of their lives.

Preservation of Reproductive Rights:

The autonomy to make decisions regarding contraception and pregnancy is a fundamental right. These deeply personal choices significantly impact a woman's health and future. It is inhumane to force anyone to continue a pregnancy, especially survivors of rape. For those who claim this bill is about protecting children—this is simply not the case, and we have a wealth of data to prove it. Legislative overreach into these areas not only infringes upon personal freedoms but also poses potential health risks. These decisions must remain between a woman, her family, and her healthcare provider.

Learning from Other States' Experiences:

States that have enacted restrictive reproductive laws have witnessed alarming trends, including increased maternal mortality rates and diminished access to women's healthcare services. These policies have also instilled widespread fear among expectant mothers, exacerbating stress during an already vulnerable period. Let us not follow the path of states where pregnant individuals live in fear of how the law might interfere in what is already a stressful, personal, and potentially life-threatening experience. Thanks to modern medicine, childbirth has become far safer—let's not undo that progress by creating an environment of fear and danger here in Hawai'i.

This Bill Truly Protects Children:

If we genuinely care about the well-being of children, we must protect their family relationships, cultural identities, and mental health. Removing children and forcing births without consideration of the mother's circumstances, cultural background, or health does not protect children; it puts them at greater risk of lifelong harm. This bill recognizes that and ensures we are creating supportive, safe environments for our future generations.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Savage, PsyD
Clinical Psychologist

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:45:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150, let's do right by our keiki and families!

1. Research does not support medical intervention for gender identity related treatment. Puberty blockers & cross-sex hormones are not FDA approved & surgeries experimental, lack long-term safety studies, & often non-reversible. Many countries are now reversing these laws due to safety concerns.
2. There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawaii should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.
3. States should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them (including sex traffickers & adults with an "agenda") toward gender transition procedures.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:32:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Okihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB1150 to protect access to gender affirming care to all individuals in Hawai'i.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:21:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Traci Sylva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a parent and grandparent that cares about my children and grandchildren and their friends and family. I am involved in their lives and try to get to know them, their joys and trials. I am trying to protect them. But my support from my elected senators and representatives is being taken away and instead you are making it harder for me to care for the children and instead giving into the agenda of organizations that haven't taken the time to look at ALL the facts and options. Don't you think I have a right to be upset? I'm doing what you are asking me to do. Caring for the keiki. And you are making it harder to do so. Here's some of the facts you may have missed:

- These gender-transition procedures are often permanent and life-changing. They block natural puberty, drastically change hormone levels, and can even involve the removal of healthy body parts and organs.
- Current medical research shows that so-called “gender-affirming” treatments for adolescents, including social affirmation, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries, provide little to no long-term mental health benefits.
- Despite the arguments that suicide is the driving force for these laws, studies do not support the claim that these interventions lower suicide risk in adolescents with Gender Dysphoria. Instead, long-term outcomes remain unclear, raising serious concerns about the irreversible impact of these treatments.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:44:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Robertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:05:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Chris Lipat D.C.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

I am a queer, nonbinary identified Filipin@ holistic chiropractor and energy worker and had been successfully providing my services in Honolulu for over 13 years. For family reasons, I moved to Guam from Hawai'i from 2023-2024. Gender affirming care is not covered by Guam health insurance and providers do not advertise their services for fear of societal repercussions. Recently identifying as nonbinary and seeking gender affirming care in Guam, I experienced significant emotional, and mental stress before I could find the care I needed, which exacerbated my health needs. Since services there are not covered by insurance, I experienced significant financial stress as a result, on top of trying to start a new business in Guam. Returning to Hawai'i, where health access for gender affirming care is much more accessible, I feel supported in my basic healthcare needs, and I have been able focus back on my own work 100% as a holistic health care provider. I have the social and systemic support and now bandwidth to share my best self with my patients, thanks to current supportive policies in Hawai'i.

I have also been privileged to personally witness 2 young transgender children growing up who were clear from early on, around the age of 5, that their biological gender did not match their gender identity. One is now 19, the other is now 7. One, a musician and performer, is going to college, the other just won a children's award for her MLK day video. They both have been lucky enough to be born into supportive families and have supportive health providers. They are wonderful, well adjusted, articulate young people who, because of these support systems, can focus on what they are meant to be and do in this world and be all of who they are without fear.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for

seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights, medical freedom, and compassionate aloha for our LGBTQIA+/māhū communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Chris Lipat DC

Honolulu, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:10:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Burns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my support for Bill# SB1150. How terrifying it must be to be a transgender person right now! To be demonized by your own government that also preaches freedom! We should be listening to trans people, their families and their doctors and no one else - gender affirming care is health care! Government overreach into medical science and people's private health care is not what our community needs right now and the vilanization of a group of people inevitably leads to violence. Trans people are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. They have always existed, they exist now and their rights our are rights. Stand up and protect them please!

Sarah Burns

1025 21st Ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:51:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wanda Anae-Onishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I'm writing in strong support of SB1150. As an ally to transgender and nonbinary individuals, I've seen firsthand that when they live and be their authentic true selves it benefits everyone. Suicide and self harm drops. They contribute to society without fear of being harmed by people who don't accept them. Access to gender-affirming care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions makes these benefits possible.

I urge you to pass SB1150 and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members. Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:53:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

I have seen first hand how important it is for individuals to receive medically necessary gender affirming care AND especially how important it is to feel safe in making choices for their own bodies. Gender affirming care is life saving care. We **MUST** protect those who seek and receive the care they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Linda Kim, MSN, APRN, CNS
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:57:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Delgadillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sentaors,

My child came out to us as trans at age 14, 6 years ago. We did not see it coming, but we rallied in support. My first step was to seek a therapist, someone who specializes in LGBTQIA+. This was not easy to find as the few providers in Hawai'i are under very high demand. My child met with the therapist for a year before the therapist made the recommendation to see a physician. Again, very few providers in Hawai'i work with trans kids as a specialty, so we were so grateful to find anyone at all. My child's physician has been absolutely amazing. They met with my child for a year before prescribing puberty blockers. By the way, our insurance did not cover this medication, and it cost us \$4,000 every 3 months. My child gained trust in the world and has now fully come out.

I say all of this because no providers along the way pushed or promoted any medical treatment onto my child. The treatment provided was given after careful consideration and time spent getting to know my child and me. My child has shared with me, that without available treatment, they would have likely tried to kill themselves, and I believe her.

What our Federal government is attempting to do is scare providers from giving medical treatment to trans people and erase trans people altogether. We in Hawai'i have a cultural understanding of Mahu that we should not erase.

Please support this bill and stand up for this very vulnerable minority who just want to live in peace.

Mahalo, Sarah Delgadillo

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:14:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Ruby Delgadillo. I support SB1150 because I believe it represents the values of Hawai'i, and that it's the right thing to do. Hawai'i is not the mainland, and we should not follow in doing cruel things just because the federal government wants to. Hawai'i has a long history of nontraditional gender expression, and we should try to preserve this. Banning proven, life-saving healthcare serves only to punish children for the crime of living. The Hawai'i government has the chance to do the right thing by passing SB1150.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:29:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemary Bearden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Rosemary Bearden, I am from Nīnole, and I strongly support SB1150 SD1. I have met many transgender people over the course of my life here in Hawai‘i, and through knowing them and speaking with them I am assured beyond a doubt that gender-affirming care for those who want to pursue it is an extremely important and beneficial type of healthcare. Access to gender-affirming care should absolutely be protected. If Hawai‘i lawmakers care about the health and wellbeing of all of their citizens, this bill must pass, because without access to gender-affirming care many transgender and māhū people across the state will suffer immensely. Once again, I strongly support SB1150 SD1.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:30:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My church community and friends include many transgender adults and children who are valued and contribute as strongly as anyone else. They are also among neighbors, and co-employees performing vital jobs in public health and technology. But we should not be judging people based on their merit, but because it is true to aloha to love all our neighbors as ourselves. Please stand up and protect them! Show that the aloha state stands strong on its principles.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:56:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice, Chairs, and Committee Members

Thank you for taking time to hear this bill. In light of recent federal developments, this is the time for the state Legislature to stand for all kanaka and keiki of Hawaii. Hawaii has more transgender persons per capita than any other state, Mahu has been celebrated in our culture since time of our culture and we celebrate diversity here in this state like no other. The 2022 Department of Health Sexual and Gender Minority update note how many of our keiki identify as transgender, mahu, and nonbinary with over 1/3 of them feeling so marginalized that they want to commit suicide.

As a Gender Affirming Care Provider, to have the ability to provide medications without persecution, to provide medications to allow persons to be their healthiest selves, to be able to provide care for those that need services.

For the protection of healthcare of this state, committee members, I **s**STRONG URGE you to PASS this bill for all of our residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time,

Dr. Rick Ramirez

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:56:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Furuichi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erin Furuichi
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:58:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- 1. Please establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who seek to negatively influence them (e.g. sex traffickers & adults with an "agenda") toward things they may regret as an adult. They're TOO YOUNG to be allowed to make life changing decisions. Adults who desire to act in the best interests of the child often cannot even understand the criminal mind who seeks to exploit. Suicide is real & we're called to protect our children.**
- 2. Research does not support medical intervention for gender identity related treatment. Puberty blockers & cross-sex hormones are not FDA approved & surgeries experimental, lack long-term safety studies, & often non-reversible. Many countries are now reversing these laws due to safety concerns.**
- 3. There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawaii should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:05:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphael Moller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawai'i in everywalk of life and socio-economic status. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, our co-workers, employees, employers, they are all human beings, like us, who deserve to be treated with the outmost respect and dignity. We do not need to understand them, it is our duty to protect them. Please stand for them! It is unconscionable to marginalize, discriminate, disenfranchise and stigmatize them. It is a crime against humanity to constantly victimize them.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:37:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

Waipahu, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:52:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Laririt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:54:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Teare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Protect our Transgender Ohana. Support Parents who provide gender affirming care. We are a free country to live as we deem fit. We are not all the same.
Less invasive government is Less government.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:06:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm speaking as a mother of three young children. I strongly oppose SB 1150 because it strips parents of their fundamental rights and allows minors to make life-altering medical decisions they are not mature enough to understand.

This bill would enable children who cannot legally vote, sign contracts, or even get a tattoo to access irreversible medical treatments, including hormone therapy and surgeries, without parental consent. These procedures come with serious risks, including infertility, loss of bone density, and long-term psychological impacts. Children and teenagers, whose brains are still developing, are not capable of making such profound decisions about their bodies and futures.

Furthermore, altering jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act to shield these decisions from parental intervention is an extreme overreach of government power. It prioritizes ideology over the well-being of children and undermines the role of parents in guiding their kids through difficult issues. Parents should not be sidelined when it comes to their children's healthcare—especially when it involves irreversible medical procedures.

I support the LGBTQIA+ community and believe in treating all individuals with dignity and respect. However, protecting children also means preventing them from making life-altering medical choices they may later regret. We should focus on mental health support, counseling, and guidance rather than rushing minors into drastic medical interventions.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject SB 1150. Thank you.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:07:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Simao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150 relating to Healthcare. Research does not support medical interventions for gender-confused minors and medical transition has not been shown to reduce youth suicide. Childhood gender dysphoria usually resolves by adulthood, while it is likely driven by social factors.

Hawaii should not be hosting children from other states to accommodate such practices.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:27:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

**Sincerely,
Nathan Leo Braulick
Honolulu, HI, 96826**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:41:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:21:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony as a concerned citizen urging you to **VOTE NO** on S.B. 1150, the so-called "Health Care Access Protection Act." This bill undermines core American values—parental rights, state sovereignty, and the safety of our children—while cloaking itself in the language of compassion. As a Republican who believes in limited government and personal responsibility, I call on you, including my Democratic colleagues who value fairness and family, to reject this dangerous legislation. Below, I outline the critical reasons why this bill fails Hawaii and its people.

1. This Bill Strips Parents of Their Fundamental Rights

Parents—not bureaucrats or doctors—should have the final say in their children’s medical care. S.B. 1150 declares that laws from other states protecting parental authority over gender-affirming treatments are "against the public policy of this State" (Section 2). This means if a parent in, say, Texas, says "no" to hormone blockers or surgery for their child, Hawaii can ignore that decision and shield providers who act against the parent’s wishes.

Democrats, you’ve long championed family unity and the right to raise kids free from overreach. This bill flips that on its head, empowering the state to override parents who might see these treatments as risky or premature. Studies—like those from the American Academy of Pediatrics—show kids with gender dysphoria often outgrow it naturally. Why rush irreversible choices and silence parents who want to wait? Vote no to protect family rights.

2. It Shields Irreversible Procedures Over Child Safety

S.B. 1150 defines "gender-affirming health care" as everything from puberty blockers to surgeries (Section 3, §323J-1), then builds a fortress around providers doing this to kids—shielding them from subpoenas, extradition, or discipline if it’s legal here (Sections 6-13). This isn’t protection; it’s a free pass for life-altering procedures with shaky evidence.

The UK’s Cass Review (2022) found weak scientific support for these interventions in minors, citing risks like bone density loss and infertility. Yet this bill assumes they’re "medically

necessary" without debate, putting kids at risk for an ideology's sake. Democrats, you've fought for evidence-based policy and child welfare—don't let this bill gamble with our kids' futures. Vote no to demand real scrutiny.

3. It Tramples State Sovereignty and Fairness

America thrives because states can set their own rules. S.B. 1150 spits on that by refusing to enforce other states' laws banning gender-affirming care (Section 7, §323J-7) and blocking cooperation with their investigations (Section 8, §323J-4). If Alabama or Florida bans these treatments to protect their kids, Hawaii says, "Too bad, we'll harbor your fugitives."

Democrats, you've argued for mutual respect among states on issues like gun laws or voting rights. Why not here? This bill doesn't just protect Hawaii's choices—it nullifies others', creating a legal sanctuary for one side of a national debate. That's not fairness; it's arrogance. Vote no to honor state autonomy and federal balance.

4. It Endangers Kids Under a False Banner of Care

Calling experimental treatments "health care" doesn't make them safe. S.B. 1150 assumes gender-affirming procedures are inherently good, barring prosecution or penalties for those who provide them (Section 11, §323J-5). But what about the kids who regret it? A 2021 study in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* found some detransitioners—people who reverse these treatments—suffer lifelong harm and feel misled.

Democrats, you've led the charge against Big Pharma rushing untested drugs to vulnerable groups. This is no different—except the vulnerable are our children. This bill prioritizes ideology over their well-being, and we'll all pay the price when the fallout hits. Vote no to put kids first, not politics.

Conclusion: Vote No for Families, Fairness, and Kids

S.B. 1150 isn't about access—it's about control. It rips power from parents, defies other states, and gambles with children's lives, all while dodging accountability. Republicans and Democrats alike should see this for what it is: a radical overreach dressed up as progress. I urge you to **VOTE NO** and send a message that Hawaii stands for families, fairness, and real safety—not unchecked experiments on our kids.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:25:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Marantz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AGAINST SB 1150.

Medical Professionals and educators should not encourage and promote sex changing operations for minors. This ideology is damaging to the young people of Hawaii. There is a reason why we have seen a decline in public school enrollment. Parents, during COVID, got a chance to view in real time what their children are learning. We say no, you will not indoctrinate my children with life changing, expensive, and permanent philosophies.

Why is this bill a "Healthcare" Bill? Are we in Orwell's 1984?

Doublethink::: Ministry of Peace, wages war. Ministry of Truth, spreads lies, Ministry of Love, tortures citizens.

This Heathcare Bill = Mutilation Bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:39:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for scheduling and hearing this important bill. I have numerous friends and family members who have needed and will need gender affirming care in the future. Even I, myself, may need access to some of this care as a mostly cis, heterosexual female. Undergoing IVF for a surrogacy I am currently carrying has required usage of various hormones that can be classified within the "gender affirming care" spectrum. I may also need access to these hormones during menopause. The concerning conversion at the National level currently seeks to dumb down and stigmatize the nuances of this important aspect of necessary and life-saving healthcare and limits access and safety for all. We are counting on you at our State level to protect us and our friends, neighbors, and children by providing access to ALL healthcare in a fair and equitable way. Decisions regarding what hormones to take and surgeries to proceed with need to be left to medical professionals and those seeking care and not limited or restricted by the Federal or State government due to misinformation and discrimination against transgender individuals. Please protect our access to healthcare and pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:51:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Prellberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I, Stacy Kealanahele Prellberg, am writing to **strongly support** the **Health Care Access Protection Act**. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states **that target transgender individuals** and their families are **dangerous and harmful to all** individuals in the community. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a **clear message that Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

Please vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Me ke aloha,

Stacy Kealanahele Prellberg

Kailua, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:11:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs & Members of the Committees,

I **strongly support** the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrea Staley
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:19:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Amy Humphrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Respected Committee Members,

It is with great earnest that I am writing to support SB1150. As a Clinical Psychologist, and a gender affirming care provider, I know first hand the importance of protecting health care for anyone seeking affirmation of their authentic self. As an expert in treating gender non-conforming individuals, I can attest with absolute certainty that those who seek gender affirming care benefit from the experience. There is nothing nefarious about a person seeking individual health care that is supported by medical and psychological science. Outsiders are attempting to control the personal decisions of others, and the only arguments put forth by the opposition are outright lies.

Rarely are there decisions in which the consequences are only beneficial. Passing and supporting this bill is one of those decisions.

Thank you so much for your review of this testimony, and please support us, the providers, who have dedicated our lives, careers, and education to helping others.

Respectfully,

Amy Humphrey, Psy.D.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:22:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:22:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:23:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:35:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill. What is happening in Hawaii?! Crazy! People should be put in jail for this!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:35:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ARE YOU KIDDING?

WHY IS HAWAII STILL STUCK ON THIS WOKE GARBAGE?

This is not only immoral, unethical, & anti-biblical BUT, Christians & everyone who has keiki is totally offended by this!!!

STOP!!!

I vehemently oppose...

Sincerely, Bart

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:38:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently OPPOSE this bill. This is not medically necessary. Also, this is another bill that is trying to strip away parental rights.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:39:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hazel Galbiso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1150 because it stands as a crucial safeguard for the healthcare of Hawaii residents. SB 1150 protects Hawaii's healthcare from external threats and preserves the standards we've chosen for ourselves. This bill defends our freedom, privacy, and cultural integrity against growing interference from the Continental U.S., ensuring we maintain control over our healthcare decisions.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:40:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1150. If gender is "fluid," why allow minors to elect life-altering, fertility-altering treatment and surgeries? It has been long recognized that the decision-making areas of the brain are not fully developed until age 25. It is wise to restrict youth from being able to partake in activities that may change their lives. We follow this logic for drinking, smoking, voting, tattoos, gambling, and even renting a car. We should not be so eager to become a sanctuary for kids who are still developing, both physically and mentally, to decide to alter their bodies forever.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:40:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150

It's immoral to transition children. Some people groom kids to be like that. You should be addressing mental health. I believe there is an official name for that condition.

"Gender dysphoria" See DSM-5

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:42:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Kaneohe and writing in strong support of SB1150. Hawaii is a state of aloha and inclusion, and we should protect our beloved LGBTQIA+ community, and our healthcare providers, from any kind of hateful, harmful attacks.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:44:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill SB 1150 is not socially acceptable or even close to being fair to parents or young children. You guys have no rights trying to initiate and probably influence young children. Hawai'i is becoming known as a violent, abusive to residents state. Tourists read all of your absolute mandates, denial of residents testimony even if they are in the thousands. Two or three of you vote against them and the proposed bill becomes a bill. Even the mention of vaccination mandate and this SB1150 will reduce future visitors to Hawai'i. People believe in having a choice, not mandates and this bill will harm young adults not knowledgeable or even sure of the outcome, years from now. You, are not God and have no right to even promote this SB1150 Bill . When this measure goes out viral you can forget about the tourists flocking to Hawai'i. This is not appropriate or approved by any religious fellowship, here or anywhere else in the world. This bill is one of your worst if not the worst bill your group has agreed on. This should be deleted as soon as possible before the world sees it being proposed here. The churches across the United States will not even suggest having vacations here to their congregations. You will destroy families, children's future lives and spend millions . My Testimony is no, one thousand times NO !

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:47:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

February 24, 2025

Dear respected members of the committee,

As a nonbinary person and advocate for science-based, gender-affirming health care, I urge you to support and pass Senate Bill 1150. This bill is essential to ensuring that transgender and nonbinary people in Hawai'i can continue accessing the care they need without fear of out-of-state legal threats.

Gender-affirming care is well-supported by leading medical and psychological organizations—including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. It is also suicide prevention. Studies show that access to affirming care significantly reduces depression, anxiety, and suicide among trans and nonbinary people. Denying or restricting this care puts lives at risk.

Trans and nonbinary people are part of every community in Hawai'i—we are your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family. We deserve to live safely and with dignity. By passing this bill, you affirm that Hawai'i values bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and the well-being of its people.

I urge you to stand with us and protect access to life-saving care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Miriga
Aiea, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:54:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Suhre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An integral part of the freedom that comes with being an American Citizen is not only the freedoms listed in the Constitution but the freedom to bodily autonomy, and any legislative action to cut people off to gender-affirming care is tyrannical nonsense in the gravest terms.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:56:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support SB1150** that will ensure transgender individuals have access to the gender-affirming health care they need and deserve.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:05:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Support of Hawaii House Bill SB1150****

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Trish and I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill SB1150, which seeks to protect gender-affirming care patients and providers from out-of-state prosecution and persecution. This bill is a critical step in safeguarding the rights, dignity, and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse individuals in Hawaii, as well as the medical professionals who provide them with essential care.

Gender-affirming care is life-saving healthcare. It allows transgender and gender-diverse individuals to live authentically and thrive in their communities. However, the increasing wave of discriminatory laws and policies in other states has created a climate of fear and uncertainty for both patients and providers. By passing SB1150, Hawaii can stand as a beacon of compassion and justice, ensuring that those who seek or provide gender-affirming care within our state are protected from harmful and unjust interference.

This bill aligns with Hawaii’s values of aloha, inclusivity, and respect for all people. It reaffirms our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us and upholding the principle that healthcare decisions should be made by patients and their providers—not by political agendas or out-of-state entities.

I urge you to pass SB1150 and send a clear message that Hawaii will not tolerate the persecution of individuals for simply being who they are or for providing the care they need. Mahalo for your consideration and for standing on the right side of history.

Sincerely,
Trish Barton

Ewa Beach resident

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:06:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for reviewing my testimony in support of SB1150 to protect gender-affirming care providers from being criminalized or threatened with losing their license, particularly by those outside of the State of Hawai'i.

As a voter, spouse of a physician, and parent, I oppose any government interference in healthcare privacy and freedom, vehemently. I support the physicians of Hawai'i and their patients in making educated, informed decisions about their personal health and that of those with whom they hold guardianship relationships. Government overreach, particularly in healthcare, has lead to unnecessary pain, suffering, and death across our country; it is not the way of Hawai'i.

Please continue to work with the spirit of aloha, only passing legislative measures that protect our freedom of choice in our personal lives. I support SB 1150 and hope this legislative body will, as well.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:09:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1150

Why is the State in the business of involving itself in gender care???? Why must our State insert itself between parents and their children??? The fact that this bill also contains verbage regarding stopping Hawaii from participating in out-of-state investigations regarding gender care and attempts to protect the providers who perform the surgeries and hormone treatments on these minors tells you all you need to know about this horrendous bill.

Any "elected" officials who vote in favor of this abomination of a bill are sick and absolutely DO NOT have the best interest of our keiki and our State's Ohana at heart and are most likely on the payroll of the medical and pharmaceutical companies. Shame on them!!!! Mutilating and mentally destroying our keiki for their own greed. Auwe.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:12:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

Mahalo for all you do,

ANN V SAFFERY

HONOLULU, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:13:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezra Levinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, and members of the committees;

My name is Ezra Levinson and I am a resident of Kailua. I am 20 years old and a transgender woman, and the gender affirming healthcare I receive is necessary for my wellbeing. I write in strong and urgent **support** of SB1150.

SB1150 is life-saving legislation in not one but two ways. Both access to gender-affirming healthcare and expressions of support at the local level have been demonstrated to reduce suicidal ideation and rates of suicide among transgender youth.

Hawai'i should be taking every possible step to defend its transgender residents from the persecution we are facing, and ensuring the accessibility of this life-saving medical care is one such step. **SB1150 should be passed.** Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely and urgently,
Ezra Levinson

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:14:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support for SB 1150 by Senator Chris Lee which protects transgendered people, their families, and health care providers from attack by ill-advised actions by other states.

We are facing a crisis. Draconian policies are being put in place by other states and by the federal government. We simply must shield our families from cruel and medically dangerous policies that seek only to punish those that are different. Medical decisions should be made by the affected individuals and their medical providers. Physicians should not have to be afraid of litigation simply by following guidelines from the American Medical association.

As Hawai'i has been forced to put in place safeguards for reproductive health care, so must we send a clear message that we will not allow the harassment and endangerment of some of our most vulnerable residents.

It is time to stand proudly and do the right thing. Vote to support SB1150.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

Big Island

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:21:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am concerned about the long-term effects of gender-affirming care on children, who may not yet have the maturity or life experience to fully understand the implications of these medical decisions. While I acknowledge that many individuals benefit from such care, the science and long-term outcomes are still evolving, and I believe more time and research are needed before mandating or expanding legal protections in this area. Rushing to implement such changes could expose vulnerable populations to unintended risks, including potential regret or medical complications.

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:25:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karen Mountain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender-affirming care is not medically necessary. We need to protect our children from making life alternating decisions. We have age limits on tatoos. We need to have age limited on altering our bodies. These decision should be between parents and their child when they come of age. The financial responsiblity should fall on the family/individual as well.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:27:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill no child wants to have sex change . So you have to be 21 to drink 18 to serve out military but you want boys child to cut off the penis and God against God who created us .this is a evil bill just like the evil politicians that supports these bill you all will have to answer to God . I promise you all that . When you hurt any of Gods children it better to put a stone around your neck and jump in the ocean

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:29:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150 SD1. There is a big difference between what is medically necessary healthcare versus desired medical procedures. Who pays for these procedures? Do not let this bill move forward!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:41:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kawika sarmiento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Kawika Sarmiento HE/HIM
Honolulu Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:41:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

End all child abuse now.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:42:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Wing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Changing the sex of a child does not reflect Hawaiian values

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:46:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Tanimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB1150. There are no rational reasons to deny gender affirming care to those who seek it. And there should be laws in place to protect providers from any type of threats — from within our state or from out of state – for providing such care. The supreme court apparently is leaving these issues to the States to decide. I am hoping that Hawai‘i will be steadfast in protecting those who only want to choose a gender that they identify most closely with and, in so doing, pose no harm to the anyone else.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:51:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:05:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophie de Jong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Sophie de Jong and I am a mental health professional on Oahu. I work with college aged folks and work with many members of the LGBTQ+ community. In Hawaii, 50% of transgender youth attempted suicide in the past year. 50% of LGBTQIA+ youth have seriously considered ending their lives. Suicide remains the leading cause of death for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. As a mental health professional, it is my professional and personal opinion to be in SUPPORT of 1150 SB RELATING TO HEALTH CARE as it can save lives. Gender affirming care saves lives from suicide and provides LGBTQ+ community members a chance.

Thank you,

Sophie de Jong

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:10:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Nash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150 because it expands protections for all people.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:18:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Revell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are not going to tolerate anymore of this mental illness woke agenda. 70% of transitions are reversed and that's facts. These so called gender affirming procedures permanently destroy our children and are regretted nearly every time! Stop destroying God's creations! And Violating parents rights!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:32:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Kuwaye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this legislation to allow irreversible mutilation of children’s bodies, at an age when universally we are all unsure of ourselves, in order to align them with an alternate gender, that ultimately does not respond to the emotional needs of children for true identity and affirmation of however they were made. There are now reports of children who were “counseled” to physically change their gender, who now live with deep regret as they matured into adulthood and have to live with ongoing medical attention and the trauma of having damaged their bodies and their psyche.

Robert M Walsh

16-1841 Moho Rd
Kurtistown, HI 96760
(808)765-5465
Ludothered@gmail.com

February 24, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Robert Walsh

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:44:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jameson Delgadillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill protecting our children, their access to gener affirming care and protecting our health care providers.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:10:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, our neighbors, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

I am 100% in favor of this SB1150. There is a plain attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. It has been devastating to the transgender community, their loved ones and providers of gender affirming care. The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry and are having real life consequences on the health and wellbeing of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, cause chaos and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Janet Thomas

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:13:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150 there is only two genders male and female all others are made up and the persons that are wanting to change their gender are sick people and should be locked up in a mental hospital. And children should be shielded from these adults with sick minds and for all you lawmakers that want this bill should also be locked up in the same mental hospital. You are taking innocent children and harming them.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:29:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan K Baldado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly OPPOSE SB1150.

Mahalo nui.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:31:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RUSSELL ABORDO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i's shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care. 17 states and the Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care. Hawai'i should join them.

As a Native Hawaiian who learned his history in college, I am proud that this state has protections over our mahu community. These are the teachers and trainers of the next generation. Often in the shadows doing the work of entire villages.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles to their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai'i. Presidential executive orders have sought to erase and suppress trans people, including one on 1/29 [targeting trans students in K-12 schools](#) calling for forced outing, restrictions on participation in co-curricular activities, and banning any instruction regarding gender identity.

And the aim seems to not only be erasing them from society, but erasing the rich history of trans people and negating their existence.

Hawai'i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. Yet there are still barriers to receiving care, and the outlook is grim given a White House occupant intent on demonizing trans people in service of an extremist authoritarian ideology, that will eventually demonize every "other" category.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:43:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Monk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150, SD1 the Health Care Access Protection Act. The support of doctors, nurses and medical organizations tells me that this bill is needed to assure parents and children that those in need of gender affirming medical care will be assured access.

Please pass SB1150, SD1.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:49:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica FLOREZ-ZENGER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote no on SB1150. I am a Kauai resident and oppose this Bill SB 1150.

Parents have a right to make decisions for their children.

Hear the voice of the people of Hawaii.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:01:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianne Lester	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I strongly oppose SB1150. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is a human issue that has irreversible, harmful effects to our youth. Please vote NO on SB1150. On behalf of my family and everyone I have spoken to about this in Hawaii. I do not know anyone who is in support of harming our youth in such an invasive and damaging way. Vote NO on SB1150. Mahalo.

Julianne Lester. Hawaii Resident. Registered Voter.

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY
SB1150 - RELATING TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

Good Afternoon, Senate Committee Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to Senate Bill 1150.

There is no sugar-coating the harm such a bill will inflict on our keiki. Changing a child's sex through a series of irreversible medical interventions is a radical and false claim. So-called "gender-affirming health care" is in reality physical and chemical mutilation of the human body. It is a huge healthcare industry money-maker that seeks to abuse minors during the normal puberty transition process, before they ultimately grow out of any gender dysphoria.

Furthermore, removing parents from being able to intervene on behalf of their children is even more untenable.

Hawaii must stand with the majority of States that are creating laws to OUTLAW life-changing gender-transition procedures. Legislators have a moral duty to protect the physical and mental well-being of children in our communities. I urge you, by the mercies of God, to strike down this evil practice.

Show us that you care. Please OPPOSE SB1150.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:07:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Baier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

I strongly oppose SB1150. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is a human issue that has irreversible, harmful effects to our youth. Please vote NO on SB1150. On behalf of my family and everyone I have spoken to about this in Hawaii. I do not know anyone who is in support of harming our youth in such an invasive and damaging way. Vote NO on SB1150. Mahalo.

Nicole Baier. Hawaii Resident. Registered Voter.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:16:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Murthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Monisha Murthy

Honolulu, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:16:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a community advocate. I have worked with people from all walks of life and believe in the power of intersectionality. I am writing today **in full support of SB1150.**

I want to start my testimony by saying that I am disappointed that this bill is being presented to and by the community in a way that implies that it is about sex change surgery.

It has been proven that gender-affirming care can be life-saving for LGBTQ youth (and adults, for that matter). They are at a greater risk of experiencing anxiety and depression as well as substance abuse and homelessness.

I am of the belief that everyone deserves to be housed, clothed, and fed. Regardless of gender identity. I also believe that the government should have *nothing* to say about gender identity. If we really care about "freedom," then children deserve freedom, too. The freedom to be who they are. The freedom to live life without harrassment. The freedom to go **one day** without people poking around in their business and worrying about their gender... because what is gender? Gender identity is a person's innate sense of their gender. Some people's gender identity is the same that they were assigned at birth. Some people's gender identity is not. Why is this anyone's business? How do we decide who is man or woman "enough?" Ultimately, to police gender, we will have to resort to genital inspections. **NO THANKS!** I am lucky to have never experienced sexual abuse, but I am the anomaly. **One in ten children will become a victim of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.** *Transgender youth have higher rates of reported psychological, physical, and sexual abuse than heterosexual cisgendered adolescents.*

Is that not enough torture?

So far as I am aware, Hawai'i residents are in favor of freedom from government intervention in their lives. I believe that this bill protects people to identify as they feel fit. I believe that is how it should be. Other states in the USA have chosen to do things like 'authorize a state agency to remove a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services' and I find this despicable. These parents and guardians are simply doing what they believe is best for their child (and is never against the desire of said child but explicitly in response to that child's own desires).

Just because they cannot yet vote does not mean that children do not deserve rights. You are making decisions for a class of citizens that has no ability to vote against you, and that is not okay. This bill should be **passed** to protect them from the anti-LGBTQ laws that other states are enacting. Both children and adults deserve the chance to be who they know themselves to be without anyone's intervention. Adults who have not experienced this themselves will often simplify this issue to "kids can't even add correctly; how can they possibly make a decision like this?!"

Adults who have had to undergo sex change operations themselves likely wish that they could have just taken puberty blockers. These prevent the onset of puberty. They delay things like breast development and facial hair growth. If these kids "grow out of this phase," as so many adults claim will happen, then they can simply change course and go off of these medications.

I would also like to point out that cisgender males frequently seek gender-affirming care like testosterone and hair plugs and cisgender women do the same with things like breast augmentation and lip plumping surgeries. Why is it okay for folks to seek gender-affirming care for a gender that society accepts but not a transgender or non-binary person? *This is incredibly hypocritical!*

In summary, I urge you to **pass SB1150** and support civil rights. Protect children from the anti-LGBTQ laws being passed in other states and support their decisions to be who they are. I urge you to consider how much testimony that you have received on this bill actually has the voice of the transgender and non-binary communities and keep that in mind.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe

Lahaina Resident

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:23:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Kapua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cathy Kapua

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:28:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to express my strong support for SB 1150. Transgender Americans are under threat right now. The federal government is attempting to erase their existence; conservative states are in the process of denying healthcare, sports, document changes, and the ability to meaningfully participate in civic life to trans people. President Trump wants to kick trans service members out of the military. It is more important than ever that Hawaii stands up as a beacon for our own transgender population and sends a clear message that LGBT people are protected here.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:41:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would anyone want to open ourselves up to litigation for doing something taxpayers from others states have voted not to do for their own constituents? The majority rules. Honor your office by representing the Will of the people of this State of Hawaii. This is a definite NO!!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:43:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE! I vote NO!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:49:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheri Matsusaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Cheri Matsusaka oppose this bill that wants to make the State of Hawaii's transgender sanctuary State!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:54:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Adair-Leland Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a health care provider, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Jean Adair-Leland, Ph.D,
Honolulu, Hawaii**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:56:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Matsusaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, clifford matsusaka oppose this stupid bill on Hawaii becoming a transgender sanctuary.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:00:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shentel Frye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:01:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Garma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing parental rights from parents concerning their own children is absurd and allowing children to make a decision that will affect them permanently at an age where they aren't even old enough to how to drive themselves to school or obtain a permit is foolish and just plain evil. It is not health care. I oppose this bill and pray that the senate do the same. God chose gender and made each person the way they are. We are in no position to undo what He has created.

Matthew 19:4 NKJV

And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that **He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:05:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzette kali-palau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Suzette Kali-palau oppose this bill SB1150 transgender sanctuary state and the removal of parents rights!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:10:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members, my name is Andrew Grandinetti, and I strongly support SB1150. The right to health care should be a human right for all, and we must do what we can to protect this right, especially for those in the trans community that are under attack from the extreme right wing factions that are now controlling the federal government. If we don't act at the local and state levels, many patients will lose the care they desperately need for both their physical and mental health. Please support this bill, lives depend on it.

Sincerely,

Andrew Grandinetti

Testimony Re: SB1150

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in protest of SB1150. The State of Hawaii has no business involving itself in perpetrating the destruction of our children through so-called gender affirming healthcare. There is no care involved in destroying a child's natural body functions through use of drugs or surgery. Children cannot and should not make decisions about their health care.

Our legislature is over stepping its bounds by trying to bring children from other states, creating a sanctuary state for gender transformation, not to mention going against federal law. Using funds specifically received from taxpayers in this state for such action is unconscionable.

This bill would be detrimental to our state financially, morally and spiritually.

Please...**Vote NO on SB1150!**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:15:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't listen to the bigots who hide behind children to promote their hate. Children should have the right to self-discovery and the means to do so. Gender Affirming care is not invasive, it's not dangerous, and it's not something children or anyone would commit through all the slurs, threats, and hate if it wasn't something they thought was core to their character. Support this bill and support the lives of trans people and trans children.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:21:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I oppose this bill because minors should not be given the opportunity to make this decision and our gender can not be changed no matter how much a person believes it can. Please oppose and spare the children who may make this mistake and pay dearly in the future.

Mahalo,

Lora Burbage

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:22:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Goff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Renee Goff

975 Leomele Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

Poakahi, 24 Peleluali 2025

The Honorable Cory Chun a me all Legislators representing Hawai'i

Subject: Support for SB1150 - Supporting Gender Affirming Care in Hawaii

Aloha kakou,

I hope this message finds you well. As a resident of Pearl City and a public school teacher in the Campbell/Kapolei Complex, I am writing to express my strong support for **SB1150**, which aims to support and ensure access to gender-affirming care for Hawaii. I urge you to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

SB1150 provides essential protections and resources to individuals seeking gender-affirming healthcare, a right that is fundamental to the dignity and well-being of those within the transgender and gender-diverse community. This bill would significantly impact lives by helping reduce barriers to vital medical services, such as hormone therapy and mental health support, which are integral to the health and happiness of many residents.

I am a non-binary and queer person who has recently received life-giving gender-affirming care, a hysterectomy. This procedure is part of my gender-affirming care and has had a profound, positive impact on my well-being. While SB1150 directly impacts the queer community, gender-affirming care is not limited to one group—it's essential for **all** people, regardless of whether their gender identities are stated or not. I am concerned that members of the queer community—including all letters of LGBTQIA and MVPFAFF—are at a higher risk of being denied care simply because of their gender and/or sexual identities. This legislation ensures that all individuals, regardless of identity, can access gender-affirming care without discrimination.

Living in Oceania, where our cultures have long valued genders outside of binaries, I strongly support this bill to protect and honor the lives of our dolls, bois, and children, so they can thrive and grow in a society that sees and affirms them for who they truly are.

I ask that you please consider the positive impact this bill would have on the lives of many Hawaii residents. Gender-affirming care is not a luxury—it is a necessity for the well-being of individuals, families, and communities across our state.

I would be grateful if you could share your plans regarding your vote on this bill, and I look forward to hearing how you will support this important issue. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I appreciate your consideration and hope that you will continue to advocate for inclusive and compassionate policies for all members of our community.

A hui hou,
Renee Goff

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:22:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall palau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I randall palau oppose bill SB1150 thats allows hawaii to be a transgender sanctuary state and the removal if parental rights.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:28:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aurora Mendoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this SB1150 bill as it is violating our rights as a parent of minors. Our children are not capable of making a decision that affects their body/image. It is immoral based on biblical principles and religious beliefs. IF YOU CLAIM TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND VOTE FOR THIS, THEN YOU HAVE NOT READ THE BIBLE NOR AGREE WITH WHAT GOD DECREES. YOU ARE BLINDED BY THE TRUTH AND SIDING WITH THE ENEMY. MAY YOUR FAMILY AND LOVED ONES NOT BE AFFECTED BY YOUR DECISIONS BECAUSE THE DECISION YOU SOW WILL REAP THE CONSEQUENCES INTO YOUR FAMILY GENERATIONS AND LOVED ONES. I do not disregard the creator's word and the gender of my children that my God gave me to raise in this world. Every day I speak life and truth to my children of who God created them to be. I do not create confusion in their lives. If a child goes through this there can be no reversal and YOU will create a scar in their heart and soul. You will be held accountable on the day of God's judgement. We are all subjected individually to God's judgment which is in the Word. I fear hell for those who make this decision who side with the devil. Do you approve your child to keep secrets and decisions from you? If you vote this bill, your saying it's okay for YOUR OWN CHILD to do this but. NOT ME!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:29:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Savannah Moura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I OPPOSE! I VOTE NO!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:30:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Mak Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender affirming care is a life-saving healthcare that should be determined by the individual seeking healthcare under the advice of their trained and registered healthcare professional and the individual's parents or legal guardian.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:31:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayla Camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB1150 for the reasons of:

1. I DO NOT want Hawaii to be a transgender sanctuary state.
2. I DO NOT want my rights as a parent to be taken away regarding a life altering surgery for MY own child.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:32:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi O'Shaughnessy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony against this horrible bill. I have personal experience with a family member who was an adult (18) when he transitioned. He believed that all his problems would be solved if only he was a woman, no longer stuck in a male body.

This did not end well. After many years of painful surgeries, medications that deteriorated his mind and body, and emotional imbalances, he was no better and in fact much worse off as a "woman". He is now back to being a man. With breast implants and many side effects from the meds.

One of his sons was wildly drug addicted as a result of his fathers illness, and he ended up overdosing and is now dead.

The other son is long gone, no one knows where he is, even though the family has searched for him for years.

I can't imagine putting a confused child through these horrible treatments! What kind of wierd perverted adults think this is humane??? I wanted to be a butterfly and marry Michael Jackson (who was a cartoon at the time) when I was a child. Imagine my parents willfully cutting off my arms so I could have wings? My best friend was a tomboy who wished she was a boy. She turned out to be a beautiful woman with a great husband and 6 kids! Children change their minds. It's a fact. Will Hawaii discard them if they choose to change back to their birth gender?

Hawaii legislators are on the wrong side of history on this one. Please don't pass this horrible bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:40:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skye Espino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. VOTE NO

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:42:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Shea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is NOT health care! I OPPOSE and vote NO!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:43:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika L Lawrence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To think a child is ready to make a decision like this for themselves is not only negligent, but a poor example of leadership. This bill is an attempt to undermine the family house hold as well as individual stability. Our children need our guidance. To say otherwise is a lie. To allow this, is abuse. Do we let our children play with matches? Do we let them experiment with drugs? If no is the answer, why would we even propose a bill like this? To conclude, I, a father who does everything he can to lead his children on the right path, oppose this atrocity of a bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:45:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimmy Achuara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:45:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Keamoai Kubo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE! I VOTE NO.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:48:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilynn Pahulehua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose! I VOTE NO!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:50:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Palani camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These are the reasons I strongly oppose SB1150

1. I do not want hawaii to be a transgender sanctuary.
2. I do not want my rights as a parent to be taken away in regards to life altering decisions for my own child.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:50:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Zenger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:53:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shea Mendelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in my support of SB1150. I am a clinical psychotherapist working for the adolescent population here in Hawai'i. I work with gender diverse patients everyday, and I am familiar with how life saving gender affirming care is for our youth. Youth who are experiencing gender identity issues usually have a difficult time navigating our very gender binaried society. Navigating school environments, social settings, and many other areas of life may bring stress and feelings of not belonging. The very least thing we could do for our keiki and youth is provide gender affirming healthcare, so that at least in a doctors office, our youth feel safe, protected, and heard. Ensuring this care is accessbile is of upmost impotance, as it could literally mean life or death for many. Please consider the voices of those who help and work with youth on a daily/regular basis. We see how important and impactful these issues are. Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:00:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherrae S.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose and i vote No!!!! This is wrong on so many levels . What god made you is what you are end of story, period.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:02:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Puanani Lawrence	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe laws help to create a civil society by regulating behavior and providing consequences for breaking the rules. If a person would like to alter their body they can decide to do it as an adult. We protect our children from bad decisions that may have lifelong effects on their bodies when it comes to smoking, drinking and doing drugs. But, if they would like to permanently mutilate their body with surgery, without parental consent, it is alright with you? What will be the next thing we allow children to decide for themselves? As parents we are expected to care for and protect our children. How are we to continue to do that if you decide when we are allowed to provide that care and protection?

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:06:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Fitzpatrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of SB1150 SD1.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:06:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarisse Kanahele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposing this bill because it is demonic for it goes against the word of God. God created this world, He created male and female. That is how human are being multiplied. Two women cannot produce a child together naturally. So it's wrong.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:16:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arielle Konig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Arielle Konig
Kahului, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:20:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose any effort to make Hawaii a sanctuary state for gender-affirming care, as it undermines parental rights and promotes irreversible medical interventions on minors. As a mother, I believe that children and teenagers—who are still developing physically, emotionally, and psychologically—should not be rushed into life-altering medical procedures without thorough, long-term evaluation and parental involvement. Parents, not the state, should have the final say in their child's healthcare decisions. By encouraging minors to seek treatments such as puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and even surgeries without full transparency about the risks and long-term consequences, this bill could lead to regret and harm rather than healing. Instead of prioritizing ideology, we should focus on mental health support and counseling that helps children navigate their struggles without pushing them toward permanent medical changes. I urge you to reject this bill and instead protect the rights of parents and the well-being of Hawaii's youth.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:21:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Ng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai‘i’s shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care. 17 states and the Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care. Hawai‘i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles to their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai‘i. Presidential executive orders have sought to erase and suppress trans people, including one on 1/29 [targeting trans students in K-12 schools](#) calling for forced outing, restrictions on participation in co-curricular activities, and banning any instruction regarding gender identity.

Hawai‘i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. Yet there are still barriers to receiving care, and the outlook is grim given a White House occupant intent on demonizing trans people in service of an extremist authoritarian ideology—[one that has precedent](#).

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:25:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noalani Helela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to the committees to advocate for SB1150 and protecting the healthcare rights of transgender and nonbinary people living in Hawaii.

Without access to gender-affirming care, many trans people would suffer massive health problems, both physical and mental, some of which could be lethal.

This includes Hawaiian trans people who would then be forced to choose between detransitioning and moving to another state or more likely another country.

A disproportionate and worrisome number of Hawaiians are already made to relocate and leave the islands due to various reasons, many being financial, as many of us cannot afford to live in our own 'one hānau. If Hawaiian trans people are made to do the same because our rights and basic healthcare needs are not protected, it would mean being effectively kicked out of our native homeland because we are trans, which is an extremely vital part of our cultural traditions.

Mahu and other trans people are precious members of our community and always have been.

I urge you all to please protect not only our rights, safety, and health, but our place in our rightful home. Please do not let us be pushed out.

Mahalo nui,

Noalani

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Co-chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and committee members,

My name is Julie Uyeno-Pidot, and I would like to testify in strong support of SB 1150 SD 1.

The decision to receive gender-affirming health care services is a personal one that should be made children, their physicians, and their parents or guardians. Disclosing if children are receiving such care to anyone—including employees of government agencies—is a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Thus, persecution of parents and guardians who support their children in receiving gender-affirming health care is both a legal and an ethical issue.

Rather than facing persecution from government agencies, these parents and guardians should be revered as exemplary. All children deserve unconditional love and support from those that raise them, regardless of gender identity or any other personal characteristic. As such, I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of this bill to protect transgender children and their families.

Mahalo,
Julie Uyeno-Pidot

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in **strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act.**

As a respected local epidemiologist, a director at a community health center in West O‘ahu, a university instructor of public health, and a healthcare professional with extensive experience in LGBTQ+ healthcare advocacy, I feel compelled to contribute my voice to this critical issue because my **background provides an informed and authoritative perspective on the clinical, ethical, and public health dimensions of SB 1150.**

Misinformation, Not Facts is Fueling Opposition to SB 1150

Now more than ever, we see the insidious impact of misinformation—how it spreads, how it distorts reality, and how it influences public policy. This is precisely why I wrote the article for *Civil Beat* on February 13, 2024, titled: “[The Truth About Gender-Affirming Care — And Why It’s Under Attack](#)” (See attached.) The article provides a **scientific and cultural fact-check** of the arguments and misinformation surrounding gender-affirming care, particularly in relation to SB 1150.

So far the article has generated over 135 comments on *Civil Beat’s* Facebook page—demonstrating an extraordinary level of public engagement on this issue, from both those in strong support and those in passionate opposition. Ironically, many of the loudest voices in opposition are rooted in the very misinformation my article debunks. For example, one of the most persistent claims is that gender-affirming care involves irreversible surgeries on minors, equating it to “*child genital mutilation.*” It’s clear from these comments that among the full-throated opposition to this measure, very few—if any—actually read the article or have made a genuine effort to understand the facts or what SB 1150 actually does.

Similarly, I fear the public testimony you receive in opposition to SB 1150 will undoubtedly be filled with these same false claims—repeating fear-based narratives that have no basis in reality.

Public Sentiment vs. Evidence-Based Policymaking

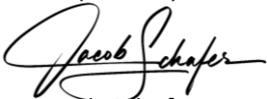
I must emphasize a crucial point: while public input is important, not all opinions deserve equal weight when evaluating a measure of this nature.

As lawmakers, you are tasked with considering public sentiment, but due diligence requires distinguishing between informed perspectives and misinformation. Testimony grounded in public health, clinical practice, and legal precedent must be prioritized over testimony based on misconceptions, fear-mongering, or outright falsehoods. (*For what it’s worth, I, too, would oppose unnecessary, irreversible surgeries on transgender youth. But that’s simply not what this measure does.*)

SB 1150 is about protecting access to medically necessary, evidence-based care. I urge you to center this discussion on facts—not fear—and pass SB 1150 to ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible and protected in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Jacob Schafer

Ewa Beach, Hawaii

The Truth About Gender-Affirming Care — And Why It’s Under Attack

Our national government is using deliberate falsehoods to stoke fear and suppress the rights of transgender youth.

By Jacob Schafer

February 13, 2025 · 4 min read

About the Author



Jacob Schafer

Jacob Schafer is an epidemiologist and community health advocate. He serves as the director of infection control at a health center on O’ahu and is an adjunct instructor of epidemiology at Hawai’i Pacific University. His contributions to public health in Hawai’i have earned numerous awards for advancing health equity and evidence-based policy.



Hawai’i prides itself on being a welcoming and inclusive place where diverse communities can live as their authentic selves. The state has the highest percentage of youth who identify as transgender, according to data collected by the Hawai’i Department of Health.

This doesn’t mean there are inherently more transgender kids here than anywhere else; rather, it reflects Hawai’i’s deep-rooted culture of inclusivity, which acknowledges and honors gender diversity — including the historical recognition of māhū culture. In a more accepting environment, young people feel safer expressing their identities.

Despite this legacy of acceptance, our national government in Washington is attempting to impose nationwide restrictions on providing gender-affirming health care to anyone under the age of 20. **Senate Bill 1150**, currently being considered in the Hawai’i Legislature, aims to protect the state’s health care providers from this federal overreach.

If passed, the measure will ensure that local medical professionals and other health care entities can continue offering evidence-based, life-saving gender-affirming care without fear of legal repercussions or retaliation.

Caught In A Firestorm Of Misinformation

The debate over transgender youth and gender-affirming care evokes strong emotions — sometimes genuine, but often counterproductive. Public testimony has been heated, fueled by misinformation. Claims of “child mutilation” or “kids undergoing surgery without parental consent” would be rightfully concerning if they were true — but they are not.

These are deliberate falsehoods, designed to stoke fear and suppress the rights of transgender youth. Misinformation is a powerful weapon, misleading even well-intentioned people who believe they are acting in the best interests of keiki.

Here are the facts. Gender-affirming care is:

- supported by every major medical association and leading global health authority;
- evidence-based, safe, medically necessary, and often life-saving;
- only provided to minors with parental consent;
- for prepubescent (young) children, gender-affirming care may include: talk therapy, using different names or pronouns, non-medical changes in appearance (e.g., hairstyles, clothing), family counseling;
- for adolescents, care may include fully reversible puberty blockers, which temporarily pause physical changes (e.g., breast growth, facial hair) to allow individuals to reach adulthood and mental maturity before making decisions about more permanent options like hormone injections and surgeries.

What gender-affirming care does not include:

- it is not provided to minors without parental consent;
- it does not involve surgeries on minors.

“Surge” In Transgender Youth

A common misconception is that the rise in transgender youth is some kind of new fad. *“Why does it seem like more young people are identifying as transgender now? This never used to be a thing!”*

If you’ve wondered this, history provides an explanation.

Take the case of left-handedness. Before 1900, most naturally left-handed children in America were forced to write with their right hand. Schools, parents, and society at large viewed left-handedness as awkward, undesirable, or even a sign of poor character.

Dubious claims suggested it led to negative health outcomes or antisocial traits. As a result, left-handed children conformed out of pressure and fear.



But when these outdated beliefs faded in the early 20th century, something remarkable happened: the percentage of left-handed people appeared to skyrocket. Suddenly, kids were identifying as left-handed at much higher rates.

This led to backlash from older generations who saw it as an unnatural fad — “Why are all these kids choosing to be left-handed now? This never used to be a thing!”

Of course, the real prevalence of left-handedness hadn’t changed. The roughly 12% of people who are left-handed today had always existed; they had simply been hiding in plain sight. Once societal norms shifted, they finally had the freedom to live as they truly were.

The same logic applies today to gender identity. When a society suppresses something, it doesn’t erase it — it just forces people into silence. And when that suppression lifts, the truth emerges.

It's Not Just About Health Care

Attacks on gender-affirming care extend beyond health care — they have far-reaching consequences for other marginalized groups and communities. History has shown that when governments restrict the rights of one vulnerable group, others soon follow.

Right now, our national government is targeting transgender youth. Protecting their access to care is about more than health care — it's about drawing a line in the sand to keep Hawai'i a place of aloha, where no community stands alone when their rights are under attack.

SB 1150 is a necessary safeguard against federal overreach that threatens Hawai'i's health care providers. It ensures that medical care in our state remains guided by science, compassion, and the well-being of keiki — not political ideology or misinformation.

Community Voices aims to encourage broad discussion on many topics of community interest. It's kind of a cross between Letters to the Editor and op-eds. This is your space to talk about important issues or interesting people who are making a difference in our world. Column lengths should be no more than 800 words and we need a photo of the author and a bio. We welcome video commentary and other multimedia formats. Send to news@civilbeat.org. The opinions and information expressed in Community Voices are solely those of the authors and not Civil Beat.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:43:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Landon McCann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Māhū have been here in Hawai‘i long before any American administration. They are a part of this places history, present, and future. Gender affirming care is essential to the survival of several children. This is especially true in indigenous spaces such as Hawai‘i. I hope it is ensured that children's health will never be sold out to Donald Trump's administration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:48:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaysha Mata-Peahu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother, I do not parent with the government and this is wrong. I oppose this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:51:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellsey Kelley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't agree with Hawaii being a sanctuary city for gender affirming care.. I believe that God has blessed every one of us with the gender we were meant to be.. I don't agree with anyone going through bodily mutilation that could be irreversible and life threatening..

Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:53:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Honda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawaii should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:13:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear chairman and members of the committee

I am writing to strongly support the health care access protection act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based healthcare without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawaii will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely, PARIS BUSANO-LELEO. WAIANAE, HAWAII

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:16:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I cannot believe that this is even happening here! This is such a disgusting Bill, Causing irreversible damage to our children. They are most vulnerable.. allowing underage children to go through life altering drugs and surgeries that will permanently affect them for their future is disgusting and absolutely wrong. Leave the children alone stop pushing your guys weird agenda on them no child is born in the wrong body let them grow up and make decisions when they're adults.. .

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:23:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Heyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support expanding the protections under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. This crucial clarification ensures that children seeking gender-affirming care are protected, and it strengthens legal frameworks for addressing custody issues involving such services. It is a vital step toward safeguarding the rights and well-being of all individuals, particularly vulnerable youth, in our community.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:25:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharlene Mata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Registered Voter, and lifelong resident of Hawaii. And, I OPPOSE SB 1150 AND HB 1118. I would appreciate your re-consideration of these two very destructive bills to the foundational values of Hawaii's culture, people, and communities. We have always entrusted the parenting of our children to develop and manage these foundational values, NOT the government. Thank you!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:26:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a health care provider, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lee, PsyD

Honolulu HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:31:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Steinbacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the Kaua‘i representative to the Hawai‘i LGBTQ+ Advisory Commission, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services. It is imperative that Hawai‘i takes steps to protect access to gender-affirming health care, as it improves the mental and physical health of transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse people. Gender-affirming care has consistently been shown to improve quality of life, improve health outcomes, and reduce rates of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. All of Hawai‘i’s citizens have an inalienable right to live safe, open, happy, and authentic lives, and we must secure and protect access to medically necessary health care that respects the gender identity of all as experienced and defined by each individual. I urge your support of this critical and compassionate legislation.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:38:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karissa Fuller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1150, which seeks to expand legal protections for gender-affirming care in Hawaii. While I understand the intent behind this bill, it presents significant fiscal, cultural, and political concerns that make it an unsustainable and divisive policy for our state.

1. Fiscal Concerns:

This bill creates unnecessary legal and administrative burdens for Hawaii. By refusing to enforce out-of-state laws related to gender-affirming care, SB1150 opens the door to costly legal disputes. Hawaii taxpayers should not be forced to fund litigation battles that arise from legal conflicts with other states. Our resources should be prioritized for local healthcare, education, and infrastructure, not for defending ideological policies in court.

2. Cultural Concerns:

Hawaii has always been a place where family and community come first. SB1150 disregards the importance of parental rights and family involvement, allowing minors to receive life-altering medical interventions without parental consent. This overreach is in direct conflict with the values of many families in Hawaii, creating cultural tensions and undermining trust in medical and legal institutions. Parents should not be excluded from critical medical decisions affecting their children.

3. Political Consequences:

By positioning Hawaii as a legal sanctuary for gender-affirming care, this bill invites interstate legal conflicts and potential retaliatory policies from states with differing views. It politicizes healthcare in a way that will divide our communities and erode trust in state leadership. Rather than focusing on inclusive, broadly supported healthcare solutions, this bill forces Hawaii into a contentious national debate that distracts from pressing local issues.

For these reasons, **I urge the committee to reject SB1150 and instead focus on policies that unify rather than divide our communities.** Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Karissa Fuller

Hau'ula, Oahu, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:41:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hubbard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is David Hubbard, from Puhi Kauai.

I am writing in clear and decisive opposition to SB 1150.

Parents have the right to raise their children and the government should not intervene when it comes to "gender-affirming" medical care. Parental advocacy should not be over-ridden by the state or any government agency when it comes to this issue.

I work with youth and families and know that the permanent harm done to adolescents through "gender-affirming" care is not beneficial to the individual or the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:52:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison DeYenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I wholeheartedly support SB 1150. It is essential to protect medical privacy, to protect patients and their families, and to protect providers and medical professionals. This bill also safeguards Hawaiian heritage and history which has always embraced gender diversity, and protects Hawai'i from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". Passing this bill exemplifies the spirit of Aloha.

Mahalo for your kōkua,

Allison DeYenno

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:01:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Keala Fung and I highly SUPPORT SB1150. I support that our community who is receiving Gender Affirming Care are protected from persecution and prosecution. Gender Affirming Care is healthcare.

Mahalo for your time,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:02:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Mikhail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a transgender person myself who is also married to a transgender person I strongly support this bill to make sure gender-affirming care remains accessible in Hawaii.

Furthermore, in my and my wife's capacities as the administrators of the Facebook group Transgender Awareness Hawaii, which a we established after having established and run the first few annual Honolulu observances of Transgender Day of Remembrance before handing the reigns to HHHRC we see the need and importance of these protections every day as the Federal Government wages a ware of cruelty on historically excluded populations with a special hatred and cruelty towards women, people of color, immigrants, and certainly gender minorities. Their fixation on such a small segment of the populatino which they don't understand let alone empathize with is dwarfed only by their brazen lies and misinformation about what gender-affirming care, especially for minors actually consists of.

I know of what I speak as I have testified before the legislature before on gender-affirming healthcare issues in my capacity of a Director of The Lavender Clinic which was founded in 2014 and sadly we had to close in 2023. I can say unequivocally there are adults alive today who would never have made it to adulthood if The Lavender Clinic had been unable to provide responsible, evidence-based, gender-affirming care to them as minors. They are successful thriving young adults who contribute economically and culturally to their societies. Furthermore, I would not be alive today without the access to gender-affirming care I received at The Lavender Clinic as an adult patient in the very beginning when it was founded. Many of the providers who are providing this care in Hawaii today are alumni of The Lavender Clinic and many other providers have been educated at least in part by the education and outreach we conducted. One of the commissioners on the status of lgbtqi+ people in Hawaii is my personal primary care provider to this day and had originally worked at The Lavender Clinic doing post-doctoral studies in gender-affirming care. We had hoped to establish a lasting partnership with UCSF; however, sadly, The Lavender Clinic as an Organization did not survive long enough to see that through. I've deviated to speaking about the Organization I was involved in, because I want to emphasize just how much I have personally interacted with this issue.

As an Organization The Lavender Clinic provided gender-affirming care to literally hundreds of patients from children to those well above retirement age. It is important to dispell the misinformation here with regards to gender-affirming care to minors, and while much ink has been spilled on the topic by many much more qualified than me, the same lies being spread on the National stage are being echoed by some Hawaii politicians in the name of "protecting

children". I'm not afraid to call out directly State Representative Elijah Pierick who appears to have a pathological obsession with attacking people and spreading lies. The youngest patient I can personally recall coming to The Lavender Clinic for gender-affirming care was 5 years old when I met her. Her father has likely submitted testimony if the family still lives in Hawaii; however, I haven't followed them since the clinic's closure.

Here is how I met her. Her father brought her in to see one of our licensed mental health therapists who was licensed to work with families and children. He interviewed her father, then the 2 of them together. He reviewed and compared notes with the head physician of the clinic who had been speaking to the patient's father and the patient for over a year at that point. The therapist then wrote a letter for the patient so that her father could rent an apartment in a building which only allowed service or emotional support animals. The child already suffered from anxiety at age 5. Part of her anxiety came from the fact that since she had the ability to speak she told every adult who would listen that she was a girl not a boy. Like any parent in this situation, especially a single parent, her father wanted to support his child but didn't know what to do or what was best. By the time she came to us for this letter it was certainly more than "just a phase". She had chosen a name which is now her legal name, and she looked like any other little girl of that age. The gender-affirming care she received that day was a letter for her emotional support dog which referenced her by her chosen name and her affirming pronouns. Over the next several years she and her father would have many more difficult conversations with our healthcare and therapy staff about whether it was right to do this or that but the this or that consisted of things like, how much should they push back on school officials about her name and pronouns? How can we get the schools not to out her? Normal childhood stuff which eventually became normal adolescent stuff. Most of the conversations were much more social than they were medical. Eventually blood tests did need to be ordered to determine what stage of puberty she was in. More check-ins with therapists asking her how it made her feel to have started puberty. These therapists had experience with many cisgender children so they knew the difference between "everybody hates puberty" and gender dysphoria. Eventually the decision was made jointly by her father, the therapists, and the patient herself that chemically blocking puberty to give the patient and her family more time to decide what should be the right path was made.

The last time I saw her she was 12 or 13 and looked like any other girl that age and very very happy. The occasion was Transgender Day of Visibility flag waving at the State Capitol and while most of the responses we got were honks of support, I remember very very clearly a large black SUV coming nearly to a stop in fast moving traffic on Beretania St and the driving turning his entire body towards the capitol where we flag waving and giving us all 2 middle fingers and the response from the dozens if not hundreds of us waving flags was largely either polite boos or ignoring. This incident of a man so filled with hate for something he didn't know or understand and which clearly didn't affect him personally in any way illustrates why these protections are so necessary and vital to all of our survival.

When it comes down to it, this is about our right to exist. Thank you.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:03:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Cunnane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of this- please protect those who need gender affirming care and those who help these people who need it.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:04:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle O'Sullivan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Rhoads, Gabbard, Dela Cruz and Moriwaki and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i continue to have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a Family Medicine Physician who has the privilege of caring for people who are transgender, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and gender diverse individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting all of our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle O'Sullivan MD

Makawao, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:15:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisabeth Mather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support increasing access to and protecting people's ability to receive gender affirming care. As a mental health counselor, I know that these protections are vital to ensuring people's overall mental health and well-being.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:19:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please lend you valuable support to this bill.

Thank you

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:23:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
takiguchi@gmail.com	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All children should have access to gender affirming care. I am a biological female and I got my period when I was 9 years old. When I got into high school my cramps were very severe and without access to birth control hormones I would have had to suffer. I wish I had access to gender affirming care earlier when I was 9 years old experiencing puberty at such an early age. I was going through intense hormone changes at 9 years old and got acne in the 4th grade when most of my classmates wouldn't get it for another 5-6 years.

Children experiencing gender dysphoria should not be treated differently. All children should have access to the care that they need when it comes to hormones. Hormone blockers can assist development in many ways.

For some children access to gender affirming care earlier in life is actually life saving.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:23:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaye Nutt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:25:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Hahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not allow Hawaii to allow children to receive transgender surgery here. I oppose this

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:27:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kingsley Simeona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB1150, which seeks to expand protections for gender-affirming health care services and modify jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA). While health care access is critical, this bill raises serious concerns regarding parental rights, medical ethics, and legal overreach.

1. Undermining Parental Rights

SB1150 would allow minors to access life-altering medical procedures without full parental involvement. Parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to guide their children’s health care decisions, especially when it involves irreversible treatments such as hormone therapy or surgeries. This bill risks eroding parental authority and may lead to serious consequences for families who wish to take a more cautious, research-based approach to their child’s medical care.

2. Risk of Medical Harm and Lack of Long-Term Research

Expanding access to gender-affirming medical treatments, particularly for minors, ignores the growing concerns within the medical community about the long-term safety and efficacy of these procedures. Countries such as Sweden, Finland, and the UK have significantly restricted access to medical gender transition for minors due to concerns over detrimental health effects, lack of scientific consensus, and increasing cases of regret. SB1150 does not take into account these serious medical concerns and may expose Hawaii’s youth to unnecessary medical risks.

3. Legal Overreach and Custody Concerns

This bill proposes modifications to the UCCJEA that would interfere with existing custody laws, potentially allowing a child to receive gender-affirming care in Hawaii against the wishes of one or both parents. This sets a dangerous precedent where Hawaii courts could override parental decisions and undermine family autonomy in cases of medical disputes. Such a policy could incentivize parental conflict and open the door for legal manipulation in custody disputes.

4. Broad and Vague Protections

The bill lacks clarity on what specific “protections” are being expanded and how they would impact medical providers, parents, and children. Are medical professionals shielded from liability even in cases of malpractice? Would parents be denied access to their child’s medical records if gender-affirming care is involved? Such ambiguities raise major concerns about the lack of transparency and oversight in implementing this policy.

Conclusion

While every individual deserves compassionate and ethical health care, SB1150 goes too far in removing parental involvement, ignoring international medical concerns, and expanding legal jurisdiction in an overreaching manner. Rather than rushing into policies that could cause irreversible harm, Hawaii should prioritize careful, evidence-based approaches that truly protect children’s well-being.

For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to oppose SB1150 and instead focus on legislation that promotes responsible medical care, respects parental rights, and ensures informed decision-making for all patients.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:28:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rokeuaine Letua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I extremely oppose this bill!

this bill introduced a gray area for children to be confused with their gender and sexuality. It also alienates children from parents and enables predators to take advantage of families and vulnerable children's.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:31:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill! Stop mutilating our youth!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:32:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150 like 99.9999% of hawaii citizens with common sense. These demonic bills that attack children are pure trash. Burn that bill, and save the keikis of hawaii please. They are our future, stop torturing them!!!! This bill is supported by sick minded people, sad, no wonder hawaii is on a downward spiral. Leave the kids alone!!!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:33:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What happened to the hippocratic oath of doing no harm? A child at the vulnerable age of 14 may later regret transitioning, only to discover later that transitioning was not the solution to his or her problems. These life altering changes are permanent. This is NOT okay.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:34:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Golojuch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is so important and vital for children who believe in their heart they are who they are and to tell them no is less he putting a gun to their head. Please support them and this bill!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:37:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryon Fugitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on SB1150, as this bill is a clear violation of parental rights and protection of minors.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:41:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nestor Fontanilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150 because the medical procedures labeled as “gender-affirming care” do not serve their intended purpose. Instead, they cause permanent and detrimental harm to children.

This ideology is politically driven and often supported by parents who fail to recognize that many children go through phases they will naturally outgrow.

If the state becomes a sanctuary for minors with psychological struggles and facilitates these procedures—especially by concealing them or transporting children without parental knowledge—the State is engaging in child abduction and human trafficking.

If the state is truly committed to supporting these children, it should prioritize mental health services to address their psychological challenges rather than resorting to irreversible medical interventions.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:43:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda Lazaro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposing this bill that wants to make the State of Hawaii a transgender sanctuary. Parent rights should not be removed no matter what. No minor has the rights for any life altering surgery without any parents' approval. What have our State turned into.

Mahalo,

Brenda

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:47:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Carlson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB1150. As a parent of a transgender child, I can't even fathom not having the right to work with doctors and my family to determine the best future for my child. Gender affirming care is healthcare. So much is misunderstood on this issue, but please do not approach this issue with fear and bigotry. Please have compassion and pass this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:49:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mii I fortner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would not be alive without transgender affirming care.

Hawaii has been a safe place to fully explore ones authentic self.

Give the opportunity for young transgender persons to grow into their authentic selves and not have to go through an unnecessary puberty.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:49:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaxson Faumuina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm supporting this bill because it's dear to my heart and as someone who is trans man with out gender affirming care I wouldn't be here today. It's helped me mentally with the help and support of my therapist and doctors. I born and raised here on the island I'm half Samoan and Portuguese we do exist in this world. In world at this moment many of us are scared and afraid what will happen to our heath care. Let's be the people of love and support not hatful. For we all equal in this world.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:51:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danease Beck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vote NO on this bill SB1150.

Danease Beck

Kauai

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:52:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Naun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

As a parent of two transgender young adults, I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. I have seen the effects of this firsthand. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Naun
Kailua, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:57:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community pediatrician, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alison Rivera

Kahului, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:58:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Olayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings to All,

I am submitting a testimony in strong opposition to this bill. I believe that children are not fully developed, and should not be able to have the ability of making this type of decisions. This should be a decision-making process after reaching adulthood.

Thank you,

~Gail Olayan

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:59:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAUAKEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Registered Voter, and lifelong resident of Hawaii. And, I OPPOSE SB 1150 AND HB 1118.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:09:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gary cordery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representing the 20k plus followers of Aloha Freedom Coalition, we oppose this bill in the strongest measure.

1. The state shall not engage in promoting any biological change for a minor without the parents consent.
2. There are millions of split families, this bill creates an irreversible devastating medical procedure where one parent may not agree but has no notification or recourse in this type of procedure.
3. The authors of this bill are setting in place a legal method to traffic youth across state lines against the rights of parents.

Gender-affirming care is life-saving, and with this bill, the State of Hawai'i has an opportunity to protect transgender folks' right to healthcare, and to save children's lives. I am a transgender man, and I would never wish the pain of gender dysphoria on anyone. Before I was able to access gender-affirming care, I felt like I was living in a nightmare. The body I saw in the mirror was not me, and that pain was indescribable. There is no body horror film that could ever come close to capturing what gender dysphoria feels like. I would constantly envision the man I wanted to see reflected in the mirror, and I held onto the hope that I would finally be able to medically transition one day. I am forever grateful that I had the support and resources to pursue medical transition. Gender-affirming care allowed me to finally become the man I always was. I was finally able to look in the mirror and love the man I saw smiling back at me. I finally saw myself.

Transgender children face extraordinarily high rates of depression and anxiety, and are the most vulnerable population in today's political and social climate. Empirical research—facts—overwhelmingly support gender-affirming care for both adults and children. Those who oppose this bill may tout that they simply want to protect children, but exactly who are they protecting? Who, or what, are their sources—their evidence for their stance? Transgender youth are constantly talked over. If governing bodies and policymakers truly listened to them, this bill would not be up for debate at all. I cannot imagine what it must feel like to be a transgender child and to see their representatives, people they are supposed to trust and look up to, blatantly disregard their wellbeing and condemn them to years of body horror. I cannot imagine how transgender children feel as they see their representatives, and the institutions that are supposed to protect them, completely fail them. Depending on the outcome of SB1150, Hawai'i will either tell its youth that the state affirms and stands with them, or it will signal that it is content to let them suffer in silence. To disagree with SB1150, and with gender-affirming care, is to disagree with both science and the lived experience of transgender children themselves.

I implore the State of Hawai'i to pass SB1150, thereby standing firm in its commitment to protecting the rights and dignities of its citizens.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:23:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fianna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill to give rights to children, CHILDREN, yes in capital letters to undergo a surgical procedure to remove or to implant their own private parts - penis, breast, vagina.

My first reason is it's a private part and we call these things private parts for a reason, to keep our parts private and to not showcase in the public of boasting about if you're a boy or girl.

My second reason is our children's safety! Shame on you, government for allowing this bill to reach to this point, and shame on you who voted for this bill! I don't have to quote a certain research you can just google it and read all of the health risk people face while "transitioning" - hormone problems, suicidal, depression, eating disorders- in one article it says that people who transition into transgender are 6x more likely to face those risk and you want to give person to CHILDREN to have the right to undergo these procedure without parent consent, again SHAME! Why would you what that for a Keiki! And not safe at all for a child's Physical development because Before and after transgender surgery, patients take a lot of medication and hormone pills to help prepare. With passing this law, you are saying that our CHILDREN have the right to take this medication, and will be at risk to damage their physical ability and consequences result in mental health disorders and possibly death due to suicidal actions.

My third reason to oppose this Law to give CHILDREN the right to under go transgender surgery is because CHILDREN make wrong choices and don't yet understand what's right and what is wrong. I am just an Educator , with a Bachelor's degree and yet I am very concerned for the type of people in government to have this type of power to remove a parent's consent for something that can cause death to their child. I'll keep saying it, shame on you government and shame on you people that's voting for this bill Why?I must explain it, it's CHILDREN someone under the age of 18-5 years of age to make a choice about their body, in particular their private parts! I'm a Educator and have experienced with CHILDREN, and one thing I know about CHILDREN is that they don't know what they want, and with giving them this Right and passing this Bill it will set them up to be an always labeled as outcast in our society, a failure because they don't know how to love themselves because the government wants them to make their own choices as a CHILD and suffer for it. Let's all take a moment to the time when we were a CHILD- did you always make good choices? Did you grow up to be what you dreamed to be? How often did you change your mind and thought what you did was right? Parents are the main influences in a child's life and parenting doesn't stop when a child is 18, it continues through your their life. A parents main objective is to keep their CHILD safe and to protect them.

At the age 18 CHILDREN, grow and learn to make their own choices and will have to accept their own consequences. But when a CHILD is yet a CHILD their parents are there to help, guide them and to protect them from any harm. With passing this Bill it puts all CHILDREN in harms ways!

We have laws already affect to have parents consent to keep their Keiki safe. A few examples of where a parents consent is needed is when CHILDREN get there driving permit & license, need consent to attend a school field trip, watch a rated R movie, be in a social media content, getting a piercing, or a tattoo, and more, go ahead and research parents consent. With the passing of this Bill you are allowing children to not be protected from their own parents/guardians and you surely decided that is better for CHILDREN to Die because they have a right to choice if they want have a surgical procedure to be a boy or girl. I oppose SB 1150! Join me to oppose this Bill to Save our CHILDREN and Support their parents!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:25:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlie Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charlie Hutchinson (they/she). I am an associate clinical social worker with two years of experience serving individuals with gender-expansive identities and the complex personal and system issues that arise from them. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1150 SD1, also known as the Health Care Access Protection Act.

Gender-affirming health care encompasses a range of medical, surgical, mental health, and social services designed to support and affirm an individual's gender identity. This care is recognized by leading medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association, as essential to the well-being of gender-expansive individuals. Access to gender-affirming care has been shown to significantly reduce rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among gender-expansive youth and adults.

In my role as a clinical social worker, I have witnessed firsthand the profound positive impact that access to gender-affirming care can have on individuals' mental health and overall quality of life. Clients who have received appropriate support and medical care experience a decrease in symptoms of depression and anxiety, greater confidence and comfort in their authentic selves, and lower instances of self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

To best serve all the peoples of Hawai'i and support their wellbeing, I urge the committee to support SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:26:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committees Members,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am an O‘ahu resident writing in **strong support of SB1150 SD1**, which would expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

This bill is important to me because I believe we should protect gender-affirming care providers from being criminalized or threatened with losing their licenses by bad actors outside of Hawai‘i, simply for doing their jobs. This bill will also protect patients from investigations and legal action for accessing essential health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:28:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:32:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:36:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Mungall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150, this does not reflect the family values of Hawai'i and have minors' long term health care in mind.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:40:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion Fairbanks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
M. Fairbanks
Mililani, Hawai‘i**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:42:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Moe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill 1150 because I do not believe that minor children have the mental capacity to make a decision like choosing their gender. The decision to undergo gender affirming care includes irreversible biological, emotional and psychological consequences that will harm the next generation of children.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:43:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rivera

Kahului, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:44:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Falefia Moe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Falefia Moe,

I'm here to oppose SB1150 because kids should not make a life long choice to choosing their own gender. This bill is setup to take away the parents rights to protect the child decision of choosing their own gender.

I am a believer of Jesus Christ who give us at birth the gender we out to be. We don't choose our gender it was given to us already at birth. Therefore I oppose SB 1150.

Mahalo,

God bless

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:49:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
La Plane Valmoja	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:50:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Mitchell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't believe it is right to change a persons sex . These kids are too young to make a life altering decision that a high percentage of kids end up regretting and there is nothing they can do after it is done . Our bodies are created by God and it is wrong to allow kids to destroy their bodies when they have no idea what they are doing . We need to love on these kids and give them the right support and counseling that they need and not allow this .

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:52:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Eichenauer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose children being taken from the parents after being brainwashed into gender ideology to have any sort of experimentation done to them. Whether it be chemical castration or physical castration. Leave the children alone.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:55:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Psillos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This is bad legislation and would be bad for Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:56:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Keating	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender-affirming care shield laws protect the fundamental rights and dignity of transgender individuals by ensuring access to medically necessary treatment without political interference. These laws safeguard evidence-based care that supports mental health, well-being, and the right to self-determination. Access to gender-affirming care reduces the risks of depression, anxiety, and suicide while fostering resilience in the face of societal challenges. Shield laws promote equality, fairness, and inclusion by preventing discriminatory policies. Our communities flourish when everyone has the opportunity to live authentically and receive compassionate care. Enacting gender-affirming care shield laws is an essential step toward a just society for all.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:59:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mirian Bodine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.. what is this country allowing this to happen..

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:04:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mario Rosa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As adults here in Hawaii we look to protect our youth by guiding them through unsure and confusing points in their young lives. This is a very big example of one of them. This will be a very drastic decision for them to make with very little experience of long term consequence paired with the social pressures flowing through social media. I strongly feel it is a giant mistake to let them decide without parental consent in any state, let alone here in Hawaii where we take pride in family and taking care of our children and young adults. They are not the only ones who will have to deal with the negative repercussions of this life altering decision. How have we even gotten to the point that this may possibly be an option? Shame on those who support this bill. We must protect them and guide them.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:07:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly S Davison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm highly disappointed that our government at the state level believe it's in our best interest to have bills like this proposed. The common sense has been lost and the role of government is confused. When a person is born, they are born a man or a woman. A child does not get to choose what they feel like. An adult does not get to choose what they feel like. How does the government feel like they are providing a resource or protection over people by allowing them to choose the option of changing sex. In fact, what we are introducing is the end of society. The government wishes to allow the choice for more mental instability instead of identifying the concerns early on making corrections. I oppose this bill and pray that those that introduced it receive counseling.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:09:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Uyeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 1150

My name is Eric Uyeda and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is essential to ensuring that Hawai'i remains a safe and inclusive place for all individuals seeking medically necessary care, particularly gender-affirming health services.

As a state that values equality, dignity, and medical autonomy, Hawai'i must take a stand against laws that seek to restrict access to gender-affirming care and penalize those who provide it. Major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), recognize gender-affirming care as essential for the well-being of transgender individuals. Studies have shown that access to these treatments significantly reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender youth and adults.

By passing SB 1150, Hawai'i will:

- ✓ Protect patients and medical providers from out-of-state legal actions that attempt to criminalize gender-affirming care.
- ✓ Ensure parents and legal guardians can make informed medical decisions for their children without interference from laws enacted in other states.
- ✓ Safeguard access to health care that aligns with best medical practices and ensures the mental and physical well-being of transgender individuals in Hawai'i.

This bill is not about politics—it is about protecting the rights of individuals to receive necessary, evidence-based health care. Without SB 1150, families in Hawai‘i could face legal threats, medical discrimination, and barriers to life-saving care.

I urge the committee to pass SB 1150 and affirm Hawai‘i’s commitment to health care access, personal freedoms, and equal rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Eric Uyeda

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:10:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer Dehnavi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender affirming care saves lives and is received by both trans and cis individuals. Trans rights are human rights. Providers need to be protected so they can provide care to the best of their abilities.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:15:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Stop abusing these children with drugs, chemicals and potential medical procedures that are not reversible. These interventions may cause serious mental health disorders that affect kids for their entire lives into adulthood. Trump has appointed RFK Jr to make policy that States need to follow. Federal government has a mandate to stop these fake medical care treatments so Hawaii should follow their lead or our people could be impacted by consequences. Do what is right!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:15:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyma B. Wilson, Psy.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a clinical psychologist on O`ahu and, as such, I am intimately familiar with necessity of health care access, especially for vulnerable populations. I have had patients who identify as transgender and non-binary and I see, first hand, their often monumental struggles. I am in complete support of this bill. **Gender-affirming health care services are literally life-saving** for people who identify as transgender and non-binary.

According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), "transphobia" is defined as " the specific hatred and fear of transgender and non-binary people." The HRC website goes on to explain that transphobia "is all too often expressed by bigoted individuals or as part of the systemic inequality of our society. Too often, those seeking to undermine transgender and non-binary people attempt to impose rigid, sexist beliefs about sex and gender." We must not participate in this extremism and bigotry!

There is absolutely no reason to target this population or to treat them with anything less than the basic human dignity that is afforded those who identify as CIS-gender.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1150, and I respectfully urge the Committee members to pass this critical bill. Please stand up and protect this vulnerable population!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:18:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samarha Izutsu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose allowing children to decide on whether to receive gender changing surgeries. As they are still developing physically, emotionally, and mentally it is not the right time for them to make a decision about surgically changing their gender. The decision to have gender changing surgery could possibly have negative health consequences, some lingering long afterwards. Gender surgery is a decision that should be made as an adult. There are many testimonials from people who received this surgery as children and regret it. Please have respect for parents and their roles. The State should not be able to overstep a parent's rights to raise their children. Mahalo.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:22:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Shimada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for advancing SB 1150 this far. I hope it passes because we need to protect our community. We offer options for cis gender people to have gender affirming care through hormonal medication or devices like IUDs or even things like hair removal or hair transplants. Trans people, nonbinary people, and māhū are part of our community and have existed long before we became a state and will continue to exist.

In college, my first roommate was going through the process of transitioning, but I didn't know much about trans people at the time, nor did he share it with me until after he moved out. They had just gotten a breast reduction before moving in. I never felt unsafe or uncomfortable living with them. People deserve to pursue their own personal happiness when it comes to aligning with the gender they choose to associate with or opt out.

If the federal government won't protect gender-affirming care, we must, because these are people in our community.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:32:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Foley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Health Care Access Protection Act. This measure would ensure that members of our community would have access to medical care that they need. Medical care that has been deemed safe and advisable by countless doctors the world over. This is supported with a plethora of scientific data that confirms these practices are in the best interests of the patient and can be life saving.

I am a parent of one of these adolescents that some are trying to block from the care that he and his doctors have decided is the right choice for him. Why are there folks that concern themselves with the health care choices that we make for my child? He has undergone rigorous evaluations with a wide array of experts in order to receive this care. But those that oppose his right to life saving medical care would like for us to not even have that care available to choose. Again, who are these people to say whether or not my child should have access to care that we decided under advisement from a large team of medical professionals was the right course of action for our child.

Does Hawaii not offer our citizens the rights to make these choices for ourselves? Does the State not trust the doctors that have been licensed to practice medicine in our state? Does Hawaii, a place with a rich history of celebrating people like my son, no longer care to protect our Trans and Mahu people?

Any opposition to this bill sides with the forces that are trying to eradicate my son. They would rather that my son and Trans people like him don't exist. That is why this bill is so important. It ensures that these Trans people, vulnerable members of our community, receive medical care that saves lives. As is their right. And this bill shows the people that want to eradicate my son that they don't get to decide who are valid members of our society and who aren't.

I trust that you will make the right decision for all members of our community. Please don't be swayed by a vocal minority of religious extremists. Thank you.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:33:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Bright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 1150, Opposing the Recent Amendments

Restoring Protections for Families and Trans Youth

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of SB 1150 but in strong opposition to the recent amendments that weaken the bill’s ability to protect families and trans youth. The original language of SB 1150 provided critical legal protections for families fleeing states that have criminalized gender-affirming care. The removal of these provisions undermines the bill’s purpose and puts vulnerable youth at risk.

1. I Know Firsthand the Consequences of Delayed Gender-Affirming Care

I speak from personal experience. I recently underwent three voice surgeries, a painful and high-risk surgery to correct the effects of a puberty I never wanted. If I had been given access to puberty blockers as a child, I might never have needed this procedure. But because I was denied timely care, I am now dealing with permanent, unnecessary medical burdens. I’ve also gone through facial surgeries, also high risk.

Puberty blockers are safe, reversible, and well-studied for over a century. Without access to them, trans youth face:

Permanent voice changes, often requiring surgery like mine.

Unwanted facial and body development, leading to more medical interventions later in life.

Increased depression, dysphoria, and suicide risk, as shown in extensive research.

The amendments to SB 1150 strip away protections for families seeking this lifesaving care, making it harder for them to access what should be a basic medical right.

2. The Amendments Remove Legal Protections That Families Desperately Need

Families are fleeing states where seeking gender-affirming care is now criminalized. Many parents are at risk of losing custody simply for following established medical guidelines. The original bill ensured:

✔ Hawaii courts could take jurisdiction over child custody cases for families seeking gender-affirming care.

✔ Emergency protections for trans youth unable to access care in their home states.

By removing these protections, the amendments leave families vulnerable to legal action from states that want to separate trans youth from supportive parents. Hawaii should not allow other states' anti-LGBTQ+ laws to dictate our custody decisions.

3. The 2050 Effective Date Is a Deliberate Stalling Tactic

Changing the bill's effective date to December 31, 2050 is nothing more than a way to kill this legislation without openly voting against it. This crisis is happening now:

Families are already fleeing hostile states and need legal protection immediately.

Trans youth in those states are already suffering due to care bans.

Every year of delay means more children will be forced through unwanted, irreversible puberties.

A delayed bill helps no one. If Hawaii wants to be a sanctuary for trans youth, we must act now—not in 2050.

4. Call to Action: Restore SB 1150's Protections

I urge the committee to:

- Restore the original jurisdictional protections so that Hawaii courts, not hostile out-of-state courts, determine custody.
- Reinstate emergency jurisdiction to allow Hawaii to protect children at risk.
- Remove the 2050 delay and ensure these protections take effect immediately.

Hawaii has a proud history of standing up for human rights. Let's not turn our backs on trans youth and their families now. Strengthen SB 1150—don't weaken it.

Mahalo,

Kalani Bright

Transgender Woman & LGBTQ Community Organizer/Supporter

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:33:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:43:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gioia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly disagree with this bill SB1150

This is not your decisions as politicians

Your are not incharge of my children

and making a bill that gives children access to this sick things what is wrong with the people in this state coming up with these sick and unprofessional Bills this needs to stop you people as house representatives are not for the people you guys are just making Bills that are useless and unprofessional I strongly Oppose this Bill. You guys are not GOD!!!

STOP TRYING TO MAKE DUMB BILLS AND TRY TO CHANGE OUR CHILDREN THAT WE CREATED !!! GO DO THAT TO YOUR OWN KIDS IF THATS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO YOU WILL NEVER DO THAT TO EVERY OTHER FAMILY THAT DISAGREES WITH THIS DUMB BILL!!!! AS PARENTS WE MAKE THE DECISION NOT THE GOVERNMENT!!!

YOU GUYS ARE GOING AGAINST PRESIDENT TRUMPS EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT WAS SIGNED !!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:46:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Muskopf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very much in support of this legislation. Protecting patients' rights and parental support (when aligned with patients' rights) is key to well being for all people. Other states policies should not apply to the citizens of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for taking the time to thoughtfully consider the sense of security and safety this legislation can offer members of our community in these disruptive times.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:48:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Graff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Chapter 622 of title 33 in HRS covers a patient's right to privacy within a healthcare context. What healthcare I do or do not receive should remain between me and my doctor, not the overreaching federal government. The Declaration of Independence outlines the importance of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If we do not have rights to our own body, then we have nothing for those three tenets to be built upon.

Doctor Magnus Hirschfeld was a WW1 Red Cross Physician who later, in 1919, established Institut für Sexualwissenschaft, detailing the difference between gender and sexuality and provided gender affirming care in the Weimar Republic. May 6th of 1933, the fascist regime ransacked the institute, burning records and clinical files that detailed the existence of gender affirming care. It was amongst the first book burnings.

Today, we see the erasure and purge of trans related documents and records with the rescission and repeals within the CDC, our national removal from World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and attempted national refusal of our existence. We have always existed and will continue to exist. My existence cannot be signed away with a pen.

Today, you look at a measure that would ensure the rights to healthcare for others who might be different from you. I ask that you consider the slippery slope if healthcare rights for minorities could be written away so easily by the federal government. I look to the 10th amendment of the Bill of Rights and ask that as a state, we do what is pono and ensure an individual's right to medical autonomy and privacy.

Mahalo nui.

With compassion and care,

Julia

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:51:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robbyn Aviguetero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a born and raised resident I oppose this bill to make Hawaii a transgender sanctuary state. When it comes to making life altering decisions I do not agree that minors should be allowed to have gender reassignment surgery without parental consent. Children are easily influenced and are not mature or capable enough to rationally make a decision to change their gender. By all means they can wait until they are an adult to make that choice. But as children we need to protect them from making such decisions that go against their entire biology. It's not a life or death situation, changing their gender is not a surgery that needs to be done right away. As a concerned parent I would not want my child to be influenced into thinking that they may have been born as the wrong gender. Allowing others to come here will bring about confusion and division amongst everyone. One of the biggest issues being that biological males should not be allowed to participate in girls/womens sports. I would like to keep our state safe for our children and lookout for the wellbeing of other children who are considering this transformation at a young and fragile age. While Hawaii is all about aloha spirit I do not support or welcome the idea of having our home be a transgender sanctuary state.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:56:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Caoagdan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha WAM and JDC Committees,

I am a voting constituent in one of your districts (*Waikele, Sen. Kidani*). I would like to express my **strong opposition** to SB1150 SD1 due to the following reasons:

1. Research does not support medical intervention for gender identity related treatment. Puberty blockers & cross-sex hormones are not FDA approved & surgeries experimental, lack long-term safety studies, & often non-reversible. Many countries are now reversing these laws due to safety concerns.
2. There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawai'i should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.
3. States should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them (including sex traffickers & adults with an "agenda") toward gender transition procedures.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider my testimony in **strong opposition** to SB1150 SD1.

Sincerely,

Chris Caoagdan

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:04:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
iokepa cabanilla aricayos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Leaders, please create a bill that represent our state motto.

"Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono"

"The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:05:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brad Greenlee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:07:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this much needed bill for gender affirming care. As someone who has experienced gender dysphoria for most of my life, I can assure you from personal and community shared experience, that this bill will save lives.

In our society, differences have been used to oppress and marginalize folks who do not stick to an strict status quo, however we factually know that indigenous cultures throughout the world, and specifically here in Hawai'i that gender fluidity has always been a revered part of our existense.

While the bigots like Pierick who want to use our legislature to pray at work instead of getting laws that protect residents, allege that this bill would encourage kidnapping, I hope have enough sense to ignore unfounded ignorant and hateful fearmongering in this state.

If him and his supporters actually cared about the well being of children, they'd be doing a lot more to prevent human trafficking, instead of inviting hate groups to speak at the capitol.

Please have the courage to do what is right, and support this bill that will not only save the lives of bullied children who feel alone, but it will show them that there are places and people who care for them. This bill will enable trams kids to make it out of childhood and become happier adults who love themselves.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:22:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace T Galiza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. I do not believe henders should be changed . Babies are either born make Ir female. Why do I know rhat the Big Book says it so. Don't be needing around with it.
Thank you!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:22:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richmond H.D. Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai‘i has a longstanding tradition of embracing diversity and upholding the spirit of aloha, which emphasizes respect and acceptance for all individuals. This commitment is evident in our proactive stance on civil rights; notably, in 1993, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court became the first in the world to rule that the fundamental right to marriage could extend to same-sex couples.

This landmark decision positioned Hawai‘i ahead of the continental United States in recognizing and protecting LGBTQ+ rights.

In alignment with this history of inclusivity, it is imperative that we ensure transgender individuals have access to comprehensive medical care, including gender-affirming treatments. Denial of such care has been linked to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation, whereas access significantly enhances mental health and overall well-being. Upholding the dignity and authenticity of all residents reflects Hawai‘i’s values and reinforces our role as a leader in civil rights and compassionate healthcare. In a world where hate and discrimination are often on display, Hawai‘i has the unique opportunity to continue being a beacon of light—showing hope, love, and acceptance to all.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:29:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail H. Kuba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE SB1150 the Government cannot usurp parental rights in the raising of their child(ren) in providing 'gender-affirming care' for children entering puberty and making lifealtering decisions with surgeries at this time of life.

I OPPOSE SB1150, with funding/taxes going towards such surgeries and housing, etc for those making their way to Hawai'i. Is the Government moving into the area of child abduction and human trafficking by concealing children or transporting them without parental knowledge?!!

Please OPPOSE SB1150, Hawai'i can provide other ways by funding for counseling for genderdisphoria instead of the lifealtering permanent surgeries.

Mahalo nui loa,

Gail H. Kuba

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:32:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvester Bellinger-Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying my support of SB1150 SD1 as a transgender resident of Hawai'i. This bill would help to protect the health and freedom of my friends, my family, my community as a whole, and myself in Hawai'i; all of this is of extreme importance to me. The hatred of the current president should not be allowed to dictate the choices we make about *our* bodies and life-saving healthcare.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150. I am a member of the Ala Moana - Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board and a member of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. This testimony comes solely from myself.

Over the last 37 days we have seen an unprecedented number of attacks against members of our transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community from the federal government and other state and local governments who seek to restrict gender affirming health care in our own state. These are politically motivated attacks that put lives at risk. We can not let these out of state actors dictate the medical treatments of our residents. SB 1150 helps greatly in protecting those who seek gender affirming care from these out-of-state legal attacks.

Our state needs to take a stand to protect our transgender, Māhū, and non-binary keiki and adults. Our state prides itself in Aloha. I have always taken that not only to mean showing kindness to one another, but also helping and protecting one another from those who wish us harm.

Here are some Gender-affirming care facts:

- Supported by every major medical association
- Evidence-based, safe and medically necessary
- Is NOT provided to minors without parental consent
- does NOT involve surgeries on minors

SB 1150 shows that our state stands with, and protects, members of our transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community who need this medically necessary care. I urge this committee to pass SB 1150.

Dale VanderBrink

Ala Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board Member

Member of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:54:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Children shouldn't be making life-changing decisions. "Professionals" who enable that as "healthcare" should be held accountable for harm.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:00:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

I kindly urge you to consider the numerous testimonies provided by transgender, māhū, and gender-diverse individuals, along with the parents of transgender and gender-diverse youth who are profoundly affected by this issue. Please honor their voices and insights.

Vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:05:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cade Calleton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair and Members of Committee,

I am writing in my capacity as a law student at the University of Hawai'i, a partner to a transgender person, and as a transgender resident of Hawai'i myself. I am, and urge the committee to follow suit, in **strong support** of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**. This act allows myself, my partner, and countless other members of the trans community in Hawai'i to live free from fear of our state protections being ripped from us, our peers, and our future children should they themselves be members of the LGBTQ community and in need of medical care.

Hawai'i, as one of the first unions to advance protections for LGBTQ families, should not sully its image now by failing to offer the same to future generations. With its rich, gender-diverse history, enacting the proposed protections would not only be in the interests of those in Hawai'i suffering from gender dysphoria but the very sovereignty of this community as a whole. Should the Senate Committee choose instead to cave to misinformation and allow federal overreach to revoke such necessary faculties as medical care, this will no doubt have drastic current and long standing repercussions which will supplant this community's ability to provide its citizens necessary medical care (among other potential necessary functions for sustaining life) for any reason should they become politicized.

Mahalo for reading my wholehearted support of this bodily autonomy and community sovereignty initiative,

Cade Calleton
J.D. Candidate
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:15:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Respected Legislators:

May God have mercy on us as we seek to affirm what is good and helpful and deny what is bad and harmful, asking you to vote no to this proposed bill SB1150. Now I, a citizen of the State of Hawaii, am coming in opposition to the chemical pollution and prevention of natural growth of a person's physical characteristics simply for confusion in the mind while the physical body is perfectly normal for the individual sex at birth. This is primarily a Gnostic Heresy of Body-Spirit Duality, where these fools believed that the Body is unimportant and useless only the spirit (mind) is what matters. This denial meant that one can misuse (including mutilation of body parts) if he thinks his spirit is going to be relieved through such actions. I think that same deception is the basis of this law and it is sad that this bill is also part of the harming of children in the womb and extending this harm now to children born escaping the surgeon's scalpel and suction machine while in the mother's womb! Where do we have money to pay for maiming perfectly good bodies for perceived gender confusion or dysphoria? Why not spend this effort to heal persons from the confusion of mind rather than permanent dismembering of healthy reproductive body parts. Truly this appears to be a population control and sterilization measure making America dependent on immigrant influx while killing its own offspring. LORD have mercy on us and on this state whose motto included "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono en Iesu Kristo" and the first Hawaiian constitution declaring, "That no law shall be enacted which is at variance with the word of the Lord Jehovah, or at variance with the general spirit of His word." Please restore righteousness again in Hawaii and stop the march into death and destruction of vulnerable people of Hawaii through those who claim to science and progress. How can a man claim giving affirming-care while actually maiming a perfectly healthy body part? Please vote against this bill SB1150 that is clearly harmful activity and go on to repeal the destruction of babies in the womb and children and youth by the medical industry!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:37:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 25, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG

Re: SB1150 SD1, Relating to Health Care

Position: Strongly Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Dela Cruz and Senate Committees on Judiciary & Ways and Means Members:

As a Hawaii Obstetrician Gynecologist for 30-plus years, I have cared for thousands of pregnant and gynecologic patients and multiple transgender patients.

Although my specialty is not Transgender Medicine, I have cared for transgender patients who had other medical issues and have seen the marginalization by society and discrimination they face. Transgender patients reported that they were often yelled at, demeaned and beaten up just for being transgender, how they were ostracized by their own family members and sometimes kicked out of the house and left homeless as a teen, and sometimes even had difficulty finding a physician who would care for them. All reported that despite what society thinks, being transgender was not a choice, they were "born this way". They often told me "why would anyone think I would choose to be treated this way?" by society.

I oppose any discrimination - All patients deserve Access to Healthcare.

I strongly support SB1150 SD1 which provides for inclusive and compassionate care of transgender patients in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your support.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:44:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to express my strong opposition to SB1150. This legislation contradicts President Trump's executive order from January 28, 2025, which is designed to protect our children from harmful chemical and surgical procedures.

Governor Green must understand that he is not representing the will of the people on this critical issue. Legalizing such actions is simply unacceptable; it puts our children at risk and opens the door to potential trafficking. We need to hold our lawmakers accountable for their misguided decisions in the state capitol. Let's unite and make a stand for our children's future!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:04:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie LaTendresse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Julie LaTendresse, a mother and grandmother, vehemently and compassionately support Senate Bill 1150 in order to protect Gender-Affirming Care providers and access for māhū, transgender, and non-binary community members. Trans and gender affirming care is legitimate and necessary healthcare and should be treated as such, offering protections and services to many of our most marginalized and vulnerable populations, including trans and non binary children and their health care providers, in need of care, services, and safety.

I submit this testimony to fully support SB 1150 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Our youth and health care providers need and deserve these protections and services.

Sincerely,

Julie LaTendresse

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:44:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly and adamantly oppose SB1150.

This legislation contradicts President

Trump's executive order from January 28, 2025, which is designed to protect our children from harmful chemical and surgical procedures.

Legalizing such actions is simply unacceptable; it puts our children at irreparably detrimental risk and opens the door to grooming as well as potential sexual exploitation/trafficking.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:11:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Balutski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have transgender people here in Hawaii in every walk of life. They are our children, friends, parents, neighbors, coworkers, our loved ones. Stand up and protect them please!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:07:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Joell Edwards , Wainiha

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:33:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dakota Mungall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing the bill sb1150 due to the dangerous loop holes that are in the bill. There hasn't been a good forethought of what havoc that this could cause in family's and in the community due to the dangers. Dangers being we do not know and have not done the studies to see what happens to the human body when undergoing such a dramatic surgery at a young age and the use of hormones at this level. Dangers being the family devisions or divides that it can be caused and abandonment. Dangers being an underage individual looking to "change their sex" doesn't fully understand the weight of the decision of undergoing such surgery. They look only for the end result without a thought of many dangers and much more psychological and emotional dangers that follow.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:44:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaden Chou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to strongly and urgently support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Much mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Jaden Chou

Honolulu, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:55:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Yoder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm submitting testimony in opposition to SB1150. I do not want Hawaii turned into a Sanctuary State for transgender procedures on children, without their parental consent. SB1150 undermines parental rights regarding their children and promotes an agenda that transfers a parent's right to raise their own children to the State.

I'm paying attention to how you, as our representated government, are voting on this issue. I vote, my family votes, and so do my friends. If you want to remain in office, I suggest you KILL SB1150.

Sincerely, Steve Yoder Kauai Resident

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:05:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Joy Kinghan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lana Joy Kinghan

Kailua, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:16:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Silver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and educator, I believe strongly in the need for care for kids who need it. I know that when children are consistent, persistent, and insistent, we need to listen and respond with developmentally appropriate and live saving care.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:27:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayme Kealoha-Dacuycuy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150. This bill contradicts President Trump's Executive Order signed on January 28, 2025, which was designed to protect our children from harmful chemicals and surgical procedure..

I also feel it is NOT the rights of the State Officials namely Josh Greene, Karl Rhoads and any and all who agree to this garbage. To interfere with Parental family decisions making. That is an overreach!!

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB 1150 relating to gender-affirming care. Gender-affirming care includes a spectrum of medical, social, and psychological services designed to affirm and support an individual's gender identity. This care can include a variety of individualized therapies - all directed toward helping the individual feel comfortable and harmonious in their gender. Unfortunately, too many in opposition to this bill are woefully misinformed and are therefore spreading dangerous misinformation about this life-saving care. I asked that you please focus on credible, cited research and listen carefully to members of the trans community sharing their lived experiences with the committee.

Our trans community is under attack and the most affected will be our vulnerable trans youth. We must ensure they have the same protections as all our citizens seeking necessary health care. I ask that you please pass this critical bill out of your committee.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lynn Robinson Onderko
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

As someone who mentors two high school students who happen to be transgender, they see and hear all of the hostile, false rhetoric about gender-affirming care. They see legislation in GOP states attacking their existence and calling them slurs. The misinformation has a strong effect on their mental health as they know that gender-affirming care is primarily about just fitting into society with the acceptance of their preferred name and pronouns. For a small percentage, it may mean access to a puberty blocker, which is safe and reversible to provide additional time to show continued persistence in their identity. These blockers are the same medications commonly used to treat cis-gender kids. These kids, who their families affirm, were thriving just a couple of years ago, and many still are, but a good number are also scared of the hostile laws happening in the US, and their school work and just having fun with friends are being affected for which I can see with my mentees. Yesterday, I joined a Pflag meeting in one of these GOP states, and the parents are terrified and searching for access to continued care out of state for their adolescents and trying to find a way to move to a state that would be welcoming. One of my mentees is a senior looking for a university to attend next fall for a biochemistry degree, and they are looking only at states with strong laws to protect transgender access to healthcare. We need to protect both Hawaii families and help to continue to care for those now being denied care in oppressive states. Just hearing about a welcoming state like Hawaii allows parents and kids to feel there are adults in the community who care about them.

Shield laws like SB 1150 are now necessary for states that value providing the best care for all families to make for their kids with the support of evidence-based medical care.

Mahalo

Respectfully,
Erica Diebold
Roche Diagnostics

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:07:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill it is wrong.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:09:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Committee Members,

As an ally and a medical professional, I would like to express my strong support for SB 1150, which protects access to gender affirming care. The LGBTQIA+ community is under attack. Transgender and nonbinary teens, who already battle extremely high rates of mental illness and suicide attempts due to the discrimination they face, are feeling particularly vulnerable at this time. This bill would help people I care deeply about to continue to live as their true selves. It would recognize the rights of people who are *mahu* to make the fullest expression of their lives a reality. It would allow transgender children, their parents, and the caring professionals who provide gender-affirming care to feel safer and more confident.

I am sure you will receive many testimonies in opposition to this bill. Please know that those who oppose protecting the rights of transgender and non-binary people will *not* be harmed in any way by passage of this bill. Patients who will be protected by this bill pose no threat to anyone who is cisgender. They simply seek assurances that they can continue to safely receive holistic, person-centered care.

Please vote for this bill.

Sincerely,
Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:12:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael W. Hurst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want Hawaii turned into a sanctuary state where children are mutilated for life. I am a citizen and registered voter. I vote, my friends vote, my family votes. I will be watching to see how you vote. I say vote NO on SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:16:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Wehrly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill SB1150. Please do not pass this bill. Is it true we can only submit written testimonies and that you are going to vote on this behind closed doors. Seems sneaky to me.

Hawaii representatives are always saying protect our keiki. So now you want other children brought in to Hawaii to have this horrible surgery done on them here. This is so morally wrong. Also to try to pass right after Trump said not to do this. On our tax dollars many don't agree for you to allow to cut off or change some child private parts.

Why won't you all focus on the mental health of these children and adults who want to mutilate the children instead. Maybe we should also look into your mental health wanting to encourage this. Seems sick and perverted.

If a child can't drive until 16, drink until 21, smoke until 21, vote until 18, have a conceal & carry until 21

How can they make adult decisions on their sex change.? And to be on drugs for the rest of their lives.

Please stop this bill completely.

Mahalo

Amanda

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:17:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jadey Lorenzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Name is Jadey K Lorenzo.

i am 31 years old and was born Male. I always knew I was different from a very young age. I started dressing differently changed my pronouns and name and was fully living my life as a female at the age of 15.

In January of 2020 I was diagnosed with severe depression and Anxiety with suicidal thoughts. just never could find happiness or feel happy with myself. April of 2020 is when I saw a doctor for gender affirming care and started my Hormone replacement therapy. For the last 5 years my quality of life has changed drastically for the better. I can say 100% I am comfortable in my own skin, I don't have suicidal thoughts and I am proud to be who I am. Without HRT & Gender Affirming care, I don't know what would have happened and how my life would have ended up. Gender affirming care is sooooo important to individuals like myself who face the challenges we go through everyday.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:20:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150! Have we lost our minds? In no reality does it make sense to provide medical procedures that permanently affect a child's body. These "gender affirming" actions ARE detrimental to long term health. Why not wait til the child is old enough to make their own decisions? Should we make smoking accessible to elementary school children as well??

There have been testimony after testimony of people all over the world who received these procedures that wish they never did.

Leave our children alone

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:27:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Carlson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to you as a mother, aunt, friend and teacher concerned about the mental health and well being of transgender and non-binary individuals. Study after study shows that gender affirming care allows transgender and non-binary individuals to align their physical characteristics with their gender identity which leads to increased self-esteem, reduced anxiety and decreased depression or suicidal ideation. As a teacher, I see first hand how critical it is to support youth--to accept them for who they are and let them know they are seen, valued and capable. As a mom, my adult children have brought home non-binary friends and I see again how crucial social bonds are for all of us. In Hawaii, living and treating others with Aloha is a part of our culture. Our medical community should be protected from mainlanders who want to poison our values with their platform. Most importantly, health care should be determined by physicians and their patients, not political motives that encroach on family and bodily autonomy. **I humbly urge your support of SB 1150, to protect patients and providers of gender affirming care from out-of-state persecution and prosecution.**

Mahalo,

Michelle Carlson

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:27:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Massoth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As an educator and community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Patricia Massoth
Ewa Beach HI**

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:28:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Nobriga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150 as a citizen of the State of Hawaii and a born in Hawaii resident. Senators, your duty is to represent the people of Hawaii and not pass this bill according to your own will and own agenda. We the people, are standing against the bill and if you pass this with opposition, judgement day will be upon you. My ohana, friends and community are against this SB1150 and it is your duty to do what the people want, not what you want. I am against this SB1150, I am against your supporting children's access to puberty blockers and against sex change surgery in my state. I oppose this Bill SB1150 and I speak for my kupuna who do not have access to computers nor have the means to voice their opinions in such a short and quick (sneaky) way of passing this bill without their input. They would write in or call but due to the fact that you are somehow fast tracking this unimaginable Bill in our State is sad. I oppose SB1150 and hope that you do your rightful duty of listening to the people and not pass this bill. It is on you if you go against what the people request and if you take it upon yourself to do what you want and not the people ask. This is my testimony that I am against, I oppose and I do not want this SB1150 to be passed. Thank you for your time and open ear to the voice of the people. God bless you if you do the right thing and may God have mercy on you if you do the wrong and pass this Bill SB1150.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:30:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely obscene, this predation on our children, our keiki, under the guise of "care." Klaus, Gates, et al., sponsors of the Great Reset, and WEF/WHO would be so proud of many within this Hawai'ian government, who are abandoning millenia of family-centric culture, of aloha and all its ramifications, to march lockstep into a dystopian, control-and-sicken-the-masses agenda that is another takeover of the Hawai'ian government (the Queen being the last time) and doing the will of external forces instead of listening to the people. Well, if your intent is to quickly give the DOGE process a guide into who is a top candidate for corruption, you're doing a good job at highlighting who you are.

This bill deserves the "round file" treatment. Please rev up the shredder and dispense with giving this any more time. There are real issues that deserve your time and attention.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:31:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Batara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose and do not want this Bill passed.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:32:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jc Jose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Article I, Section 5 of the Hawai‘i Constitution provides that “no person shall be denied the enjoyment of civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry.”Our land should keep and remains a place of safety and respect for our community. A place with no discrimination and hate.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:40:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This goes against President Trumps EO!

Clardean Lehano

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:42:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MaryAnn Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is MaryAnn Wagner and I live in Hilo with my family. I am giving testimony today because one of my children is trans, so this bill has very personal ramifications for our family. When my child first came out as trans, one of the first thoughts that I had was to be thankful that we live in Hawai`i, where so many people are open, accepting, and kind. In the years since he came out, we have witnessed firsthand the aloha that has been shown to him by our friends, everyone at his school, his doctors, and even people we don't know, many of whom also have friends or family who identify outside of the binary definition of male and female.

When the President signed the executive order mandating that the federal government only recognize male and female genders, it was done as a show of force to create fear in a marginalized group who already experiences fear more regularly and at higher levels than the general population. My child was scared. My husband and I were scared. And my first thought was how grateful I am that my child chose to go to college in Hawai`i, as opposed to going to the mainland. With one swipe of a pen, that executive order essentially shrank our child's safe space in this country, which has been a devastating loss to deal with.

Hawai`i has been a refuge for our family, and many other families like ours who have a child who doesn't fit into this new mandated binary. In order for Hawai`i to remain a safe place for our children, regardless of gender, we must safeguard their access to the healthcare that they need. That need should not be based on what a demagogue 5,000 miles away says is necessary, but should be based on decisions made between the child, their family, and their doctor. We are grateful every day that we don't live in a place where our child would feel scared to be who he is. Please protect him and all of the other children in Hawai`i by passing SB1150 and allowing them to live life free to be who they are.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:45:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill is dangerous to the health of our children.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:50:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tehillah Matsusaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1150, known as the Health Care Access Protection Act. While I understand the intent to protect individuals seeking gender-affirming health care services, I have significant concerns regarding the implications of this legislation and completely do not agree with this act.

sincerely,

Tehillah Matsusaka

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:50:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Ryan Berg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Ryan Berg
Wailuku, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:57:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winston Reeves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Winston Reeves

Kahului, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:57:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender Affirming Care (GAC) is not just healthcare nor is it cosmetic, it is lifesaving care. Decades of research and data confirm that access to GAC drastically reduces suicide rates and improves the overall well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. Denying or restricting this care puts lives at risk.

As a community organizer working directly with the trans community for the past five years, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of inadequate healthcare access. Too many individuals are forced to seek care overseas or in unsafe, unregulated environments because the U.S. healthcare system either fails to provide it or makes it financially inaccessible. This is unacceptable.

We urge you to pass SB1150 to ensure that those most vulnerable to political, societal, and systemic attacks receive the care they need and deserve. Protecting access to gender affirming care is a matter of life and death and you have the moral obligation to do everything you can to protect your constituents.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:58:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria Estrella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to ask you to vote no on this bill. The sexual mutilation of children, not adults, under the age of 18 without parental consent, should never happen. Any child having any medical procedure no matter how small., should have the full knowledge and support of their parents. In addition, I believe it is horrifying to conduct medical procedures for a life changing decision, for a child that is not fully mature and able to make their own decisions. Thus, most things that children are are done so by United States law to protect them. Most people are not mature until the age of 25. Please, do not pass this bill. This is horrific endangerment to the children into their families. Please use your conscience and not allow this bill to pass. Mahalo and aloha, Gloria Estrella.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:00:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Sua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support** of the **Health Care Access Protection Act** and urge you to **vote YES** on this crucial legislation.

Hawai‘i has long been a place of **compassion, inclusion, and respect for human rights**. This bill upholds these values by ensuring that transgender individuals, their families, and healthcare providers are **protected from out-of-state persecution** when accessing or providing lawful, evidence-based medical care.

Across the country, we have seen **alarming attacks** on transgender individuals, with laws criminalizing both parents and medical professionals for seeking or providing essential gender-affirming care. These harmful policies **put lives at risk**, forcing families to make impossible choices and deterring healthcare providers from offering lifesaving treatment.

Hawai‘i must **stand firm** against these unjust laws. We must ensure that **no patient, provider, or family** faces legal threats, discrimination, or retaliation simply for seeking or delivering the care they need. By **blocking compliance with out-of-state subpoenas and legal actions aimed at punishing gender-affirming care**, this bill will safeguard the **privacy, dignity, and rights** of our community.

Passing this legislation is not just a legal necessity—it is a moral obligation. **We must send a clear message that Hawai‘i will always be a safe haven for those in need of care.**

I **urge** you to **vote YES** to protect healthcare access, uphold medical integrity, and defend the rights of transgender individuals and those who support them.

Mahalo for your time and steadfast commitment to equality and justice.

Sincerely,
Tiare Sua
Kihei, Maui, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:05:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Piotrowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect trans youth. Gender-affirming care works to assist those who require it and deserves to be shielded from the anti-trans hysteria gripping the continent.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:06:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Lamay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. Let's take care of our homeless

first. Why are they always forgotten?

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:08:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Feliciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

MATTHEW 19:4

AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, "HAVE YOU NOT READ THAT HE WHO MADE THEM AT THE BEGINNING 'MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.'

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:12:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge legislators to oppose this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:15:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Kaulukou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to SB1150, which seeks to make Hawaii a sanctuary state for gender-affirming care, defining it as medically necessary by the patient and protecting providers performing hormone treatments and surgeries on minors.

While I recognize the importance of ensuring access to healthcare, this bill raises serious concerns regarding parental rights, medical ethics, and long-term health outcomes for minors.

1. Parental Rights Are at Risk

This bill undermines the role of parents in making critical, life-altering medical decisions for their children. Minors lack the cognitive maturity to fully understand the long-term consequences of hormone therapy and irreversible surgeries. Parents should not be sidelined when it comes to their child’s well-being, especially when dealing with complex and deeply personal medical issues.

2. Long-Term Health Risks and Irreversibility

SB1150 promotes medical interventions that have permanent consequences, including sterility, loss of sexual function, and potential regret. Multiple studies indicate that many children who experience gender dysphoria outgrow their distress by adulthood, often identifying instead as gay or lesbian without the need for medical intervention. Encouraging minors to undergo treatments such as puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones before reaching full cognitive and emotional maturity is not a responsible approach to care.

3. Lack of Medical Consensus

The claim that gender-affirming care is medically necessary simply because a patient requests it is a dangerous precedent that goes against sound medical practice. In Europe, countries such as Sweden, Finland, and the United Kingdom have already moved away from medicalized gender transition in minors, recognizing the lack of long-term evidence and the potential for harm. Hawaii should not move in the opposite direction when other nations are taking a more cautious, evidence-based approach.

4. Protecting Minors from Irreversible Decisions

Adolescents often make impulsive decisions without fully understanding the consequences. In no other area of medicine do we allow minors to make permanent, body-altering decisions without strict safeguards. SB1150 effectively allows minors to dictate their own medical treatment without sufficient oversight, placing ideology over the best interests of vulnerable youth.

5. Legal and Ethical Concerns

By shielding medical providers from accountability, this bill creates a legal gray area where medical malpractice and unethical practices may go unchecked. Patients deserve comprehensive assessments and alternative treatments, not rushed medical interventions that may do more harm than good.

Conclusion

While every person deserves compassionate and respectful care, SB1150 is deeply flawed in its approach to gender-affirming treatments for minors. Hawaii should prioritize responsible, evidence-based medical care that considers the long-term well-being of children and preserves parental rights. I urge you to vote **NO** on this bill and instead support measures that provide mental health support and careful medical oversight rather than fast-tracking minors into irreversible medical treatments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:18:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Rhodes, Senator Dela Cruz and their committees,

Thank you for hearing SB1150. As we watch institutions erode at the national level, we look to the states to protect their citizens. By passing this bill, you will be defending Hawaii healthcare practitioners who are providing much needed services that are legal in our state.

I support the passage of this bill and the legislature sending a clear message that we protect our own.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:22:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to SB1150, Hawai'i does not have the resources to be a sanctuary for gender affirming care, nor should be. This type of care is NOT medically necessary and it **will further stress the Hawai'i healthcare system, for instance it can take months to get an MRI on the Big Island.**

1. Gender mutilation and hormone therapy should be BANNED for children under 18. 63 pages of extensive testimony written by a PhD on the dangers of Gender Affirming care concludes, "Family Research Council has grave concerns about even a social gender transition for minors. Kenneth Zucker, perhaps the world's leading expert on gender identity in children, has said: I would argue that parents who support, implement, or encourage a gender social transition (and clinicians who recommend one) are implementing a psychosocial treatment that will increase the odds of long-term persistence.⁹⁹ Proposed legislation like that described above is actually modest in scope, in that it would place no restrictions upon the ability of minors who are supported by their parents to undertake a social transition or request that others recognize and affirm such a transition. (Of course, the response of other institutions, such as schools, to such a request must take into account not only the wishes of the transgender-identified child but the well-being of other students as well.) However, the implementation of invasive physiological gender transition procedures—puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and/or gender reassignment surgery—upon minors raises additional grave concerns. The interference with natural biological functions, the serious potential side effects, and the often-irreversible nature of the physical changes made mean that a high bar would have to be reached to justify them."

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/JU/JU10/20230727/116284/HHRG-118-JU10-Wstate-BauwensJ-20230727.pdf>

2. Providers of this care should receive absolutely NO protection for performing this type of treatment and held fully liable since this entire thing will have a poor outcome, an XX female cannot become an XY male and an XY male cannot become an XX female.

3. Hawai'i has NO right to block state from protecting children when parents reject gender affirming care. This will waste Federal Government resources that will need to intervene.

4. Hawai'i cannot and should not withhold itself from cooperating with related out of state investigations.

Senators LEE and HASHIMOTO should be ashamed of themselves for coming up with such an evil bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:23:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Ziadie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on this bill.

As a parent, it is very important to be involved with my child's health and it is my responsibility to protect and guide my child especially at a time of her life when she is vulnerable to emotional and stressful situations and may not see or fully understand the effects of decisions made based on emotions or pressures of society. I cannot see how having a minor can make such a much burdensome decision without guidance from a loving parent.

Please vote no. Thank you.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:23:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kawamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As an ordained minister and community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rev. Jessica Kawamura
Aiea, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:23:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose gender affirming healthcare in Hawaii. I've watched many YouTube videos from Buck Angel (a trans man who's informing the public about the horrors going on in gender affirming surgeries and treatments). Blaire White is also another YouTube trans woman who's speaking up against this.

A child should never be on hormone treatments that make them sterile. Children are not mature enough to determine what sex they are, and it's child abuse to let parents or any adult do these treatments on them.

many times the hormones will stunt their sexual development, resulting in their gender changing surgeries to not be successful. There's many who have died from gender changing surgeries honestly wrong. No human should be subjected to this Frankenstein nonsense. These humans don't have functioning sex organs they have trouble with infections and losing their ability to use the restroom properly. One man died from a gaping hole from his colon after doctors tried to fix his gender transition to a female. His life was ruined and he died. An innocent man who was convinced that surgery would make him a female. Which is not true.

testosterone treatments if not monitored can cause organ failure and high blood pressure. Woman who trans to men have atrophy pains and if not treated can be very damaging to their health and life.

please do not allow this Frankenstein surgeries and treatments to happen in Hawaii. For the sake of our trans, gay and lesbian community please do not do this to them. They will regret it.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:24:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Stuppelbeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member and scientific researcher on sexual and gender minorities, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Anti-transgender legislation is related to between a 7% and 72% increase in suicide attempts in states that have adopted such legislation (1). Alienation and shame related to transgender identity are correlated with both anxiety and depression (2). However, gender affirming support--socially, psychologically, and medically--are related to decreased likelihood of depression and increased likelihood of self-esteem among transgender women (3).

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
David Stuppelbeen, PhD MPH
Honolulu, Hawai'i

REFERENCES:

1. Lee WY, Hobbs JN, Hobaica S, DeChants JP, Price MN, Nath R. State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the

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3. Glynn TR, Gamarel KE, Kahler CW, Iwamoto M, Operario D, Nemoto T. The role of gender affirmation in psychological well-being among transgender women. *Psychol Sex Orientat Gend Divers*. 2016;3(3):336-344. doi:10.1037/sgd0000171

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:25:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose gender affirming healthcare in Hawaii. Leave the children alone! There's documentation that these gender surgeries can be lethal. There should be no reason a child should be allowed to come to Hawaii and get this treatment without consent of their parents!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:30:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberto Viernes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to express my strong opposition to SB1150 as it allows minors without the consent of their parents to participate in gender affirming treatment. At this stage of their lives, children do not have fully formed brains and should not be making life altering decisions without their parents' consent. The State should not be able to circumvent a parent's right to choose what is best for their child. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this bill.

Thank you

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:30:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1150

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain such care.

As a non-binary trans masculine individual, I know firsthand the life-saving importance of gender-affirming health care. For many transgender and non-binary people, access to this care is not just a matter of well-being but of survival. Gender-affirming care is supported by every major medical and mental health organization, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. It is essential for reducing rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender youth and adults.

Hawai‘i has long been a place that values aloha, inclusion, and respect for all people. SB 1150 strengthens these values by ensuring that our state remains a safe haven for those seeking gender-affirming care, protecting both providers and patients from harmful legal attacks originating from other states. Without these protections, trans individuals—especially youth—could be placed at risk of losing access to necessary medical care, and families could face legal threats simply for supporting their children.

Further, this bill reinforces Hawai‘i’s commitment to justice and autonomy for families, ensuring that child custody decisions are not weaponized against parents who affirm and support their

transgender children. No family should have to choose between protecting their child's well-being and fearing legal repercussions.

I urge you to pass SB 1150 to uphold Hawai'i's legacy of compassion and to safeguard the fundamental right to health care for all transgender individuals. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a (with humility),

Kaulilinoe Kama

efkama12@gmail.com

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1150
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

February 26, 2025

Aloha Senators Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, and Gabbard, my name is Jazelle Aolahiko, and I testify in opposition to SB1150.

I strongly oppose this bill, which seeks to make the State of Hawaii a sanctuary for transgender minors while removing parental rights in situations where a minor wishes to undergo surgery. It is well-established that children's brains are not fully developed, and as such, they are not yet capable of making decisions with the full understanding of their long-term consequences. If minors are not allowed to vote until the age of eighteen, it stands to reason that they should not be allowed to make irreversible, life-altering decisions without the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

As adults, it is our responsibility to ensure that minors are not placed in a position where they could make decisions that they may not fully comprehend at such a young age. Parental involvement and consent are crucial in protecting the well-being of children. We must take a thoughtful and responsible approach to matters that have lifelong implications.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to SB1150. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:34:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Franco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill supports the mutilation of our Keiki and it's results cannot be reversed. This bill supports the DENIAL OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS of our Keiki - How is it possible that they make can these decisions.

This bill cannot pass.

Please use the sense that God bestowed on you as guardians of our Keiki.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:35:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Hee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, a registered voter from Lihue HI, on behalf of myself wife and friends are vehemently opposed to this proposed legislation. This is a pupule bill and the proposers should be impeached. This is an insult to locals and Hawaiians. Keep this shit out of Hawaii.

Stephen M. Hee

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:35:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Shelby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB1150. Please do not pass this legislation.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Theresa Shelby

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:38:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Heitmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB1150 because I know it is not the will of Hawaii's citizens that people be brought here to have transgender surgeries, including children. We do not want to be a sanctuary state. Your job as our representatives is to uphold the will of the people. If you do not do so, we will vote you out.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:40:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150. I do not want our state to become a sanctuary state for transgender surgeries especially without parental consent. Our state depends on tourism and is famous for its family friendly policies.

this bill is not in agreement with the will of the people!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:43:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhiana Arce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB1150 now

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:44:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Rose Olson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support gender affirming care with the caveat that measures remain in place to prevent surgical augmentation, unless medically necessary until the child is of the age of consent of at least 18.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:44:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150.

"Gender affirming care" for minors is child abuse.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:46:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari Grief	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a pediatric hospitalist here in Hawai'i, I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mari Grief, MD

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:46:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantae Kashiwagi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill making Hawai'i a transgender sanctuary state

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:47:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Senate,

I am writing to strongly support SB1150 to include gender-affirming health care services!
Gender-affirming care is life saving care and all people in Hawai'i nei deserve access to it.

thank you for working to support and protect all the people who live here,

Andrea Schmidt

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:51:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David R Hamman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Remember that you pathetic perverts will be held accountable one day for your unlawful
Demonic activity - if not in this life, without a doubt in the next.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:54:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Bidwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB1150 (Health Care Access Protection Act) which would provide protection for children and youth receiving Gender Affirming Care (GAC) in Hawai`i, as well as for their parents and the Hawai`i health professionals providing that care. Specifically, it will ensure that providers of GAC in Hawai`i would not release GAC-related health information to entities outside Hawai`i, including in response to requests such as subpoenas from other jurisdictions.

I am a Hawai`i pediatrician and for decades have been privileged to provide supportive GAC to our state's gender-diverse children and their families. In fact, it has been a special focus of my professional life ever since completing my pediatric residency training at UH JABSOM and Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women and Children over 35 years ago. During that time, I have been gratified that my practice of evidence-based state-of-the-art GAC has come to be supported by affirming policies and position statements by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) and many other respected professional health organizations. It is clear that any requests for medical information related to life-enhancing and life-saving GAC provided in our state, without parent permission, is motivated solely for the purpose of intimidation and persecution of young people and their families who might seek GAC care in our state, as well as intimidation of local health professionals who have the knowledge and skills to provide that care. SB1150 will assure that this cannot happen.

I hope that with the passage of this bill Hawai`i will join the 17 other state and the District of Columbia which have already enacted similar legislation, and therefore I strongly encourage you to support SB 1150 with your vote.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Robert Bidwell, M.D.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:54:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meghan Walles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meghan Walles

Makawao, Maui

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:55:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shadow Snodgress	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB1150! Do not let it pass! It is unethical and immoral, and it is wrong!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:55:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on this bill to mutilate our children before they become of age

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:57:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Mckay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Statement in Strong Opposition to SB1150 SD1

Submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature

I write to you today in strong and unequivocal opposition to SB1150 SD1, a reckless and dangerous bill that would trample on parental rights, erode medical accountability, undermine Hawaii’s legal integrity, and place children at grave risk. This bill is not about protecting “health care access.” It is an outright attack on the rights of parents, the sovereignty of states, and the safety of Hawaii’s youth.

1. A Direct Assault on Parental Rights and Family Authority

SB1150 SD1 strips parents of their fundamental right to protect and guide their children’s medical, psychological, and emotional well-being. By prioritizing a radical ideological agenda over established parental authority, this bill empowers the government—not parents, to make irreversible medical decisions for minors.

No child should be subjected to life-altering medical procedures without the knowledge and consent of their parents. This bill is a direct violation of parental rights and sets a chilling precedent that government officials, not families, should dictate personal medical decisions. It treats parents as obstacles rather than as the primary caretakers and protectors of their own children.

2. Encourages Evasion of Other States’ Laws and Creates a Legal Safe Haven for Abuse

SB1150 SD1 turns Hawaii into a sanctuary state for experimental medical interventions on children, even if those procedures are banned or heavily restricted elsewhere due to safety concerns. It deliberately obstructs cooperation with other states, undermining the rule of law and inviting legal chaos.

This bill creates a perverse incentive for minors to be trafficked across state lines for irreversible medical treatments, cutting parents out of the process entirely. Hawaii should never be a haven for reckless, unaccountable medical experimentation on vulnerable youth.

3. Protects Dangerous and Unethical Medical Practices from Legal Scrutiny

SB1150 SD1 grants absolute immunity to doctors and medical providers who perform gender-transition procedures, even if they have been found guilty of malpractice, negligence, or medical fraud in other states.

Why should Hawaii be a dumping ground for discredited doctors? If a physician loses their medical license elsewhere for causing harm to patients, Hawaii should not turn a blind eye and allow them to continue practicing here. This bill destroys medical accountability and turns Hawaii into a safe harbor for dangerous, profit-driven medical providers who prey on vulnerable patients.

4. Promotes Irreversible Medical Procedures on Children Without Sufficient Safeguards

SB1150 SD1 prioritizes radical ideology over science by expanding access to irreversible medical interventions, such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries, without long-term safety data and without requiring thorough mental health evaluations.

- Puberty blockers can cause permanent infertility, bone density loss, and cognitive impairment.
- Cross-sex hormones increase the risk of heart disease, blood clots, diabetes, and organ damage.
- Gender-transition surgeries cause permanent disfigurement, sexual dysfunction, and lifelong medical dependency.

Major medical authorities outside the U.S.—including Sweden, Finland, Norway, and the United Kingdom—have already severely restricted these treatments for minors due to serious long-term risks. Yet, SB1150 SD1 seeks to expand access to these procedures without requiring proper safeguards, informed consent, or alternative treatments.

Hawaii should not be experimenting on children or ignoring the mounting evidence of harm caused by these medical interventions. This bill recklessly disregards the well-being of Hawaii's youth in pursuit of a dangerous political agenda.

5. Blocks Law Enforcement from Investigating Potential Medical Crimes

SB1150 SD1 prevents state agencies from cooperating with investigations into medical malpractice, child abuse, and human trafficking related to gender-transition procedures.

This bill ties the hands of law enforcement, shielding bad actors from accountability and making it impossible to investigate cases of medical exploitation, coercion, or abuse. Under this law,

a doctor performing illegal or unethical procedures on minors in Hawaii would be completely protected from prosecution—no matter the harm caused.

6. Hawaii's Reputation and Legal Integrity Are at Stake

By rejecting cooperation with other states, SB1150 SD1 isolates Hawaii legally and politically. If passed, Hawaii will become:

- A magnet for unethical medical practices
- A safe haven for dangerous, discredited doctors
- A destination for out-of-state minors to receive irreversible medical interventions without parental consent

This is not responsible governance—this is a reckless surrender of Hawaii's legal and moral integrity.

Conclusion: SB1150 SD1 Must Be Rejected in the Strongest Terms

This bill is an unprecedented assault on parental rights, medical ethics, and the rule of law. It is an ideological overreach that places children in irreversible harm, strips parents of their rights, and shields dangerous medical practices from scrutiny.

Hawaii's families, medical institutions, and law enforcement deserve better.

I urge you to stand for parental rights, uphold medical accountability, and protect Hawaii's children. Reject SB1150 SD1 in the strongest possible terms.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:57:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
T Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150, as it is a vital step toward ensuring the safety, well-being, and mental health of transgender children in Hawaii.

I know an 11-year-old trans girl who, at such a young age, is already living in fear of having to live as the gender she was assigned at birth. Every day, she struggles with the psychological and emotional weight of knowing that her ability to express herself authentically could be stripped away. This fear is damaging to her mental health, and it is heartbreaking to witness the harm that this fear creates in her life.

The psychological damage that is caused by invalidating a child's gender identity is not just harmful in the short term, but it can have long-lasting effects. Transgender children who are denied the ability to live as their true selves face higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. We cannot, in good conscience, allow these kinds of harmful policies to persist.

Senate Bill 1150 is essential to protect our keiki and ensure that they have access to the healthcare they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives. This bill affirms the right of transgender individuals to receive gender-affirming care and protects the ability of families and medical providers to make decisions in the best interest of the child.

As a community, we must prioritize the safety, mental health, and dignity of all our children. We must stand up against policies that put them in harm's way and instead support policies that safeguard their futures. I urge you to pass SB1150 and send a clear message that Hawaii values and protects all of its keiki.

Please protect our children and our right to individual healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:59:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. As someone who has worked directly with gender diverse populations and is particularly concerned about the political climate in which we live, I believe it is necessary to establish the protections SB1150 would provide to patients, providers, and caregivers. To be absolutely clear, this bill does not expend resources but rather protects precious taxpayer dollars from being used to support the bigoted agendas of other state legislatures. Our commitment to aloha here in Hawai'i should be the guiding principle here.

We have heard the intention of this bill intentionally mischaracterized even by some legislators. I have also listened to fear mongering testimony which mischaracterizes the nature of the type of care listed on this bill. The care that transgender people receive is life-saving care. Transgender people are disproportionately burdened by mental health issues (suicidality, in particular), many infectious and chronic disease states and other health concerns. They also have historically been denied fair and equitable access to employment, housing, and education. Why would we deny them safety to access the care they need?

No person should ever be punished by a governing body for receiving the care they receive. And Hawai'i should not support any other state legislature attempting to control the care people receive here in Hawai'i. It is improper to comply with the political whims of state legislatures that have enacted hateful and dangerous legislation. It is our duty to offer palekana (safety) to those receiving and providing care here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kekoaopololu Kealoha

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:00:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:07:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my unwavering strong support for gender-affirming care for minors, which is a critical, life-saving service for transgender and gender-diverse youth. I beg of you to carefully weed through the misinformation and make decisions based on the established medical and scientific evidence that proves gender-affirming care is essential to the well-being of trans youth.

Gender-affirming care for young people is not about performing irreversible surgeries or drastically altering their bodies. Instead, it is about providing a safe, thoughtful, and evidence-based approach to supporting a young person’s gender identity as they navigate their development.

It is important to recognize that gender-affirming care for minors primarily involves non-invasive interventions such as counseling, social transition, and, in some cases, hormone therapy—decisions made collaboratively with the child, their family, and a team of medical professionals. Puberty blockers, which are fully reversible, allow a young person to pause the onset of puberty, giving them more time to make informed decisions about their gender journey.

The misconception that gender-affirming care leads to irreversible changes is simply not true. Puberty blockers are a safe, temporary option that help avoid the distressing experience of developing physical traits that do not align with one’s gender identity. When used appropriately, these treatments can reduce mental health struggles, lower the risk of depression, and prevent the devastating tragedy of suicide among transgender youth.

Furthermore, hormone therapy or surgery is not pursued lightly. For minors, hormone therapy typically begins only after careful assessment by experienced healthcare providers, ensuring that the youth and their families understand all potential outcomes. These decisions are not rushed and are made based on the child’s readiness and informed consent, in partnership with their healthcare team.

Gender-affirming care is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach. It is an individualized, compassionate process that respects the autonomy of the young person involved. Medical professionals follow strict guidelines to ensure that care is appropriate, reversible when necessary, and focused on supporting the child’s mental health and well-being.

Studies and clinical evidence overwhelmingly show that access to gender-affirming care significantly improves the mental health and quality of life of transgender minors. Youth who receive this care experience drastically lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts compared to those who are denied care. This is not a "trend" or a passing phase—these are real, medically recognized needs that, when addressed appropriately, lead to healthier and happier outcomes.

Denying gender-affirming care to minors does not protect them; it puts their well-being at risk. Transgender youth who are supported in exploring their gender identity in a safe, affirming environment are more likely to thrive emotionally, socially, and academically.

In conclusion, gender-affirming care for minors is an essential, life-saving service that ensures transgender youth can grow into healthy, confident adults. I urge you to prioritize the safety, mental health, and dignity of transgender youth by protecting and expanding access to gender-affirming care. We must do what is necessary to support our keiki and their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:08:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of myself and my LGBTQ+ family, and in support of the transgender and non-binary individuals I have known and loved throughout my life, I write in strong support of SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services for transgender and non-binary individuals. Mahalo!

Nicole Smith
Honolulu, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:10:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support trans youth and want resources to protect and uplift them. it is important that they have resources in place for them and their right to choose protected.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:11:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Not only for abortion, which is the killing of babies in the womb, but now gender transitioning - though biologically impossible - Hawaii becomes the mecca for some of the darkest and evil activities imaginable.

By the way, I couldn't find any mention of the age of the child for which gender transitioning would apply in the bill. What is the age when a baby becomes a child? Three, four? Is that how young you would allow a parent or guardian - if you can call them that - to give their child drugs or worse to surgically "transition" them?

I vote NO on SB1150.

Alfred Hagen

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:12:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dutch Cosmian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the SB1150, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a parent and community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for māhū, transgender, and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful healthcare. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dutch Cosmian

Kailua, O'ahu, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:18:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Gauna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill to give rights to CHILDREN to choose to undergo any surgical procedures without parent consent, let alone any procedure that can possibly affect, remove or mplant any private parts including but not limited to their penis, breast, or vagina. I oppose removing the requirement of parental consent for anything that may be done to a child physically, emotionally, or mentally whether through counseling or performing any procedures.

First, we call certain parts of the body private parts for a reason. A parent should know their children better than anybody else. A child may wonder about something and communicate their curiosity, interest or desire to somebody else, but as children, they may not share everythign that should be considered and they may not even realize what should be consdiered in making a decision or seeking help to do something. That person who feels so special for have the chance to help a child lacks so much information that would help them understand the child as an individual. Their persepective is limited, yet the fact that they could do something to affect another person's private parts and therefore all aspects of their helath is a huge responsibility. Will they be held accountable for all the consequences that child experiences as an adolescent and throughout their adult life? Sadly, you and I both know it is unlikely. Yet you would consider allowing it?!

My second reason is our children's safety! Shame on you, our government representatives, for allowing this bill to even reach this point, and shame on you who voted for this bill! As a private citizen I shouldn't have to research for you; it is your job as my representative to be fully informed and to err on the side of caution. Are you aware of the health risks people face while transitioning, which includes permanent hormone problems, suicidal ideation, depression, eating disorders and more? People who become transgender are six times more likely to face those risks. Unfortuantely, even adults don't always understand things well enough before making significant choices, yet you want to give permission to CHILDREN to have the right to undergo these procedure without parent consent?! Again SHAME on you! Why would you want that for any Keiki?! It is not safe at all for a child's physical development because you are interrupting the natural biological processes that are meant to happen for them to "transition" to physically healthy adults. Before and after transgender surgery patients must take a lot of medication and hormone pills to help prepare. That is getting in the way of the biological processes and affects more than just the development of their reproductive systems! Do you understand how everythign in our bodies is connected and affected? This is not a social issue. It is a physical and mental health issue. Let our children grow in a protected environment and learn so that as adults they can make the choices they believe are right for them.

By passing this law, you say our CHILDREN are able to fully comprehend the myriad consequences and they should have the right to take this medication even though they will be at proven risk of damaging their physical ability to function properly and that they will be fully capable of handling the mental health disorders that are likely to develop or worsen, possibly even leading to death by suicide. Are you aware of how many adults regret their choice to transition? You believe this is a reasonable choice for a child to make?! If a parent must give consent for their child to receive aspirin due to the potential side effects and the assumption is that the parent knows if the child actually needs to take it, how in the world can you consider it to be reasonable for a child to decide for themselves to have something done to their body?

CHILDREN make wrong choices constantly and don't yet understand what's right and what is wrong, whether according to their religious beliefs or simply what is right or not for them personally. They also change their minds a lot while they're still young about what they want at any given moment let alone what kind of life they think they want when they're older. I am a mother and grandmother as well as a current Educator with two Bachelor degrees so I am very familiar with children of all grade levels. I have a great deal of experience with CHILDREN, and one thing I know about CHILDREN is they don't know what they want, By passing this Bill to give them this supposed Right, YOU will set them up to always be labeled as outcasts in our society, to feel like a failure because they didn't fully understand the choice they were making, and to struggle for the rest of their lives to love themselves because the government said they should make their own choices as a CHILD and be allowed/forced to experience lifelong consequences. Do you enjoy seeing people suffer? Are you trying to provide an income for all the people who will make money off of these choices? I am very concerned about the type of people in government who have this type of power that they think is their right to use it to remove parents' consent for something that their child may regret, or worse, which can cause permanent struggles and even death to their child. I will keep on saying it, shame on you government and shame on you who are voting for this bill. It's ridiculous that we as citizens must explain it to you how inappropriate it is for CHILDREN to be put in this position.

If they can do something this serious, then you must think they are capable of being on their own in life. You of all people should recognize how inappropriate it is to allow them to make such consequential choices about their bodies, in particular their private parts. Can you even remember when you were CHILDREN? Did you always make good choices? Did you grow up to be what you dreamed to be? How often did you change your mind and thought what you did was right? Parents are the main influences in a child's life and parenting doesn't stop when a child is 18, it continues through their life. A parent's main objective and responsibility is to keep their CHILD safe and to protect them, yet you are trying to take that away.

Even at the age of 18 CHILDREN are still growing and learning to make their own choices, and at 18 and older many still struggle to accept the consequences of their own choices. At least as a CHILD their parents are still there to help, guide them and to protect them from any harm. With passing this Bill it puts all CHILDREN in harms ways! We have laws already in effect to require parents's consent to keep their Keiki safe. It is such a simple fact that children are not mentally capable of making many types of choices for themselves that there are many laws in place to hold parents legally responsible for their children. So how can you justify this law that clearly states the exact opposite?! A few examples of when a parents consent is needed is

when CHILDREN get their driving permit & license, needing consent to attend a school field trip, watch a rated R movie, access certain social media content, get a piercing, or a tattoo, and as mentioned before, simply getting an aspirin at school, and more. Go ahead and research parents' consent. With the passing of this Bill you are allowing children to not be protected by their own parents/guardians. Who should know their child better than a parent? Why are you so eager to take away parents' rights for their children that you feel it is your right? Are you then also going to remove any responsibility of parents for their children? You are saying CHILDREN should be allowed to suffer from lifelong problems such as constant hormone therapy and likely mental support. You are in fact thinking like a child by insisting they have a right to choose if they want have a surgical procedure to be a boy or girl. You are proving you have no business represent the citizens of Hawaii. Even in middle school, children are so confused about basic biology. They don't fully understand what is involved in these treatments and surgeries and that regardless of what you do to your body, a surgery does not change what your body is capable of. The only people who would benefit from any of this are those who make money from it and I have to wonder if you may be gaining something personally from this bill. Consider how you would feel if somebody were to take your child from you and do whatever they want to your child, even if your child thought they wanted to go along with it. I am disgusted and very disappointed in Hawaii's lawmakers by the fact they are even willing to consider this to be reasonable.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:18:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tryslynn Kauionalani Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill SB1150

Our island should not be a place where keiki are taken advantage of or they are allowed to do irreversible damage to their bodies, minds, and souls. The government SHOULD NOT be raising our children and SHOULD NOT get between the families and how they raise their children. Children SHOULD NOT be making any health decisions on their own, that is the responsibility of the parents and NOT the government.

Mahalo.

February 25, 2025

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY (JDC)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS (WAM)

Hearing February 26, 2025, 10:05 a.m., CR 211

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB1150 SD1, Relating to Health Care

Chair San Rhodes, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees,

Please pass SB1150 SD1, Relating to Health Care. It is crucial that such language be added to our laws to protect access to gender-affirming health care.

My niece is transgender, and her health, safety, and welfare are very close to my heart. We must take steps to ensure that gender-affirming care is available to all. This is especially urgent given the recent activity in other states and the Federal level.

Thank you for hearing this vitally important piece of legislation. **I urge you to pass SB1150 SD1.**

Aloha,

Virginia Beck

Kailua, Oahu

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:24:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haylin Dennison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Haylin Dennison, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB1150, which safeguards access to gender-affirming care. I testify today as a mother, a mental health specialist, and a healthcare provider who has witnessed firsthand the life-saving impact of gender-affirming care on transgender and non-binary youth.

A Mother’s Perspective

I am the proud mother of a transgender child. Like many parents, I once struggled to understand what my child was experiencing. I was raised in a deeply conservative Christian household, and when my child came out, I had to get education regarding gender diversity because I was never exposed to this information. My only regret is not being supportive earlier, so my child could have suffered less. My love for my child is unwavering, and I did what every parent should— I listened, I learned, and I sought the best possible care for him.

When my child was struggling with their identity, they were also struggling with depression. The statistics tell us that transgender youth face alarmingly high rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidality, but what those numbers don’t show is the very real and deeply personal journey families go through to ensure their children are supported.

A Mental Health Specialist’s Perspective

As a licensed therapist specializing in youth mental health, I see the impact of gender-affirming care every day in my clinic. I am the founder of Spill The Tea Café, a nonprofit mental health center serving LGBTQ+ youth, where hundreds of young people and their families seek support.

The data is undeniable: gender-affirming care saves lives. Studies from the Trevor Project, the National Institutes of Health, and major medical associations confirm that gender-affirming medical care, including hormone therapy and puberty blockers, significantly reduces suicide rates, depression, and self-harm in transgender youth. Yet, we continue to see legislation across the country aimed at restricting access to this essential care—care

that is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychiatric Association.

Without gender-affirming care, I have seen young people become hopeless, withdrawn, and suicidal. With it, I have seen them thrive—excelling in school, developing confidence, and stepping into their futures with joy and purpose. When we deny them care, we are denying them the right to a healthy, happy life.

A Healthcare Provider's Perspective

As a provider, I believe it is our ethical duty to follow science and evidence-based best practices in patient care. Gender-affirming care is not experimental. It is well-researched, widely accepted, and medically necessary for those who seek it. It is provided in a slow, careful, thoughtful, and individualized manner by trained professionals who work closely with families and patients to ensure informed decision-making.

Legislation that restricts or bans gender-affirming care places unjust burdens on families, creates barriers to critical services, and interferes with the sacred doctor-patient relationship. We do not legislate against life-saving care for any other group of patients—why should transgender individuals be treated differently?

SB1150 ensures that transgender individuals in Hawai'i can access the care they need without fear of discrimination, harassment, or legislative interference. It affirms that medical decisions should be made by patients, families, and their healthcare providers—not by politicians. It upholds Hawai'i's longstanding values of aloha, inclusion, and dignity for all.

I urge you to pass SB1150 and stand on the right side of history. Protecting access to gender-affirming care is not just a policy decision—it is a moral imperative. Our children's lives depend on it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Haylin Dennison, LCSW

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:25:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicitas B. Livaudais MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Felicitas B. Livaudais MD, FAAP

Kihei, Maui

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:29:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathlyn McElyea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:29:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Cooke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is not right to remove parents ability to protect their child in such a life changing situation. I also oppose the use of tax payers dollars for these procedures.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:32:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pualani Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill, and say NO! This is government overreach!

sincerely,

Pualani

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:33:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a longtime advocate for LGBTQIA+ health and equity, I strongly support Hawai'i Senate Bill 1150, which affirms the right to gender-affirming care in our state. Access to this care is not just about healthcare—it's about dignity, safety, and ensuring that transgender and nonbinary individuals can live as their authentic selves without unnecessary barriers. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, lifesaving, and supported by major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. In a time when many states are rolling back protections for trans individuals, Hawai'i has the opportunity to lead with compassion, inclusivity, and respect for human rights.

Please support our LGBTQIA+ community. Please vote yes on SB 1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:37:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tishelle Hepa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:38:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joey Badua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Morikawi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

I grew up, live and work in this Aloha state. Today, I am writing in **strong support** of SB1150 SD1, a crucial bill that would protect patients, providers, and families from out-of-state persecution, professional discipline, and family separation when gender-affirming care is received or provided in Hawai‘i.

We all want the best medical care for our loved ones. SB1150 SD1 does not dictate what parents must do for their children. Instead, it provides robust protections for families to access essential health care, including gender-affirming care. This protection counteracts restrictive interstate legal systems that target transgender individuals and their families. If a parent struggles to understand their child’s gender identity, education and compassionate dialogue can bridge that gap, fostering support and understanding.

Misinformation often fuels fear. Many people do not realize what gender-affirming care entails. It is not a rushed process—it involves thoughtful, individualized care plans guided by medical professionals. A patient navigator works with families, offering tailored options like gender-affirming psychotherapy. Before puberty blockers or hormone therapy are considered, there are extensive conversations, evaluations, and informed consent. Tragically, in states like Texas, children are often denied these vital discussions altogether.

Research strongly supports the benefits of gender-affirming care. A study published by Stanford Medicine in 2022 analyzed data from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, which included responses from 27,715 transgender individuals nationwide. The study examined the mental health outcomes of 21,598 participants who expressed a desire for hormone therapy. The results were clear:

- Compared to those who wanted but never received hormone therapy, participants who underwent treatment experienced significantly lower rates of severe psychological distress and suicidal ideation.
- The odds of severe psychological distress dropped by 222% for those who started hormones in early adolescence, 153% for late adolescence, and 81% for adulthood.
- Suicidal ideation was reduced by 135% in early adolescence, 62% in late adolescence, and 21% in adulthood.
- Additionally, those who began hormones in their teenage years showed lower odds of binge drinking and illicit drug use compared to those who started as adults.

This study highlights the life-saving impact of gender-affirming care. As Dr. Jack Turban, lead author of the study, emphasized: “We are adding to the evidence base that shows why gender-affirming care is beneficial from a mental health perspective.” Erin Digitale, Better Mental Health Found Among Transgender People Who Started Hormones as Teens, Stanford Medicine (January 12, 2022), <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2022/01/mental-health-hormone-treatment-transgender-people.html>

Opponents of SB1150 SD1 argue that it is an overreach and endangers children. In reality, the bill protects families from discrimination and ensures that children can grow up with a lower risk of binge drinking, drug use, and severe mental distress. Denying this care, based solely on personal beliefs about gender identity, endangers lives—not the other way around.

Acceptance and competent care are not dangerous. Hate is. We need a robust commitment and clear mechanisms to resist discrimination and misinformation.

Critics often point to detransitioners to justify restricting gender-affirming care. However, this underscores the need for comprehensive evaluations by doctors and mental health professionals. SB1150 SD1 ensures confidential communication between patients and their providers, shielding sensitive medical information from interference by other states. It also protects medical professionals from criminal or professional repercussions simply for offering evidence-based care. Without these protections, providers may hesitate to deliver medically necessary services, placing transgender and gender-diverse individuals at even greater risk.

Hawai‘i must prevent any gaps in protection that could jeopardize the safety and privacy of those seeking care in our state.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB1150 SD1 and stand firmly in support of gender-affirming care, parental rights, civil rights, and the protection of all families in Hawai‘i. Let us continue to foster a community where everyone can live authentically and access the care they deserve. This is the Aloha way.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Joey Badua

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:39:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliza Talbot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

As someone that loves someone that is gender fluid, I strongly Support SB1150 and the critical protections it seeks to offer to local families.

The purpose of this bill is to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. It also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender affirming health care services. It also protects health care providers and recipients of gender affirming care from subpoenas intended for civil or criminal proceedings.

There are several reasons to support this measure, which I will list below, but most importantly, it is imperative to pass this bill to ensure marginalized children and their families in Hawaii are protected from the dangers of rampant hatred and ignorance.

My loved one is constantly bullied, harassed and looked down upon because of outdated ideals of gender identity so I can tell you the mental health side of this issue cannot be understated. It is absolutely necessary health care to allow a human being to affirm their own identity.

Gender affirming care is the embodiment of individuality and freedom. Denying access to this care places individuals at an increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

I cannot say that I know what it feels like to be a woman trapped in a body that does not align with my sense of identity. But I live with someone that feels this burden. I have read the opposition testimony to this bill and admittedly, it is mostly brief and filled with blatant misunderstandings. Admittedly, before I loved someone who felt this way I did not understand it either.

There are many additional reasons to support this bill:

- 1. State sovereignty must be preserved, especially in the midst of a constitutional crisis and anti-diversity rhetoric. Hawaii has always been a safe haven for diversity and aloha and we must maintain our independence.**

2. **This bill protects local parents and health care professionals in Hawai'i from out of-state lawsuits. We cannot allow regarding medical care and protects licensed healthcare professionals conducting legal activities in Hawai'i.**
3. **This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities.**
4. **This bill preserves an important aspect of Native Hawaiian culture, which embraces gender fluidity. The idea of gender specific clothing and ideals is a Western one.**

It is also important to note that this bill does NOT authorize surgeries on minors or permit prescriptions without parental consent, nor does it force anyone to undergo unwanted transition procedures.

Thank you.

Eliza Talbot

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:40:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP ALLOWING THE MUTILATING OF OUR YOUTH!!!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:41:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition with this bill. Mahalo

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:43:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services for transgender and non-binary individuals. Mahalo!

Rebecca Smith
Honolulu, HI

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:44:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane Albano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I demand that SB1150 be killed. We should be a sanctuary state for family values, and not destructive to it.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:45:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1150. Our keiki need access and protection and so do their caregivers and the medical experts who know best about how to care for them.

Mahalo,

Mecca Monson-Gere

February 25, 2025

To: Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and the Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means

Aloha,

My name is Sage Huston, and I am testifying in strong support of **SB1150**, which expands protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. As a transgender man, I know firsthand the importance of access to safe and legally protected health care.

Gender-affirming health care is lifesaving health care. It allows transgender individuals like myself to live as our authentic selves, improving mental health and overall well-being. Unfortunately, many states are enacting laws that restrict this essential care, forcing trans people to seek refuge in states with stronger protections. By expanding Act 2, this bill ensures that Hawaii remains a place where trans people, especially trans youth, can access the care they need without fear of legal repercussions.

Additionally, this bill clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, which is crucial for protecting families who relocate to Hawaii to secure medical care for their children. No parent should have to choose between their child's health and their legal safety.

As a trans man I deeply appreciate efforts to strengthen legal protections for gender-affirming care in Hawaii. This bill would help me, my community, and future generations of trans people feel truly safe and supported in accessing the health care that we need to thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sage Huston

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:46:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana Clemons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nana Clemons

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:49:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ranee Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly oppose to SB1150. This legislation contradicts President Trump's executive order from January 28, 2025, which is designed to protect our children from harmful chemical and surgical procedures. This is unacceptable and puts our children at risk!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:49:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

The SAME people who accuse citizens of Hawaii who refuse the COVID vaccines were ostracized, denied employment, accused of "endangering others" and "denying the science" are enabling this INSANE, HARMFUL and CLEARLY UNSCIENTIFIC idea of "Gender affirming" care nonsense!

Health issues occurring from taking risky and irreversible medical operations such as ingesting hormone-altering drugs and gender-altering surgeries should NOT be considered as necessary health care!

Also anyone medical professional who conducts these operations on minors should be held liable for what happens.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:51:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of We the Citizens of Hawai'i~

Mahalo for taking time to read & review our votes via these letters on topics at hand, i know it takes extra on your part & i do so appreciate it, GOD BLESS YOU!

I stand in opposition to SB1150 re: access to healthcare services to include access to "gender-affirming care." This is a huge no as it is a massive expense to provide such services that could break our state coffers that are already taxed to being the highest taxes in the nation. How can we support further items that are not vital, survival, basic needs for our residents?

Furthermore this bill also provides non-essential services to minors, not just to adults, for "gender-affirming" care. This is wrong as it goes beyond parental consent. We expect parents to be financially & legally responsible for minors under 18 years of age yet when it comes to a life-changing surgery they have no say? NO WAY!

Also, I am opposed to this as this goes far beyond the scope of government's rights into our health & body autonomy. No thank you, no way.

Please oppose these policies that promote medical transitions for minors until long-term, peer-reviewed research supports their safety & effectiveness. Instead, support policies that **protect parental rights** in education & medical decision-making and ensure public school curriculums prioritize age-appropriate, evidence-based education that does not introduce controversial gender ideologies to young children.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB1150 SD1. Instead, we encourage policymakers to focus on approaches that prioritize children's well-being, parental rights, and scientific integrity.

In summary, I strongly oppose SB1150 as a proposal for further destruction of the integrity & finances & livelihood of our State of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your kokua!

Aloha & Malama Always,

Dawn O'Brien

President, HOPE HI, Inc.

Lifelong resident & taxpaying citizen

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:52:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly oppose this Bill because this is direct overreach of government. For the government to say they have jurisdiction over our keiki and to allow them to make life changing decisions without parent consent or knowledge in mind blowing to me. To have gender affirming care at all is crazy but to target our children is plain evil. This should outright be illegal.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:52:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celina Hayashi Macadangdang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal support for Senate Bill 1150 (SB 1150), which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) for cases involving children who receive gender-affirming health care. As a community physician who has witnessed firsthand the profound positive impact of gender-affirming care, I believe this bill is essential for protecting access to critical, life-saving health services for transgender and gender-diverse individuals in our state.

The expansion of protections under SB 1150 is crucial because gender-affirming care is not a "choice" for those who seek it; it is a medically necessary intervention that significantly improves the well-being of transgender individuals, particularly transgender youth. As a physician, I have seen how access to gender-affirming care can drastically reduce the risks of mental health issues, suicide, and self-harm. It allows individuals to live more authentically, supporting their mental, emotional, and physical health. Without such protections, many of my patients would face uncertainty about their ability to receive the care they need, which can lead to severe, life-threatening consequences.

This bill provides clarity by ensuring that children who seek or receive gender-affirming health care services are protected by the legal framework established under the UCCJEA, which is essential for safeguarding their right to such care across state lines. As our country continues to see a patchwork of laws regarding access to gender-affirming care, the need for clarity and protection at the state level has never been greater. This bill will provide much-needed assurance that families and children who seek gender-affirming care will not be penalized for making decisions that are in the best interest of their health and well-being.

SB 1150 also aligns with the medical consensus, including guidance from the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other respected organizations, which recognize gender-affirming care as essential for the mental and physical health of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. The provisions in this bill reflect a commitment to upholding the dignity, autonomy, and health of all individuals, particularly those who have historically been marginalized.

As a community physician, I have seen how difficult it can be for transgender individuals to navigate barriers to care. For youth in particular, the ability to access gender-affirming health care is a matter of life and death. I urge you to support SB 1150 and ensure that these critical protections remain in place for those who need them most.

Thank you for your attention to this vital issue. I stand ready to provide any additional information or testify further if needed. I strongly encourage you to pass this important bill to protect the health and well-being of transgender individuals in our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Celina Hayashi Macadangdang

Board Certified Family Medicine Physician

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:52:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Lardizabal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tuesday February 25, 2025

Reg. SB1150

I am a mother, daughter, business owner and a citizen of the United States. I oppose bill SB1150. This hidden agenda disguised as health care is morally wrong. Children who have not yet fully matured in age should not have the option to mitigate their bodies until full adult age of at least 18 years or older. These decisions would greatly affect their lives in ways that are permanent, children/teenagers constantly changes their minds with the influence of social media. Again I oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Lynn Lardizabal, owner of Lee's Rentals Inc.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:55:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB 1150 but in strong opposition to the recent amendments that weaken the bill's ability to protect families and trans youth. The original language of SB 1150 provided critical legal protections for families fleeing states that have criminalized gender-affirming care. The removal of these provisions undermines the bill's purpose and puts vulnerable youth at risk.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:55:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Tolbe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support for health care for gender affirming and health services

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:56:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Schauben	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a parent of a trans child and someone who works with kamali'i, I see firsthand the profound impact that gender-affirming health care has on the physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being of transgender youth. It is crucial that we have a state bill protecting this essential care and the parents who support it. It is trult a matter of life or death. Such legislation ensures that all children, regardless of their gender identity, have access to the medical care they need to thrive. It also safeguards parents from discrimination and legal repercussions for supporting their children's health and happiness. By enacting this bill, we affirm our commitment to the dignity, respect, wellbeing, and rights of all children and their families. Mahalo for listening.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:59:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Roberts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:59:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Roberts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose everything in this bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:01:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jr Tupai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for you folks service. I understand the sentiment behind this bill but I cannot support these initiatives as necessary health care. Because of that I say no to SB1150. Mahalo and aloha!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:02:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Rapes-Escrito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing the bill SB1150 because it's unfair for the minor. Giving them this option prematurely would harm them, rather than do them good. Minors at that age also aren't mature enough to make that decision for themselves, they are rapidly growing mentally, physically, and emotionally at those ages. Lastly, this opposes how God calls us to live in this world. For these reasons I am opposing the bill SB1150.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:03:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meaghann Denyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am a mother and an educator. I have a Multiple Subject Credential as well as an Educational Specialist credential. For 8 years I taught high school in California at two schools that served students who had social and emotional issues that prevented them from being able to attend a typical high school. (MERIT Academy and REACH Academy in the Grossmont Union School District) My students suffered from many issues, the one I will speak on today is depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. I have seen firsthand what a lack of access to gender affirming care can do. I have had students who's bodies were COVERED in scars from self harm as well as suicide attempts. One of my students had been hospitalized over a dozen times. Not having the ability to be themselves, to receive the care they need was literally killing them. Our students received counseling and access to other mental health services. Once they were able to use their chosen names and pronouns, to receive gender affirming care I saw them literally come to life. It was as if they went from a shell of a person who had zero hope that things would ever get better, to engaged and hopeful teens excited about their future. The science is clear, the medical community supports gender affirming care. I have seen the severe damage a lack of care can cause. Please support this bill and create a safe environment where children can thrive. Denying them care is literally killing them, I saw that first hand.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:15:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynell Yonemura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB1150. I feel that allowing a minor to make serious decisions regarding their health without approval from their parents is not lawful. Please rethink this bill and make necessary changes where it does not allow minors to surpass their parents decision.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:15:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Solimar Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feb 25, 2025

To: Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Gabbard and and Moriwaki, and the Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means

Aloha,

My name is Solimar Sanchez, and I am testifying in strong support of SB1150 as it allows accessibility to gender affirming healthcare by protecting these rights under Acct 2, SLH 2023. Gender affirming care has saved my life and will continue to do so for many others whom this bill protects.

Allowing protections to be put in place for those who seek to medically transition, or use gender affirming care permits the existence of transgender people in our society. This opens the space for any individual dealing with gender dysphoria to seek medical help when facing these issues.

When I first started taking testosterone at the age of 20 my life had changed forever. I felt for the first time in my life that my body was something I could love, something I could be okay with looking at in the mirror. The changes I experienced on testosterone allowed me to not only combat my gender dysphoria but also be perceived as the masculine identity of my choosing in everyday life which is an affirmation unexplainable to those outside of this experience. I was able to see a future with myself in it, one I had not imagined prior to transitioning.

Gender is a performance regardless of identifying as cisgender or transgender and all who participate in modern day society attend to the performance of their gender in everyday activities and in medicine. Putting on makeup is a gender expression. Clothing worn in different styles to express the masculine/feminine/androgynous is gender affirming.

Obtaining surgical procedures to alter the physicality of one's body is gender affirming. The usage of hormone blockers or hormone replacement therapy is gender affirming. All of these fall under the categories of gender affirming care, and further demonstrate the performance of gender for all individuals.

Gender affirming care is a human right.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:31:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kuahea kukahiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you don't oppose this bill people are going to die. On a serious level, Trans people are one of the groups of people most impacted by mental health issues and have a high suicide rate. If you deny them their actual human rights, which shouldn't be happening anyway, and people will die.

People are being denied their passports, they are trying to stop us from leaving. The president is trying to erase us, and is taking steps to make it easier to kill us. This is the first step, we deserve to be here, we didn't do anything to deserve this.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:34:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Please protect gender-affirming care providers from being criminalized or threatened with losing their licensee.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:37:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe parents with the help of their doctors should make the best decisions for their children. This is a parental rights issue. Parents should be trusted. Children's mental health is more important than anything else. Gender affirming care helps children's mental health.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:39:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen J Diebold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions.

As a partner of a transgender individual, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Karen Diebold

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:45:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Kosak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong support** for the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, **lifesaving** treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Julia Kosak
Hilo, Hawaii

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:51:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ray Baguio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb1150. This is not what the majority of citizens want yet it's still being pushed by certain senators. This is a life altering change that affects youth that are young and can't make those decisions.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:02:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly O'Brien	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write to express my strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act (HCAPA)**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. HCAPA upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a teacher and a parent, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and well-being. No one should fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i's has a proud history of protecting residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and HCAPA continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. Additionally, our indigenous people's culture honors and respects the "third gender" - mahu - regardless of government declarations to the contrary.

I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly O'Brien

Princeville, Kaua'i, HI 96722

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:05:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RENEE KOMOMUA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly opposed to this bill.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:09:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this horrendous bill and stand in STRONG OPPOSITION. Hawai'i should not become a sanctuary state for parents of other states that have banned Gender affirming care for minors. We should not be giving safe harbor to parents of other states if the law in their home state says it's illegal for parents to allow for Gender affirming care but choose to do so anyway, therefore now that child is taken away to protect said child.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:34:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1150.

Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, evidence-based care that can significantly improve the lives of transgender individuals. Expanding the protections of Act 2 to specifically include these services ensures that transgender youth have access to the care they need, free from discrimination and legal challenges based on misinformation.

This bill promotes the health, safety, and well-being of some of our most vulnerable community members.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:35:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Yanagida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With everything going on in our country today, I'm so grateful to see that our state is moving forward with important protections like this. Gender-affirming care saves lives. Full stop. It protects folks who are vulnerable in many other places around the US. This bill also protects parents/guardians who are supportive of their children receiving the care they want and need. This is important in ensuring that they are not afraid of standing up for their kids and supporting them. I wholeheartedly support this bill.

LATE

February 25, 2025

RE: SB1150

to: The Committees on JDC/WAM,

My name is Gail Pressnall, a resident of Kailua Kona, Hawaii, Senate District 3. Recently I have become aware of SB1150 being considered tomorrow, February 26, by the committees on JDC/WAM and have some very serious concerns about the substance of the bill.

I firmly believe that expanding the scope of defined essential health care services to include 'gender affirming care' is morally wrong; to pass a law that undermines the right of a parent of any state to guide and direct their own minor children in making such a drastic and irreversible decision is even worse. SB1150 encourages parties who very well may not hold the welfare of a child above the promotion of their own ideological agenda to have access and control that they never should be able to approach. Exempting such parties from possible prosecution opens the door to all sorts of abuses, not the least of which are sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

I have an adoptive grandson in another state who, though an adult, is on the autistic scale and limited in his decision-making ability. Recently, in the midst of frustration about his lifelong difficulty with socializing, he was directed to an LGBTQ counsellor who (predictably) suggested that re=orientation of his gender was the answer to his problems. After a few months of counselling he was persuaded to undergo sex-change surgery. He is not a happy person and is now trapped in a decision that was strongly impressed upon him. As wrong as his case is, it is immeasurably worse to surrender a minor child to the care and influence of individuals with such narrow and radical agendas.

Psalm 94:20 implores, *"Will you have anything to do with the council of wickedness, which turns evil into law?"*

I strongly oppose SB1150 and am asking that the both JDC and WAM not approve it.

Sincerely,



Gail Pressnall
75-6104 Haku Mele Street
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:40:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Rosa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, James Rosa, 100% OPPOSE Bill SB1150 SD. It's a crime for anybody to alter the sex that a child is born with and anybody supporting this Bill needs to be prosecuted for child abuse the same as a child sex offender and child pornography. NO way the State of Hawaii can endorse and support these illegal acts of child abuse. I've been a Cub Scout leader for over 20 years, a track & field coach for over 30 years, taught sundsy school with my wife for 10 years and always accepted the responsibility for the safety of the children as if they were my own children. Let children of Hawaii be children who depend on mature adults to keep them safe from the people supporting this Bill. PLEASE vote NO, for a yes vote will define the person that you are, in support of hurting innocent children. Mahalo, James Rosa (Kauai)

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:42:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:43:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander Tadei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Governments and states are not the arbitrators of morality for families. This bill is directly in opposition to what the US was founded on, escaping government overreach and tyranny. This bill sets a dangerous precedent and would be construed as government sanctioned kidnapping. This bill is morally indefensible and outrageous.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:53:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole rhton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of SB 1150 but in **strong opposition to the recent amendments** that weaken the bill's ability to protect families and transgender youth. The original language of SB 1150 provided critical legal protections for families fleeing states that have criminalized gender-affirming care. The removal of these provisions undermines the bill's purpose and puts vulnerable youth at risk.

Aloha,

Nicole Rhton

2939 Park St. Apt E

Honolulu HI 96817

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:54:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Friberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150 because it is unconstitutional to take away the right for people to be who they are. Attacking gender affirming care does not only hurt transgender people, but lots of other care the general public uses. During a time like this, under the Trump Administration, it is crucial that we stand together to enforce and protect the rights of all people.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:01:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Johansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

This is an important bill to protect our citizens of this state from capricious hateful laws created in other states to persecute certain segments of the population that have done nothing wrong and have complied with our state laws. We must resist laws that are against our values and exert other states' laws above our own. Some people have stated that this law enables kidnapping, which if you accept, you must also accept that not having this law allows kidnapping of our citizens to other states. Without this bill I am concerned that someone in another state can try to take custody of my child based on the fact that they do not "approve" of or understand or believe that my child's identity is somehow not valid. We must protect our citizens from other states and their hateful laws. Do not let other states claim sovereignty over our state. I strongly support this bill and encourage you to do the same. Please support this bill with your entire ability.

Scott Johansen

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:02:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sim Kau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill ensures that Hawaii remains a safe place where people can access health care without fear of retaliation. Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful.

This bill should send a clear message that Hawaii will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals.

I urge you to vote YES .

Thank you for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely

Mrs Sim Kau

Honolulu, Hawaii

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:05:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Kirk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Leanne Kirk

Hilo, HI

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:15:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geena Thielen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1150 Relating to Healthcare. Transgender rights, especially parents rights of trans children are under attack in this Country. We need Hawaii to stand up to National and Red State transphobes. Please show our community the Aloha we need.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:22:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Croul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill provides **protection** to some of our nation's **most vulnerable youth** and ensures that Hawai'i does not perpetuate harmful attacks on gender-expansive individuals' rights.

While other states are unnecessarily attacking the simple existence of trans and non-binary people, Hawai'i has the opportunity to show that the Aloha State does not condone discrimination against the LGBTQ+ and Māhū communities.

Access to gender-affirming care can be the difference between life and death for a trans or gender-expansive young person. Suicide rates are notably higher in these populations. I urge you to show up for your queer and trans constituents and **VOTE YES** to ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible and protected in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Natalie Croul

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:43:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In opposition to this SB 1150. I'm against any type of gender affirming care for under age individuals, who need to wait to make a better informed decision when their brain is working at a higher and mature capacity. The actual description is child mutilation. You don't cut off penise's. Or any private parts. Or induce, promote, delay hormonal growth of the opposite sex. It's an abomination to our bodies. Clearly unethical, an outright assault against human nature. Furthermore, separating children from their parents ? To get this procedure done and making Hawaii a sanctuary state for that ?? Are you all out of your minds ? What would our kupuna say about all this nonsense 50, 100 years ago. Rhoades IS disgusting ! And everyone who is in favor of this bill. We need a psychologist on staff to bring common sense back to our legislators. **DON'T TOUCH THE PRIVATE PARTS OF YOUNGSTERS, EVEN IF THEY SAY YES. SIMPLE. DON'T TOUCH THEM.** Ultimately STOP trying to present bills to remove control of parents over their children !!! **WE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU** Rhoades and supporters, You all want control of our children and our minds. Well **IT WILL NEVER NEVER HAPPEN !! IF GOD IS FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US ?**



Louella Vidinha

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:51:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Mirken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1150. Hawaii has a long, proud tradition of protecting its most vulnerable citizens and of standing up to cruel and harmful policies imposed from outside. Every reputable medial, psychiatric and psychological association to examine the issue has determined that gender-affirming care can help save lives, reduce suicide rates, and help people who need such are achieve stability and happiness. I have literally seen it save the lives of my friends, including one young person here in Hilo. Please do not abandon my friends. Protect them, protect their care, and protect the dedicated providers who work every day to help them. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:52:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michdelle Melendez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Are you insane? This should not be a bill in Hawaii! Children can't even vote let alone have the brains to know the health risks if they cut off their sex organs. Whoever wrote this should be removed from office!

This is against God and everything good!

For th love of all that is desent DO NOT PUT THIS THROUGH!

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:54:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Baer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Keaau, HI. I am also a trans adult/mahu who is 30 years old. I grew up in an extremely hostile home where I was told being trans was a sickness. At 30 years old, I am hear the same language used to describe trans adults and kids, but now it is no longer just in the confines of my home. It's in the mainstream media, all over this country.

It took me 26 years to feel safe enough to access HRT for myself, well past the legal age of adulthood...it took me getting disowned by both parents and siblings, losing my entire biological family overnight, to finally realize that my happiness mattered more than their bigotry. I knew who I was all along - unfortunately, it was the adults in my life who told me otherwise. I did not grow up with this option to access gender affirming care. Even if it had been an option, it was not safe for me to be out and my parents were not supportive of what I wanted...I am in support of any legislation that protects health care options for trans people young or old. It seems that when it comes to trans people, everyone has an opinion on us. Even though many of the services we access are the same as other non-trans people, we seem to be an exception. I hear so little from actual trans people because we tend to get drowned out by the voices that do not understand us and don't seem interested in learning about us, our experiences and how we have always been here, for as long as there have been humans. My medical access to hormones has literally saved my life- I would not be here without this access and the transformation that came from that care. We need protection, now more than ever. Mahalo for this opportunity to share testimony.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:07:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Artemis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Statement of Support for the Health Care Access Protection Act****

As a transgender woman and a staunch advocate for equitable health care access, I wholeheartedly support the ****Health Care Access Protection Act****. This bill is a critical step forward in safeguarding the rights of individuals to access essential reproductive and gender-affirming health care services without fear of discrimination, persecution, or legal repercussions. It affirms the dignity and autonomy of all people, particularly those in marginalized communities, including transgender individuals like myself.

The bill aligns with the positions of leading health agencies, including the ****American Medical Association (AMA)****, the ****American Psychological Association (APA)****, and the ****World Health Organization (WHO)****, all of which recognize gender-affirming care and reproductive health care as medically necessary and vital to the well-being of individuals. Gender-affirming care, in particular, has been shown to significantly improve mental health outcomes, reduce rates of depression and anxiety, and enhance overall quality of life for transgender and gender-diverse individuals. By protecting access to these services, Hawaii is not only upholding evidence-based medical practices but also affirming its commitment to health equity and human rights.

As a transgender woman, I know firsthand the profound impact that access to gender-affirming care can have on a person's life. It is not just about medical treatment—it is about being seen, respected, and supported in living authentically. Denying or criminalizing such care is not only harmful but also dehumanizing. This bill ensures that no one in Hawaii will face such discrimination or harm, and it sends a powerful message that this state values the lives and dignity of all its residents.

Furthermore, the bill's protections against out-of-state interference are crucial. In a time when many states are enacting laws that target transgender individuals and restrict access to reproductive health care, Hawaii has the opportunity to stand as a beacon of inclusivity and compassion. By refusing to enforce punitive out-of-state judgments and ensuring that health care providers can practice without fear of retribution, this bill reinforces Hawaii's role as a leader in protecting civil rights and health care access.

I urge lawmakers to pass the ****Health Care Access Protection Act**** without delay. It is a necessary and compassionate response to the growing threats against reproductive and gender-affirming care across the nation. By doing so, Hawaii will not only protect its residents but also

set an example for other states to follow. Let us stand together to ensure that everyone, regardless of their gender identity or health care needs, can live with dignity, safety, and respect.

Thank you,

Valerie Artemis

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:12:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karisa Yoshida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender affirming care is not a crime. Gender affirming care is not a civil matter. Gender affirming care are health care decisions between parents and their child(ren) and their medical doctor.

Gender affirming care has been proven in a medical science and psychology to be life saving as transgender youth and gender questioning children have the highest risk and rate of self-harm and suicide attempts.

No child should ever be removed from a safe and loving home because of their use of healthcare. This goes against any child abuse and neglect laws that we have and understand in our country.

Protecting children across state lines has unfortunately become a modern day issue as misinformation and fear mongering has spread.

Healthcare is not a crime. Healthcare is not abuse. Gender affirming care is healthcare.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

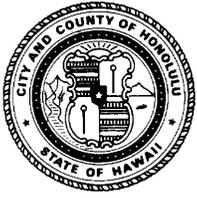
Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:15:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estella Berg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please listen to the experts and save lives by removing hurdles to gender affirming care.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

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TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5002
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EMAIL: mweyer@honolulu.gov

February 26, 2025

LATE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 1150, SD1

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support** of **SB 1150 SD1**, which ensures that out-of-state entities cannot reach into our community and harm those complying with Hawai'i law to provide medical care for one of our most vulnerable communities.

No child, parent, or medical provider should have to live in fear for simply seeking or providing medical care. One does not have to be a member of the transgender community to understand that all of our citizens should be free from such government intrusion, harm, and harassment.

As we witness the attempted erasure of the transgender community, we must know where we would draw our line in the sand. It seems without a doubt that the attempted elimination of any marginalized group is well beyond that line, and SB1150 SD1 is an opportunity to acknowledge that we will not allow outside forces to harm any of our residents.

Therefore, I stand in **strong support** of **SB1150 SD1**, to relating to health care. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Respectfully,

Matt Weyer
Councilmember, District 2
Honolulu City Council

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:26:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to express my strong opposition to

SB1150. This legislation contradicts President Trump's executive order from January 28, 2025, which is designed to protect our children from harmful chemical and surgical procedures.

Governor Green must understand that he is not representing the will of the people on this critical issue. Legalizing such actions is simply unacceptable; it puts our children at risk and opens the door to potential trafficking.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:30:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Support of Gender-Affirming Care and protections for providers****

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my strong support for gender-affirming care, which is essential for the health and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. As someone who deeply believes in the principles of equality and human dignity, I want to highlight the profound importance of providing accessible, safe, and compassionate care for those who seek it.

Gender-affirming care is not just a set of medical procedures; it is a necessary part of healthcare for many people, and it can significantly improve their mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Research has shown that access to gender-affirming care, including hormone therapy and counseling, leads to reduced rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. It can be life-saving.

For transgender individuals, gender-affirming care validates their identity, reduces distress, and enhances their quality of life. It allows them to live authentically, contributing to a sense of pride and belonging in their communities. Denying them this care or creating barriers to access is a violation of their basic human rights and an injustice that can lead to tragic consequences.

I urge you to prioritize policies that protect and expand access to gender-affirming care. It is not only the compassionate choice, but the scientifically supported one. Every person, regardless of their gender identity, deserves the opportunity to receive care that affirms who they are and helps them lead fulfilling lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Thompson

Honolulu, Hawaii

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:36:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arielle adenew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to receive my testimony.

I am in OPPOSITION to SB1150 for the following reasons:

1. Research does not support medical intervention for gender identity related treatment. Puberty blockers & cross-sex hormones are not FDA approved & surgeries experimental, lack long-term safety studies, & often non-reversible. Many countries are now reversing these laws due to safety concerns.
2. There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria accept their biological sex by adulthood. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minors. Hawaii should not join in or encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently.
3. States should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them (including sex traffickers & adults with an "agenda") toward gender transition procedures.

Mahalo,

Arielle

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:44:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Stein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Lily Stein from Hilo, and I support this bill.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:45:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill takes away parental rights and subjects kids to procedures they shouldn't be going thru till they make the decision as adults. I oppose this bill

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:50:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Jaeger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have oppose this bill. Stop mutilating our youth.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:54:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Haili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill due to the profound and often irreversible consequences of these interventions—on minors who lack the maturity and cognitive development to fully comprehend the lifelong impact of these decisions.

Medical transitioning of children leading sterility is grossly immoral. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgical interventions can permanently impair reproductive capacity, robbing young individuals of the ability to have biological children later in life. For example, the use of puberty blockers like GnRH agonists, followed by cross-sex hormones, has been shown to halt the development of reproductive organs, leading to sterility in many cases. This is not a hypothetical risk—it is a documented outcome that fundamentally alters a person’s future options before they are old enough to weigh such a loss responsibly.

Children, by virtue of their age and developmental stage, are not equipped to make life-altering decisions of this magnitude. Neuroscience consistently demonstrates that the frontal lobe—the part of the brain responsible for impulse control, long-term planning, and rational decision-making—does not fully mature until the mid-20s. This biological reality renders minors particularly vulnerable to external influences, including peer pressure and societal trends, which can amplify feelings of gender dysphoria without allowing space for natural resolution. Studies suggest that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria desist by adolescence or adulthood if allowed to progress through puberty without intervention. Hastening them toward irreversible treatments risks cementing a choice they may later regret.

The voices of detransitioners—individuals who transitioned and later returned to living as their biological sex—underscore this danger. Many report profound regret over the permanent changes to their bodies, including sterility, loss of sexual function, and chronic health issues stemming from hormone use or surgery. A growing number of these individuals, such as Chloe Cole and Keira Bell, have publicly shared how they felt rushed into decisions as minors, influenced by well-meaning but misguided adults, only to realize later that their dysphoria was a symptom of broader emotional or psychological struggles. Their stories highlight a critical oversight in pro-transition policies: the failure to prioritize long-term well-being over short-term affirmation.

I implore you to consider the ethical implications of endorsing a policy that could lead to irreversible harm for Hawaii’s children. Instead of fast-tracking medical interventions, we should focus on comprehensive mental health support, allowing minors the time and space to explore

their identities without permanent consequences. The state has a duty to protect its most vulnerable citizens, not to facilitate decisions they cannot fully consent to or reverse.

Please reject this bill and prioritize the health, fertility, and future autonomy of Hawaii's youth.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:03:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariano Castillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb1150 it is not heath care to do that to children period !!!

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:46:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is important for Hawaii

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:06:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators Dela Cruz and Moriwaki and the Committee on Ways and Means and Senators Rhoads and Gabbard and the Committee on Judiciary,

Please support SB1150 SD1.

My colleague, Dr Lori Kanemoto, eloquently stated the reasons why you should support this bill. I can only add that I have served many of the families that have transgender members and we need to provide a caring, supportive, and compassionate community with health care services for them.

Again, please support SB1150 SD1.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM MS-PopH FACHE FAAPL FACOG

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:27:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MacRae Ellis-Tingle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It is crucial for the mental and physical well being of trans people to have access to gender-affirming healthcare services.

LATE

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Kristie Matsumoto
Mililani, HI

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:41:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naeole Keamo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Nae'ole Keamo from Hilo on the Big Island of Hawai'i and I am in support of this bill,

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:45:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Taber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear elected officials,

I support this bill, SB1150. As attacks are coming from all sides from the federal government, this is not the time to abandon our LGBTQIA+ community. Polynesian cultures have long recognized the existence of multiple genders and gender expressions. This needs to be supported and protected.

Thank you,

Amanda Taber

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:00:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect the keiki! Strongly Oppose

mahalo nui loa

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:12:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo nui for the work and support you consistently do to mālama the LGBTQ+ community, and the people of Hawaii nei as a whole. Your presence reassures all of us.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:22:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Beyler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

My husband Michael and I do not believe that a child should be able to make a LIFETIME decision that alters their gender.

You have to be 16 years old to drive a car and you want to legally put the right to mutilate a child's precious body by passing this law.

It is incomprehensible to me that you even drafted such a hideously EVIL bill.

Please OPPOSE it in the vote tomorrow!

Mahalo,

Dr Michael and Lynn Beyler

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:26:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharol Allagonez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:32:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Gender Affirming Care, which is an important component of full-fledged health care for members of the LGBTQ+ community, and often can mean the difference between a healthy and productive life, or a daily struggle that limits a person's ability to simply exist in their body and mind. Please guarantee this healthcare right to residents of Hawaii, as it is becoming a distracting target in continental politics.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:57:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadia Hussain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a parent and healthcare provider, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nadia Hussain

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:05:01 PM
Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makalii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou, 'O Makali'i ko'u inoa.

My name is Makali'i, as a transgender woman, many things are scary for me right now, but I have always known my home, Hawaii, to be a safe haven, even when the continent to our west continually tries to tear down who we are. I ask that you support this bill. Gender Affirming Care is suicide prevention, for adults and minors alike. Right now, the transgender community in Hawaii is scared. Our ability to exist happily, or at all, feels uncertain, and is under attack from the west.

Please make a strong statement of commitment to protection, a bold and loud shield, so that our vulnerable communities know that Hawaii is still a safe place for us.

Thank you. 

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:09:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keolamaikalani Camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill will plague the people of hawaii and will promote more harm then good for the people and cause people to make life altering changes because other people decided to do it. It's a shame that this had to even become a bill to pass.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:21:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I MIKIAN ROSE PELEKAI strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:23:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caia Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a trans woman, I have experienced first hand the positive impact that gender-affirming care has had on my life. It has been only beneficial to my mental, physical and emotion health and has helped me to live a happier and healthier life. And this should continue to be accessible. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Caia Souza
[Makawao, Hawai'i]

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:36:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrieanna Echiverri	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people like myself can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue that directly affects a trans woman such as myself.

Sincerely,

Adrieanna Echiverri

Wailuku, Hawaii

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Flora Rodas

Wailuku, Hawaii

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:51:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaaroni Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Support this bill

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:57:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quayd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Quayd Ah You
Laie, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:12:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyson M Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a parent, teacher and friend I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care. We have lost far too many brothers and sisters through hateful and damaging laws attacking them at their most vulnerable.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alyson M Miles

Mililani, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:13:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shadi Naderi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB1150

Shadi Naderi
Resident of Kahului, Maui
February 25, 2025
Hawaii State Legislature

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Shadi Naderi**, and I am a resident of **Kahului, Maui**. I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of SB1150, which expands protections for gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that individuals, especially transgender youth, have access to necessary and life-saving medical care without fear of legal repercussions. Gender-affirming care is widely recognized by major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association, as essential health care that improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. By reinforcing these protections, Hawaii affirms its commitment to health equity, bodily autonomy, and the rights of transgender individuals.

The urgency of this bill cannot be overstated. Transgender youth face disproportionately high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. According to a 2022 survey by The Trevor Project, **more than 50% of transgender and nonbinary youth seriously considered suicide, and nearly 1 in 5 attempted suicide in the past year alone.** These heartbreaking statistics underscore the importance of ensuring access to gender-affirming care, which has been shown to **significantly reduce suicide risk and improve mental health.** Research consistently demonstrates that transgender youth who receive gender-affirming care experience lower levels of distress, fewer suicide attempts, and improved overall well-being.

Additionally, clarifying jurisdiction under child custody laws helps protect families who seek gender-affirming care for their children. It ensures that Hawaii remains a safe and supportive place for all families, shielding them from legal threats or discrimination based on the medical decisions they make in the best interest of their child.

By passing SB1150, Hawaii has the opportunity to **save lives** and reaffirm its commitment to compassion, dignity, and equal access to health care. I urge the committee to pass this bill and stand in support of transgender youth and their families.

Mahalo,
Shadi Naderi
Resident of Kahului, Maui

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:18:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Block	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support transgender rights and strongly believe transgender individuals should be able to make decisions for themselves with the help and support from their friends, family, mental health professionals, and medical professionals, but never politicians. I whole heartedly believe that this bill should be passed as it is essential for the health and safety of trans people of all ages.

Thank you.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:28:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose those bill! It's not gender affirming care, it is child mutilation that there is no coming back from! Most children who experience these feelings outgrow them by adulthood. The government has no business interfering in the parent child relationship. No surgeries or hormones should be given to a child. When they reach adulthood then that decision is theirs. We are tasked with protecting the children which is why there are laws regarding tattoos, drinking alcohol and driving. Child mutilation is way more permanent than a tattoo. Doctors who perform these acts should be in jail, not making millions of dollars. Stop the insanity!

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:28:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina-rae K Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as a parent of a transgender adult child. My daughter came out at age of 18. We accepted her always thinking she was gay. But found out she was transgender. She went to India to get her gender reassignment. I believe god not judge or make mistakes, sometimes biology happens. We are very proud parents of her, as she was first transgender women to win Miss Valley Isle 2024. And ranked in the top 5 at Miss Hawaii 2024. I personally believe with out the medical help, these children will not be able to be who they truly are. We had to help our daughter get a personal loan to travel to India for her gender reassignment. Not be able to be present for it due to \$ along with her being in a foreign country for more than month. I feel we in Hawaii accept all people as we all have someone in our family. That is LGBYQ and it is instilled in us as kanaka Maoli to accept people for who they are

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:29:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamele Houpo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Kamele Houpo
Wailuku, Hawai'i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:33:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Expedita Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:42:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenna Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kenna Souza
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:46:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha i support the bill in helping transgender people. I have a daughter who made the choice to change. She made the decision at the age of 18. I believe in letting others do what they choose. As long as it is within the law. She has become to be a beautiful women with a heart of gold. She is very proud of herself and is loved by many people. Growing up in Hawaii i have learned to accept all people just the way they are. I pray this testimony will touch the hearts of all who read it.

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:49:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rance Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Senate Bill for Gender affirming health care in Hawaii. My sister Caia Souza is a transgender woman and benefits from this bill.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:08:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Cavitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very opposed to SB1150 and feel this is a horrible bill designed to ruin lives and although the claim is to help, you are worsening individuals lives. This bill is combining laws regarding abortion, the murder of developing human children in the womb, with the rules about sex changes and outright criminal actions to harm humans and to lie to them that they are not born in the right body. These are 2 completely separate, yet both absolutely disgusting concepts that shouldn't even need to be debated. If anything this body should do a better job and separate two completely different topics into their own bills and there is no justification for combining these into one law.

There are 2 human genders, Male and Female. A male is born with XY chromosomes and usually has a developed penis although there are medical exceptions at an extremely small degree. Males are not females and females can never become males. Females are born with XX chromosomes and usually have different internal organs and functions such as ovaries, a vagina and other functioning body parts such as breasts and ducts to deliver milk to offspring. Even if the parts are differing the major point of this that proves the side that says people can change their sex is that a Human Male is the only living type of Human that can spread Sperm to conceive a child. A female is the ONLY living type of human being that can be impregnated with sperm to then conceive and host a growing fetus until it is born from her vagina or possibly with a cesarean birth. No Male human can give birth and no female human can impregnate a female. A man who pretends to be a female can look the part but cannot change the science. A female who pretends to be a man can look the part but cannot impregnate a female. Despite all the definition changes doctors and lawmakers make, you cannot change this factual truth. Not all males and females can procreate and that does not make them any less of that sex. If I'm born with 1 leg functioning then I am still human right?

Bottom line is this will not save lives. This will arguably lead to destroying lives. Look at the thousands of post trans people who have returned from their insanity and wished they hadn't gone down that rabbit hole. You can pretend to be whatever you want but stop trying to subject children to this nonsense. You can allow a kid to play as whatever you want but do not give young buys chemical castration medication that is given to castrate rapists in order to make the "feel better." This is so absurd and is wrong in absolutely every way.

You have no right to dictate what I do for my children's safety and I strongly feel that if I had to go through any struggles like this with my children that my abstaining from them receiving false medical indoctrination would only be something that could save their future. They can choose to be whoever they want when their brain is fully developed and they have an opportunity to live and experience real life. There is absolutely no need for "anti science gender indoctrination" that this bill is seeking to make protected. I am not anti gay. I am not mean or rude to someone who pretends to be another sex. I do not agree that it is right or healthy but I also do not have to agree nor do I have to pay to support it. Please help our Keiki and do not support this sickening agenda.

I am opposed to this bill and pray to God for forgiveness for the destruction of the youth of Hawaii if this passes. Please stop destroying lives. At least take time to separate this bill from the abortion issue. They are not connected and you are lazy for combining them. I cannot believe I actually have to write testimony about something like this. You ignore facts and play God. Eternity will judge you.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:17:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Takushi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill I believe everyone has the right to medical and what each individual feels they need. I don't think gender should matter we are all human and should have the right to medical, decision and be able to be treated fairly.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:42:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hanalei Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an ally for Trans people, I see the benefit in allowing gender affirming care for all people who are sure that they want to u see go this process.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:43:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keenan Place-Puaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to this bill SB1150, as it takes away our rights as parents and goes against religious beliefs. Why are we targeting the kids how about making it available to adults they can make a clear decision then.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:51:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Shirai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. This bill protects a vulnerable population facing attacks from other states, and shields those who support them from criminalization and other penalization as other jurisdictions attempt to reach into our own for such purposes.

Gender affirming care covers a wide range of practices that are medically sound and supported by experts as best practice - we must ensure that this life-saving care is not criminalized in the Aloha State, and that parents who choose to allow their children to pursue this care, as well as doctors who provide this care, will not be subject to the punitive and cruel laws of other states.

No matter what the current U.S. President says, trans and nonbinary people are here to stay, and we deserve and must be guaranteed access to the medicines and practices that we require to live happy and healthy lives. Let us continue to be leaders in materially respecting the dignity of all the people of Hawai'i - including māhū, fa'afafine, bakla, and LGBTQ+ people who make our communities that much stronger.

Please support SB1150! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emma Shirai

Honolulu, HI

2027 J.D. Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:00:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:02:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleilani Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Gender-affirming care saves lives and needs to be protected for all.

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:05:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohilani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

protect gender affirming care in Hawai'i and legislation

LATE

SB-1150-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:11:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2025 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maryam Alammari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. This bill protects a vulnerable population facing attacks from other states, and shields those who support them from criminalization and other penalization as other jurisdictions attempt to reach into our own for such purposes.

Gender affirming care covers a wide range of practices that are medically sound and supported by experts as best practice - we must ensure that this life-saving care is not criminalized in the Hawaii, and that parents who choose to allow their children to pursue this care, as well as doctors who provide this care, will not be subject to the punitive and cruel laws of other states.

No matter what the current U.S. President says, trans and nonbinary people are here to stay, and we deserve and must be guaranteed access to the medicines and practices that we require to live happy and healthy lives. Let us continue to be leaders in materially respecting the dignity of all the people of Hawai'i - including māhū, fa'afafine, bakla, and LGBTQ+ people who make our communities that much stronger.

Please support SB1150! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Maryam Alammari

96848 Manoa

2026 J.D. Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law