



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

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March 7, 2025

House's Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM

RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 816 SD 1

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 816, 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 strongly supports SB 816, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. This bill is essential in ensuring fundamental fairness and due process for immigrants in Hawai'i, particularly those from marginalized and vulnerable communities, including LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Hawai'i has long stood as a beacon of inclusivity, diversity, and the Aloha Spirit, values that compel us to protect and support those who seek safety, stability, and opportunity in our islands. However, far too many individuals in immigration proceedings face life-altering consequences without access to legal representation. Without an attorney, immigrants—including asylum seekers, families, and LGBTQIA+ individuals fleeing persecution—are significantly less likely to secure relief or navigate the complex legal system effectively. Studies consistently show that individuals with legal representation are more likely to receive fair and just outcomes in their cases.

For LGBTQIA+ immigrants, the stakes are even higher. Many have fled countries where their very identity puts them at risk of violence, imprisonment, or death. Others face the possibility of being deported to nations where their basic human rights will be denied.

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 816 SD 1

Ensuring due process in immigration proceedings is not just a legal obligation but a moral imperative, particularly for those who are disproportionately at risk.

SB 816 takes a crucial step in upholding Hawai'i's commitment to justice and fairness by providing funding for legal representation, which will help prevent unjust deportations and keep families together. Moreover, requiring reports to the Legislature will ensure accountability and transparency in the implementation of this program.

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission urges the Committee to pass SB 816 to reinforce our state's commitment to justice, equity, and the protection of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this vital legislation.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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

Chair

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

JON N. IKENAGA
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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SB816 RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Honorable Committee Members,

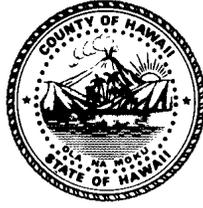
The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **SUPPORTS THIS BILL**

We support the intent of the legislature to expand current legal representation of Hawaii residents, including for non-citizens in which rights enshrined in the state constitution and statute are implicated. We support the statutory expansion of due process rights in alignment with community expectations.

As noted in Section 1 of the bill, immigration proceedings are complex. These proceedings are ordinarily outside the purview of the OPD as they are civil and held in federal court. Public defenders in the federal system are similarly not utilized as these cases are not criminal in nature.

Costs for this immigration proceeding program can be minimized significantly utilizing existing legal service providers and the work of the OPD. The OPD will work with the Judiciary in its implementation and development of the program.

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: March 7, 2025
TO: Senate Committee on Economic Development & Technology
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: SB 816 SD2

Aloha Chair Iiagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support** of SB 816 SD2. This bill establishes due process in the Immigration Proceedings Program within the judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

It is difficult to forget the stories from the first Trump Administration of [children in court on their own during immigration proceedings](#), expected to mount a defense against their deportation without an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way. Our overburdened courts and prosecuting attorney's office would greatly benefit from this additional support.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Mahalo,

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

Jenn Kagiwada

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 12:54:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, MSW	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and, Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, and I am here today as both an advocate for immigrant rights and a mother who understands the deep fear and uncertainty families face when confronted with our complex immigration system. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 816, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to individuals navigating immigration-related proceedings in court.

As a mother, I cannot imagine the pain of watching my child face an immigration judge alone, without a lawyer to protect their rights or advocate for their case. Yet, this is the heartbreaking reality for thousands of immigrants, including children and vulnerable individuals, who must navigate an intricate and intimidating legal system without legal counsel. Unlike in criminal proceedings, individuals in immigration court are not guaranteed a public defender, which leaves many—especially those with limited financial resources—defenseless against deportation, separation from their families, and potential return to life-threatening conditions in their home countries.

Senate Bill 816 takes a crucial step toward ensuring fairness and dignity in our legal system by establishing a program to provide legal representation to those facing immigration proceedings. Numerous studies have shown that legal representation significantly increases the chances of a just outcome, allowing immigrants to present their cases effectively, access relief options they may not know exist, and keep their families intact.

Beyond the moral imperative, ensuring due process in immigration court is a sound economic and social investment. When immigrants have legal representation, they are more likely to contribute to their communities, maintain employment, and provide stability for their children. Deportation disrupts families, creates economic hardship, and leads to increased reliance on social services. By supporting SB 816, we are investing in stronger families, communities, and a fairer justice system.

This bill is not about politics—it is about justice, due process, and ensuring that no one, especially the most vulnerable, is forced to stand alone against a system they do not understand. It is about upholding our values as a nation that believes in fairness, equal protection under the law, and the fundamental dignity of every person.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in strong support of SB 816. Our legal system should not be one where the outcome depends on whether a person can afford an attorney. This legislation ensures that immigrants, like all others in our society, are given a fair chance to present their case with competent legal representation.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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



Committee: Economic Development & Technology
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 12th 2025 at 10:00AM
Place: Conference Room 423 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of S.B. 816 SD2 (SSCR 1046) Relating to Due Process Protections**

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports S.B. 816 SD2**, establishing a program to provide access to legal representation for persons in immigration court. Due process of law and fair access to justice are essential to a healthy and functioning justice system, and to fostering public trust in legal outcomes. Given the importance of due process in our legal system, people who are facing the possibility of forced separation from their family, community, and homes should have basic resources to navigate the legal system and to ensure that their case is properly heard.

The ripple effects of deportation are often just as consequential for an individual's life as a criminal proceeding, if not more. Even though such safeguards exist for criminal cases, there is currently no guaranteed right to legal counsel in immigration hearings. The passage of S.B. 816 SD 2 would remedy this and demonstrate Hawai'i's commitment to upholding justice and due process for all residents, especially our most vulnerable and threatened neighbors.

Providing counsel is also important to ensure that people are not wrongfully deported or mistreated when they have a valid reason to be in the United States. A national study on immigration counsel found that immigrants who had legal representation were four times more likely to be released from detention when they had a custody hearing and were eleven times more likely to apply for relief from deportation (like asylum). Those that did seek immigration relief were also twice as likely to obtain it if they had legal representation.¹

Without the provision of counsel, immigration hearings will become unjustly skewed against low-income people who may qualify for asylum but might have difficulty arguing this before a judge. Financial, technical, and language barriers to justice and the vindication of one's rights are inconsistent with a fair society. Immigration law and individual cases are incredibly daunting to face alone, and an individual's success in the courts should not come down to whether or not they can afford a lawyer.

Sincerely,

Nathan Lee
Policy Legislative Fellow, ACLU Hawai'i

C: Carrie Ann Shirota, Policy Director

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 founded in 1965 that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds.

¹https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/access_to_counsel_in_immigration_court.pdf



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

March 7, 2025

House's Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM

RE: **Strong Support for Senate Bill 816 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and 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 816**, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation for individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. This bill is essential to ensuring fairness, dignity, and justice for immigrants in our state, particularly those who are most vulnerable to unjust deportation and family separation.

Hawai'i has long been a beacon of diversity and inclusion, with a rich history of welcoming immigrants from all backgrounds. However, the lack of legal representation in immigration proceedings presents a grave due process issue. Unlike in criminal court, where defendants have a right to an attorney, immigrants facing deportation are not guaranteed legal counsel—even if they are long-standing community members, workers, or even asylum seekers fleeing persecution. Without representation, the likelihood of deportation skyrockets, often resulting in the separation of families and the disruption of entire communities.

This bill addresses this inequity by establishing a statewide program to provide legal representation in immigration proceedings. Studies have consistently shown that individuals with legal representation are significantly more likely to prevail in their cases, ensuring due process and protecting fundamental rights. Furthermore, legal counsel prevents wrongful deportations, strengthens families, and contributes to the overall stability and well-being of our communities.

For the LGBTQIA+ community, this measure is especially critical. Many LGBTQIA+ immigrants face unique and severe risks if deported, including violence, persecution, and discrimination in their countries of origin. Ensuring access to legal representation can mean the difference between life and death for those seeking asylum or other forms of relief.

Beyond the moral imperative, providing legal representation also makes fiscal sense. Detaining and deporting individuals often results in significant economic and social costs, including the loss of workers, business owners, and community members who contribute to Hawai'i's

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 816

economy and culture. By investing in due process, we invest in a stronger and more just Hawai'i for all.

For these reasons, Pride at Work - Hawai'i urges the committee to pass **SB 816** and uphold the principles of fairness, dignity, and justice in our immigration system.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

In solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB816, SD2: RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Wednesday, 3/12/25, 10:00 am; Room 423 & Videoconference**

Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey and Members, Committee on Economic Development & Technology:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **Supports SB 816, SD2, Relating to Due Process Protections**, to establish the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, with funding.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i. We service over 113,000 people each year throughout the state. We are a Department of Justice (DOJ) Recognized Organization and our General Immigration Service Program provides legal immigration services with staff who are accredited through the DOJ.¹ Our staff are *partially* accredited, allowing them to represent immigrant clients before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) but does not allow them to represent immigrant clients in immigration court. There are situations where we must refer our low-income immigrant clients to attorneys who are able to represent them in immigration court and are concerned that the available pro bono resources are limited and are likely to be stretched due to anticipated increase in demand.

Immigrants can end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge, because they are not able to afford costly legal representation. Pro Bono immigration attorneys are limited in Hawai'i and the majority are on the island of Oahu. This bill will help ensure that more Hawaii residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, can be represented in a fair and dignified way.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i urges your support for this bill. Please provide significant funding to support family unity and social justice.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at (808) 5274813.

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/942306/dl#HAWAII>



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Third Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

March 12, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB816 SD2 - RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee:

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 SB816 SD2, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to immigrants involved in immigration-related proceedings. Federal policies have increased enforcement efforts, leaving many immigrants without legal representation to navigate complex legal processes. Some are stuck in prolonged administrative delays despite being essential contributors to Hawaii's economy. Access to legal assistance helps immigrant workers address their cases fairly and continue supporting industries vital to the state.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.B. No. 816 (S.D. 2)

Submitted to the House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

March 08, 2025

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill No. 816 (S.D. 2). This bill, masked as a due process savior, is a taxpayer-funded giveaway to lawyers, an overreach of state power into federal turf, and a bureaucratic mess that won't deliver for Hawaii's families. As a citizen rooted in limited government, fiscal discipline, and practical solutions, I offer an objective critique that should resonate with Democrats who value efficient spending, fair justice, and community strength. This bill fails on all counts—here's why.

1. Taxpayer Dollars Wasted on Federal Responsibilities

Spending Hawaii's general revenues to fund legal representation for immigration court proceedings (Section 4) shifts a federal burden onto state taxpayers. Immigration is Washington's job—why should we foot the bill? New York City's 2014 Immigrant Legal Defense Program cost \$78 million by 2020, with no evidence it reduced deportations citywide ([NYC Comptroller, "Immigrant Legal Funding Review, 2021"](#)). Democrats who prioritize local needs—schools, healthcare—should reject this cash grab for a federal problem.

2. Unproven Outcomes Drain Resources

The bill promises better outcomes for immigrants with lawyers (Section 1), but similar programs show spotty results. San Francisco's 2017 Right to Counsel initiative spent \$6 million annually, yet only 30% of its 1,200 clients won relief, leaving most deported anyway ([SF Chronicle, "Right to Counsel Falls Short, 2019"](#)). Democrats who demand results over rhetoric should see this as a feel-good flop—Hawaii's money deserves better returns.

3. Bureaucratic Bloat Overwhelms the Judiciary

Tasking the judiciary with running a sprawling program—contracting nonprofits, managing outreach, and reporting annually (Sections 2-3)—turns courts into social service hubs. In Los Angeles, a 2018 immigration legal aid program bogged down the county court system, delaying civil cases by 25% as staff juggled new duties ([LA Times, "Immigration Aid Strains Courts, 2020"](#)). Democrats who value streamlined justice should oppose saddling our judges with this mess.

4. Prioritizing Non-Citizens Hurts Local Families

Eligibility up to 250% of the poverty level (Section 2, §601-Eligibility) funnels aid to non-citizens while Hawaii's own low-income citizens—like struggling native Hawaiian families—get no such legal bailout. Oregon's 2021 universal representation program sparked backlash when citizen veterans couldn't access

similar help, widening community divides ([Oregonian, "Immigration Aid Stirs Resentment, 2022"](#)). Democrats who champion equity should demand fairness for all residents, not just immigrants.

5. Open-Ended Costs Threaten Fiscal Stability

The blank-check appropriation (Section 4)—“sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary”—invites runaway spending with no cap. Denver’s 2019 immigrant defense fund ballooned from \$2 million to \$5.3 million in two years, forcing cuts to public housing ([Denver Post, "Immigrant Legal Costs Soar, 2021"](#)). Democrats who guard against budget overruns should slam the brakes on this fiscal free-for-all.

6. Undermines Federal Immigration Enforcement

Funding lawyers to fight deportations (Section 2, §601-Powers and duties) puts Hawaii at odds with federal law, risking ICE backlash and legal chaos. After Seattle launched a \$1.5 million deportation defense fund in 2017, ICE ramped up local raids by 40%, destabilizing communities ([Seattle Times, "ICE Raids Spike After Legal Fund, 2018"](#)). Democrats who value stability should see this as poking the bear—not helping families.

Call to Action

Honorable Representatives, S.B. 816 (S.D. 2) is a disaster in the making. It squanders our money, clogs our courts, and picks winners and losers—lessons New York, San Francisco, and Seattle learned the hard way. Democrats and Republicans alike should want a Hawaii where taxes serve locals first, justice stays focused, and families aren’t pitted against each other. Vote NO to stop this bill cold. We can support due process without bankrolling a federal fight—let’s keep our priorities straight.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Crossland
Hawaii Patriot Republicans



Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10:00 am
SB816, SD2-Relating to Due Process Protections

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports bill number SB816 SD2, relating to due process protections. The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and the right to humane treatment. The League does not support deporting immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity. Hawaii is enriched culturally and economically by its diverse immigrant population.

Hawaii is home to many immigrant and mixed-status families who live, work and contribute to the welfare of the citizens of the state. Many individuals may be facing deportation or other immigration-related proceedings in the coming years in a complex and costly process. Often, they do not have the resources, the legal training or even the language skills to properly respond in these hearings.

SB816 SD2 would establish a program for due process in immigration proceedings that would provide legal representation for immigrants who are residents of Hawaii and meet certain financial requirements. This would provide Hawaii immigrants with needed support to navigate the complex legal issues of immigration policy. The resources provided by this bill would assist those individuals to receive due process and continue to be contributing members of Hawaii society. It will ensure that our communities are kept together, families are not separated, and immigrants continue to contribute.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:18:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the "Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program" to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. Now more than ever we need to have that protection for citizens in place. Mahalo!

March 12, 2025

Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Economic Development Committee ("ECD")

RE: Testimony in Support with Comments for SB 816 SD 2, RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

Dear Chair Ilgan, Vice-Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development:

On behalf of myself and my two immigration attorney colleagues at the William S. Richardson School of Law Refugee & Immigration Clinic ("RILC"), we submit testimony in our personal capacities in **support with a suggested amendment for SB 816 SD 2**, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in Immigration Court.

About RILC

RILC offers law students an opportunity to work on immigration law cases under the supervision of a licensed immigration attorney. Immigration law is a dynamic area of law that intersects with many issues in contemporary culture and politics. With a Director, two Law Fellows, and 6-10 law students each semester, we provide specialized and high-quality immigration legal services to income-eligible noncitizens in Hawai'i. We focus our efforts on income-eligible clients seeking asylum, removal defense, and other forms of humanitarian relief because these clients often have the most difficulty finding and paying for legal representation.

Our Position on SB 816 HD SD 2

We support SB 816 HD SD 2 because from our personal experience as immigration attorneys, we have observed a great need for public interest immigration attorneys to provide free or affordable, high-quality immigration legal services in immigration court. In Hawai'i, foreign-born residents comprise nearly a quarter of its population of 1.4 million and include an estimated 50,000 undocumented residents. Yet, only a dozen lawyers statewide provide free or low-cost immigration legal services to immigrant communities. Of those dozen lawyers, only half work on asylum and removal defense. With this new federal administration and their immigration priorities, we have already seen a dramatic increase in removal proceedings and those being detained for removal. To address this increase, we believe that this legislation will help build the capacity required to provide free or low-cost legal services to the immigration community in Hawai'i.

Suggested Amendment on SB 816 HD SD 2

As the only immigration law clinic in the State of Hawai'i, we are in a unique position to train law students who are interested in practicing immigration law, especially in the areas of asylum

and removal defense. SB 816 HD SD 2 would build the current capacity for immigration removal defense in Hawai'i by allowing for the hiring of existing immigration lawyers as well as training law students and pro bono attorneys to do this work. Therefore, we ask this committee to amend SB 816 HD SD 2 to require the judiciary to partner with entities capable of training and educating law students and legal practitioners to provide legal representation in immigration proceedings, including deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration relief processes. For example, RILC, in collaboration with the American Immigration Lawyers Association Hawai'i Chapter, recently created a deportation hotline that provides immediate legal assistance to individuals facing removal proceedings. We believe that amending the legislation to require the judiciary to partner with qualified entities will foster similar collaborations and deliver immediate relief to those in need. We have attached our suggested amendment in this testimony.

We urge this committee to pass SB 816 HD SD 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Esther Sungeun Yoo, Esq.

Director

Stephane Haro Sevilla, Esq.

Post-JD Legal Fellow

Danicole Ramos, Esq.

Equal Justice Works Fellow

Proposed Suggested Amendment

§601- Powers and duties. In the administration of the due process in immigration proceedings program, the judiciary shall ensure that the entities contracted to implement and operate the program:

- (1) Provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, including but not limited to deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration relief processes;
- (2) Prioritize services for individuals who are detained, at risk of deportation, or otherwise vulnerable due to their immigration status;
- (3) Partner with community-based organizations and legal service providers to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services;
- (4) Provide training and education for, or partner with entities capable of training and educating, law students and legal practitioners to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, including, but not limited to, deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration relief processes;
- ~~(4)~~ (5) Conduct outreach and education to inform impacted communities about the availability of legal representation and related resources; and
- ~~(5)~~ (6) Collect and report data on the program's outcomes, including the number of individuals served, types of cases handled, length of time each case has been pending, and success rates, while maintaining confidentiality and protecting sensitive information.



Statement Before The
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
10:00 AM
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

in consideration of
SB816, SD2

RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS.

Chair ILAGAN, Vice Chair HUSSEY, and Members of the
House Economic Development & Technology Committee

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB816, SD2, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, requires reports to the Legislature, and appropriates funds.

TLC is a Hawai'i nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. TLC is a direct legal services provider, representing those in Hawai'i who meet income eligibility guidelines without regard to immigration status, national origin, ethnic background, race, religion, ideology, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. TLC works alongside immigrants so they can attain authorization to work and live with dignity, reunite with their families after years of separation and escape horrific violence to find refuge in the United States. TLC recognizes that every person needs and deserves to feel a sense of trust, welcome, and belonging.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Hawai'i is the most diverse state in the nation.¹ In 2023, Hawai'i had about 256,000 immigrants, which is approx. 18% of the State population.² The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (45 percent of immigrants), China (9 percent), Japan (8 percent), Korea (6 percent), and the Pacific Island Nations (4 percent).³ There are between 41,000 -50,500 undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i.⁴ Hawai'i is the only state where undocumented women (55%) outnumber men.⁵

¹ See <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/567625-hawaii-california-and-nevada-are-most-diverse-states-in-the-us-census/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

² See <https://usafacts.org/answers/how-many-immigrants-are-in-the-us/state/hawaii/> and <https://data.census.gov/profile/Hawaii?g=040XX00US15#populations-and-people> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

³ See https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_hawaii.pdf (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁴ See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁵ See <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Narratives/Overview/a0ac94c0-8538-417e-85c9-da6ac5c06603> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

Hawaii's immigrant population primarily work in the agriculture, tourism / hospitality / service, and health industries.⁶ Immigrants (documented and undocumented alike) contribute to Hawaii's economic health and growth. Hawaii's "undocumented immigrants contributed \$157.2 million in state and local taxes in 2022. Their tax contributions could increase to as much as \$194.4 million if they were given official authorization to work. This is also true for the rest of the United States. If all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. had work permits, their tax contributions would rise by \$40.2 billion each year, reaching a total of \$136.9 billion."⁷

In FY 2008, during Trump's first term, there were 447 deportation / removals issued by Hawaii's Immigration Court.⁸ The immigration court data show that for FY2024 Hawai'i had even more cases – total 915 – with a majority of them being deportation cases.⁹ With the Trump Administration promising to deport immigrants at unprecedented levels, TLC is expecting a greater surge in Hawai'i immigration court cases. TLC is already experienced an increased demand for pro bono legal services.

Hawaii's immigrant population is an integral part of Hawaii's community and are our neighbors, co-workers, and 'ohana. Targeting a significant portion of Hawaii's community in terms of both size and positive economic contributions for deportation or other immigration-related proceedings in immigration court severely destabilizes family units and economic security and results in community volatility and vulnerability.

Individuals in deportation proceedings face permanent separation from their families and their communities, and sometimes life-threatening risks in their countries of origin. Individuals, some with language difficulty, appear before immigration court, including minors, and are not entitled to government-funded legal representation, leaving them to navigate complex legal systems alone, unless they are able to afford costly counsel or other assistance on their own. Those who are able to obtain costly counsel in immigration court are likely to achieve more favorable outcomes in immigration proceedings, such as relief from deportation or successful asylum applications. Data show that those appearing with counsel in Hawaii immigration court removal cases are nearly three times more likely to receive a favorable outcome than those who are unrepresented.¹⁰

Thus, SB816, SD2 is critical to assuring due process and promoting family unity, community stability, and economic security. SB816, SD2 is about providing services to people in our communities because it will ensure that our communities are kept together and families are not separated, which will result in economic hardship. SB816, SD2 will provide legal representation to income qualified individuals residing in Hawai'i who are facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court and is to be administered through the Judiciary.

⁶ See https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_hawaii.pdf (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁷ See How Hawaii's hardworking undocumented immigrants support our economy and communities — Hawai'i Appleseed (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁸ See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁹ See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

¹⁰ See <https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/closure/> (retrieved 2/16/2025).

SB816, SD2 is the fair, right, just thing to do to ensure that people are afforded the necessary protections under the law, families and communities are preserved, and our human rights and dignity are respected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB816, SD2 and TLC respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB816, SD2 out of your Committee. TLC also supports the suggested amendment proposed by attorneys, in their individuals capacities, from the Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@tlchawaii.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma

Sandy Ma
Community & Policy Advocate
The Legal Clinic

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:09:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaiian Islands Republican Women	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Hawaiian Islands Republican Women stands in **STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB816_SD2**.

SB816_SD2 states, the purpose of this Act is to establish a program to provide access to legal representation for individuals in the State facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, assuring due process and promoting family unity, community stability, and economic security.

• If the immigrants referred to in this bill are in the country illegally, they do not have due process and civil rights protections. They are in the country illegally.

Submitted in **STRONG OPPOSITION** for the following reasons:

SB816

- Provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings.
- Prioritize services for individuals who are detained, at risk of deportation, or otherwise vulnerable due to their immigration status. If they are being “detained”, there may be criminal charges pending. We should not be funding their legal services.
- Partner with community-based organizations.
- Conduct outreach and education.
- Collect and report data on the program's outcomes.
- How would these services be paid for? What State agency will provide these services?

SB816_SD2 proposes to fund legal services

for the sum of [blank] \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the establishment and administration of the due process in immigration proceedings program, including funding for legal service providers, outreach efforts, and administrative costs.

• Why are we using general funds for immigrants?

These funds would be better spent on programs for U.S. Citizens such as the homeless, Veterans, and other underserved groups. Many immigrants who are in Hawaii illegally are receiving government benefits such as SNAP and Medicaid. If they are here illegally, they should not be receiving benefits.

This bill is ambiguous and lacks critical details to be seriously considered to pass. We are respectfully asking you to uphold your oath of office.

Please vote NO on SB816 _SD2 to protect the citizens of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:23:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Santos	Calvary Chapel Westside	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am asking you to please vote no on SB816.

That Hawaii Taxpayer's dollars would be used for legal Hawaii residents and legal US Citizens only.

Mahalo



Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey

March 12, 2025, 10 am Room 423
SB816 SD2 — RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB816 SD2, which would establish a program to provide due process in immigration proceedings, to be administered by the Judiciary and provided through contracts with organizations which can assist immigrants through immigration court processes. The League of Women Voters supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and the right to humane treatment.

Hawaii's residents include many immigrants, including approximately 45,000 undocumented immigrants and another 50,000 who are lawful permanent residents but have not completed legal processes to become citizens, often due to financial costs of legal representation and/or language difficulties.

Immigrants, including many of the undocumented, contribute very significantly to Hawaii's economy. Immigrant labor is essential to the US and the Hawaii economies, both directly through **work** in agricultural, fishing, construction, healthcare and hospitality industries, and through the **consumer spending** by which those immigrants boost businesses and tax revenues. For the US as a whole, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that an expected increase in immigration between 2024-2034 could have raised GDP by \$8.9 trillion during those years. In 2022, undocumented immigrants in Hawaii paid \$157.2 million in state and local taxes.

Just the threat of deportation, and certainly deportation and legal uncertainties, disrupt businesses, remove skilled workers, and deprive these sectors of our economy of a reliable workforce. By providing the legal resources which greatly increase the probable success rate in immigration proceedings, SB816 SD2 will help individuals continue contributing to our tax base and economy.

Please pass SB816 SD2!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:33:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy agbayani	Hawai'i friends of civil rights	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB 816 sd2 submitted by

Amy Agbayani and Patricia McManaman, co-chairs Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights.

We strongly support funding critical legal representation for immigrants. We also support having the Judiciary partner with educational institutions that provide training students and educating legal professional to provide legal representation to immigrants.

The US percentage of foreign born is 14%. According to U.S. Census figures for 2014-2018, over 18% of Hawai'i's population consists of first- generation immigrants or migrants (260,000 in total). That's one out of five residents in our state. Immigrants reside in all counties/islands: Oahu 75%, Maui 12%, Hawai'i 7%, and Kauai 5%. Immigrants from the Philippines represent the largest country of origin group, making up nearly half—or 45.8 percent—of all immigrants in Hawai'i. However, more recent immigrant groups such as Mexicans, Vietnamese, and Micronesians also make up sizeable shares of the foreign-born population.

U.S. citizens are protected by many laws and practices. Without the rights and protections of full citizenship, non-citizens are vulnerable to potential abuse, discrimination, and uncertainty, particularly in the face of recent or proposed changes to federal immigration policies and practices. Immigrants who seek legal status—to which they may be entitled—frequently lack the financial means or English language proficiency needed to secure legal status.^[1]

A majority (58%) of Hawai'i's foreign born residents are naturalized citizens. However, an estimated 54,000 are lawful permanent residents ("Green Card" holders) and eligible to apply for naturalized citizenship but may need assistance in doing so. Another estimated 45,000 or more are believed to be undocumented or under-documented. These include residents who are seeking asylum, individuals who have overstayed their visas, and those with so-called DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status. Many of these individuals may be entitled to legal protections but are vulnerable and could be reluctant to seek help.

While a high majority of immigrants (77%) in Hawai'i report speaking English "well" or "very well," there remains a large number for whom English proficiency will present a potential obstacle. According to the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), more than 130 different languages are spoken among Hawai'i's immigrants, and one in four residents of the State speak a language other than English at home. A 2016

Hawai‘i State report found that speakers of a non-English language typically earn 10% to 34% less than English-only speakers for all proficiency levels (Hawai‘i DBEDT, April 2016). Most commonly spoken statewide are Tagalog (>58,000), Japanese (>54,000), Ilocano (>45,000), Spanish (>25,000), and Hawai‘i an (>18,000).

The new administrations Executive Orders and call for mass deportation of undocumented persons, terminating refugee and assylum application and other anti-immigrant policies makes legal representation needed more. There is an urgent need in Hawai‘i for accessible and affordable legal counsel and related services for low-income immigrant residents seeking assistance on immigration matters. For those whose English proficiency is limited, lack of access to interpreters or translated documents can also be a barrier. Awareness of immigrant rights and protections is limited, and the need for public education is essential. ^[1]The process of applying for U.S. citizenship or for other changes to one’s immigration status is extraordinarily complex, While some immigrants might require only brief service for routine matters, many have difficult, multi-layered cases that require extended advice and counsel. Immigrants need legal representation in deportation and asylum defense, sponsorship of family members to immigrate, naturalized citizenship or legal residency. Some have tried unsuccessfully in the past to secure their change in status but may have not been able to due to lack of expert legal advice and/or the complexity of their matters. ^[2]Complexities are staggering for those facing both criminal charges and immigration court issues, and some cases require lengthy and demanding involvement. Additionally, there is no presumptive right to defense counsel in immigration matters, meaning that individuals who cannot afford attorney fees may face detention, deportation, or denial of citizenship benefits without legal representation and assistance to tackle complex application procedures. Legal counsel is not only expensive, but also hard to come by, as there are few practicing immigration attorneys in Hawai‘i.

Expert legal representation increases the chances of protecting immigrant rights and securing a positive outcome. Nationwide, according to the American Immigration Council, immigrants who are petitioning for U.S. legal status and who have an attorney are five times more likely to obtain relief from deportation than those without counsel. In 2016, 90% of those who were denied asylum had no legal representation, vs. 48% denied with legal counsel (Center for American Progress). In 2017, the Immigration Court in Honolulu completed 241 immigration cases with 83 resulting in removal or voluntary departure. Only 37% of all respondents had legal counsel. Other studies have shown that successful petitions for permanent residency or naturalization lead to immigrants being better able to secure good employment (including an increase in personal earnings of as much as 11%), and to become more civically engaged — significantly boosting economic and social opportunity for them and for our community as a whole.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:07:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Matsunaga	North Hawaii Community Action Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

North Hawaii Community Action Network supports SB816 SD2



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 10, 2025

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB 816

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents over 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. **We support SB 816** as it establishes a program to provide due process and legal representation for individuals facing proceedings in immigration court. Due process is a foundation of our justice system, and it should apply to everyone. Our union members defend due process rights in the workplace on a daily basis. The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution demands due process rights for all persons. It is a human right.

The United States should act as a society that supports freedom, equal rights, diversity, opportunity, and the well-being of the whole population. Migration is freedom. The ability to move freely to pursue a better life is freedom. The basic ability to safely leave a place and safely arrive in a new place is freedom of movement. When that freedom is threatened, we must act on our values and protect people from policies designed to restrict human freedoms.

Hawaii, as a melting pot of immigrants and their descendants, is a beneficiary of that freedom to migrate. Many of our union members are immigrants or children of immigrants, they are the working-class families, friends and neighbors that make up the fabric of our Hawaii communities.

We urge you to pass SB 816.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:26:40 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymund Llanes Liongson, PhD	Coalition for Democracy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Ronald Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Due process is a critical element of the rule of law, an enshrined American value. In our State, "pono"- the sense of doing what is just and right- is a cherished principle. Protecting these values and principles is part of our government's obligation.

I would like to register my strong support for SB816, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. This Senate Bill is consistent with our democratic and humane values.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Raymund Liongson, PhD
Coalition for Democracy

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:16:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JAMMER	Kohala Girls Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE OPPOSE SB816 for it offers nothing to We The People who have served their lifetimes to this government/corporation!

SUPPORT LOCAL

SUPPORT FIRE VICTIMS

DEFUND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Mahalo



P.O. Box 37545, Honolulu, Hawaii 96837
E-mail: hifilaw808@gmail.com / Instagram: hifilaw808

To: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

From: Board of Directors, Hawai'i Filipino Lawyers Association

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 423 and Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Re: **S.B. 816 S.D. 2 Relating to Due Process Protections Testimony in
STRONG SUPPORT**

The Hawai'i Filipino Lawyers Association ("HFLA") exists to represent and advocate for the interests of Filipino lawyers and generally the community. The purpose of S.B. 816 S.D. 2 aligns directly with our mission, as it seeks to provide government-funded legal representation to individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in court.

If passed, S.B. 816 S.D. 2 would have a profound impact on Hawai'i's Filipino community — one that is deeply woven into the state's social and economic fabric, from healthcare workers and educators to small business owners and essential laborers.

According to the 2020 decennial census, of the 1,455,271 people that live in the state, 24.2% speak languages other than English in their home. U.S. Census Bureau. Types of Language Spoken at Home in Hawai'i. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved on March 11, 2025, from <https://data.census.gov/vizwidget?g=040XX00US15&infoSection=Language+Spoken+at+Home>. Given the rapidly changing policies of our country's immigration system, a significant and essential portion of our state's population now finds itself even more vulnerable to losing life-sustaining rights and liberties.

For those facing deportation proceedings, the stakes could not be higher. Deportation threatens not only to permanently separate families, but also in some cases, would return Hawai'i residents to life-threatening conditions in their countries of origin.

The situation is even more dire for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable populations who may struggle with language barriers and limited resources — leaving them to navigate complex legal systems alone.

S.B. 816 S.D. 2 addresses these urgent needs by establishing a program that guarantees access to legal representation, ensuring that immigrants — regardless of their ability to pay— are afforded due process promised in our nation’s Constitution.

Legal representation is not just about defending against deportation; it is about protecting family unity, promoting community stability, and upholding fundamental constitutional rights.

HFLA strongly supports this bill because justice should never depend on a person’s income or immigration status. We believe that every individual deserves fair representation, especially when their families, livelihoods, and lives are at stake.

Thus, HFLA respectfully and **strongly** urges the legislature to pass S.B. 816 S.D. 2 and to adequately fund the proposed program to support Hawai‘i’s immigrant communities in their pursuit of justice and dignity.



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill

In **SUPPORT** of SB816 S2D

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 12th, 2025

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) in **strong support of SB816 SD2**, which seeks to establish the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation for individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in Hawaii.

This measure is a critical step toward ensuring justice, fairness, and stability for our immigrant community, particularly at a time when federal immigration policies remain unpredictable and enforcement actions continue to create fear and uncertainty for many families in our state.

Why This Bill is Essential for Hawai‘i

Hawai‘i has always been a place of diversity, resilience, and inclusion, with a significant portion of our population—18% foreign-born and 8% U.S. citizens with immigrant parents—deeply woven into the fabric of our communities. However, many immigrants in Hawaii face immigration proceedings without legal representation, leaving them vulnerable to deportation and separation from their families. Unlike in the criminal justice system, individuals in immigration court do not have the right to a government-appointed attorney, even if they cannot afford one. This bill corrects that imbalance by ensuring that immigrants—especially the most vulnerable—receive the legal support necessary to navigate an often complex and intimidating system.

Key Reasons to Support This Bill

1. **Protecting Families and Communities** - Many immigrant households in Hawai‘i are mixed-status families, meaning that a deportation can result in children being separated from their parents, leading to devastating economic and emotional consequences. This bill will help keep families together and prevent unjust removals.
2. **Ensuring Fairness in Legal Proceedings** - Immigration law is one of the most complex areas of law, yet thousands of immigrants are forced to represent themselves in court, significantly reducing their chances of relief. Studies show that individuals with legal representation are ten times more likely to obtain favorable outcomes. This bill ensures due process and a fair chance for those facing deportation or seeking asylum.



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

3. Addressing Language and Financial Barriers - Many immigrants in Hawai'i, especially recent arrivals and those from underrepresented Pacific Islander and Asian communities, face language barriers and financial hardships that prevent them from obtaining legal help. This program will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, ensuring equitable access to justice.
4. Strengthening Hawai'i's Economy - Immigrants contribute significantly to Hawai'i's workforce, small businesses, and economy. Deportations and legal uncertainties disrupt businesses, remove skilled workers, and harm local industries such as healthcare, hospitality, and construction. By ensuring legal representation, this bill supports economic stability and workforce retention.

As a state with a rich immigrant history, Hawai'i has long been a leader in promoting equity and civil rights. This bill reinforces our commitment to being a welcoming and just community for all residents, regardless of immigration status.

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights urges the Legislature to pass this bill and ensure that immigrants in our state receive the legal representation they need to defend their rights, remain with their families, and continue contributing to our communities. At a time when national immigration policies remain uncertain, Hawai'i must take a stand to protect our immigrant neighbors and uphold fundamental principles of due process and fairness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB816 to ensure its intent is fully realized.

Mahalo for your support and consideration.

Liza Ryan-Gill
Executive Director
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:25:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a misuse of funds. Opposed.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:16:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have to have legal immigrants!

Take care of our own first

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:00:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Hough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill WASTES our taxes on free lawyers for illegal immigrants!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:54:13 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ANOTHER TERRRIBLE BILL FROM AN ALREADY COMPROMISED GOVERNMENT -
WE THE PROPL DO NOT SUPPORT THIS!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:20:42 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB 816, S.D. 1 – “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS”

Submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature

Date: March 10, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to SB 816, S.D. 1, which seeks to establish and fund a Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in federal Immigration Court. While the intent to enhance due process may appear laudable on its face, I urge the Committee to consider the broader implications of this measure, including its fiscal irresponsibility, jurisdictional overreach, and potential to undermine federal authority. For these reasons, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill.

First, the allocation of state taxpayer funds to provide legal representation in federal immigration proceedings raises significant concerns about fiscal priorities. Hawaii faces pressing challenges—such as housing shortages, infrastructure needs, and economic recovery—that demand the state’s limited resources. Diverting funds to a program that benefits a narrow group of individuals involved in federal proceedings risks neglecting the broader needs of Hawaii’s residents. Without a clear demonstration of how this program would deliver measurable benefits to the state as a whole, this expenditure appears unjustifiable.

Second, immigration enforcement and adjudication are matters squarely within the purview of the federal government under the U.S. Constitution. By establishing a state-funded program to intervene in federal Immigration Court proceedings, SB 816 encroaches upon a domain reserved for federal authority. This not only sets a precedent for jurisdictional overreach but also risks creating confusion and inconsistency in the application of immigration law. The state should not assume the burden of funding legal representation in a system over which it has no control, particularly when such representation is not guaranteed as a constitutional right in civil immigration proceedings under federal law.

Third, this measure could inadvertently incentivize illegal immigration by signaling that Hawaii will provide state-subsidized legal support to individuals facing federal immigration consequences. Such a policy may strain public resources further and exacerbate tensions between state and federal objectives, potentially inviting federal scrutiny or retaliatory measures that could harm Hawaii’s interests.

Finally, the requirement for legislative reports does little to mitigate these concerns. Reporting on the program’s implementation cannot justify its foundational flaws or the unnecessary expenditure of public funds. Rather than creating a new bureaucratic program, the state should

focus on addressing issues within its jurisdiction that benefit all residents, regardless of immigration status.

For these reasons—fiscal imprudence, jurisdictional overreach, potential unintended consequences, and misplaced priorities—I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB 816, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your careful consideration of this matter.

Lawrence Ramirez Kailua Kona

lardg@yahoo.com

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 7:14:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Important

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 7:20:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this measure to support due process rights being carried out for all our residents. To achieve justice we need for everyone to be able to access due process before the law.

Nancy Moser

I'm living in Waikoloa on Hawai'i Island

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 9:15:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the current national political climate we must preserve our humanity locally and protect vulnerable populations with our aloha.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 9:30:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise L Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 9:44:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Coles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case. Mahalo

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 10:00:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 10:08:01 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case. Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 1:53:14 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill.

Kanani Kai

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 2:20:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 6:01:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB816. I support this measure because all should have access to legal defense. Many immigrants cannot even defend themselves due to the language barrier on top of that.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 8:42:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:43:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Morse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:49:04 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Ledward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 11:53:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 12:20:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Ellinwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The ability to pay for a private attorney should not determine whether or not an immigrant family is torn apart by the court system. Please ensure that due process applies to all.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:09:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 438 to provide additional funding for more legal services to service immigrants. The numbers of pro bono immigration attorneys in Hawaii is scarce. There are only a handful. Immigrants unable to understand the language, with no legal training, are left to face an ICE prosecutor and judge by themselves. This is not justice or fair treatment under the law. All defendants should have needed counsel, especially when they are not proficient in English and have no knowledge of the law.

We saw awful, unjust treatment of immigrants during the first Trump administration. Some, only children, were in court on their own, with no adult assisting them and they were expected to mount a legal defense on their own against their removal. This is unjust and cruel.

With additional funding through this bill, more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, can fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Beth Anderson

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 6:20:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:58:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

Mahalo,

Judith C. White,

Kapaa

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 6:40:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case. Let's bring compassion back to our community.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:53:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB816. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support of this important legislation.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 10:20:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:58:37 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB 816 Due Process in Immigration Hearings

In support of SB 816: Establishment of due process in immigration proceedings

I am writing as a long-time pediatrician in support of providing legal representation to individuals in immigration proceedings, with appropriate funding to support this program. In the zeal of Immigration officials to round up anyone suspected of being in the US illegally, I fear that once again children will be separated from their parents, warehoused with poor care, and lost to any follow up, potentially forever as happened in the first Trump administration. Many immigrants do not have the language skills or funds to defend themselves, nor do they know their rights. The State of Hawaii has long been a beacon of light to immigrants of every nationality, and in turn has benefitted from their presence here. I strongly support providing detained immigrants with adequate due process, in hopes that families will not be separated and children will not be lost again. I am hopeful that our special State will provide compassion and assistance to our immigrants in these perilous times.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:46:37 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We've largely turned a blind eye and looked the other way when confronted with the plight of immigrants -- we're too busy being outraged at loss of jobs (which is a travesty also).

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

France called: They want the statue back ;-(

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:11:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the ECD Committee,

As a concerned citizen, I write in **strong support of SB816 SD2**. This measure would provide legal representation to income-qualified individuals residing in Hawai'i who are facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court and is to be administered through the judiciary.

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case. With recent federal actions attacking the rights and health of immigrants, migrants, and refugees, I urge the legislature to pass this measure to ensure protections for all people living in Hawai'i.

SB816 SD2 is the fair, right, just thing to do to ensure that people are afforded the necessary protections under the law, families and communities are preserved, and our human rights and dignity are respected.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

Makiki, HI

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:16:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Gately	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:38:54 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Koppenheffer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to Hawai'i having a large immigrant population and Hawai'i's dependence on immigrants for their valuable contributions to the economy, the immigration process should be simplified.

SB816 seeks to do this by having the Judiciary assist and work with other agencies to provide legal representation in implementing due process in the immigration proceedings program.

The first advantage of SB816 is that having a designated contact and process like this would make immigration much easier for foreigners who may not have sufficient knowledge of English or personal contacts to be able to finish the process on their own. Secondly, a government-led effort like this could help people avoid situations where they might seek help from unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them because they have no better options.

Please consider this bill for passage. I believe that it would benefit the state of Hawai'i as well as future legal immigrants.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 12:24:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The Kupuna Caucus strongly supports SB816 SD2 which will assist immigrants exercise thier rights and persue a life in Hawaii. Hawaii has chronic labor shortages and needs hard working immigrants who will provide services to Kupuna as we enter a stage in the aging process that requires assistance in activities of daily living.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:05:02 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELEN R CASEY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to plead their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:18:02 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case. Please pass this bill, thank you!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 4:37:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
G L Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case". Mahalo

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:54:49 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Ilagan and Committee Members,

I OPPOSE SB-816.

I stand by my testimony of February 16, 2025.

Brett Kulbis

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 7:46:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Ciurej	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:04:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:24:13 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, no tax money should be paying for any person here illegally, PERIOD!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:26:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB816. Hawaii is overburdened. We should not be using taxpayer money to defend people who are here illegally. There is no justification for using tax dollars on someone who doesn't pay taxes. If there are those who would like to represent illegal immigrants in court, they can offer pro bono services.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:56:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in opposition to this bill, mahalo.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:07:42 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronelle Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It does not benefit the people of Hawai'i.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:09:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How dare you propose that I should work hard and pay taxes to provide illegal immigrants with lawyers. Absolutely abhorrent. We are barely surviving out here as civilians under your TERRIBLE legislation, regulations and policies.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:23:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:26:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB816

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:39:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB816,

Paul Giles

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:54:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stacy diaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Stacy Diaz oppose this bill.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:56:04 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppse SB816. This bill wastes your taxes on free lawyers for illegal immigrants. Betrays Americans. It supports lawbreakers, weakens borders, and funds their defense. Tally unacceptable. Give that money to a lahaina fire attack victims.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:19:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Sb816

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:23:25 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask for a no vote please on this bill. If one is here illegally they should not have the rights of those who are legal. Our tax dollars should not be spent this way. Thank you.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:59:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB816. I do not want our tax money to pay for lawyers for illegal immigrants. This would favor lawbreakers, weaken border policies, and fund criminal activities.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:02:19 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Vorm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case. This practice is discriminatory and everyone deserves a fighting chance in our court system.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:05:22 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB816.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:13:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I do not want my tax dollars going for people who are here illegally. If they don't have the money to hire their own attorney then they are a drain on our society. They need to go home and come in legally. We have citizens who need help. Our tax dollars should only go to citizens.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:18:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:35:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot afford to hire a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you, Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:09:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB816 SD2, a bill which provides our judiciary branch to partner with nonprofit legal agencies to provide immigrants with adequate representation in the courts dealing with migration issues. As you know, many migrant people may not know how to move through the legal system and the procedures and to do so unrepresented does not afford them the due process they are accorded in our Constitution, of which the rights stipulated are not based on legal status but jurisdiction. That being said, all people with immigration concerns should be adequately represented regardless of ability to pay and I am all in favor for the state government to provide such measures for them.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:35:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 2:53:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I support SB816 SD2 which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:14:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB816. My hard earned tax dollars should not be paying for illegal immigrants legal fees

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:04:01 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elba Reyes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals cannot pay a private attorney to fight their case".

Mahalo for your time,

Elba Reyes

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:46:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:49:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

During the first Trump Administration there little children in court on their own. Expected to mount a defense against their removal without even an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances. The outcomes of these cases cannot be called justice when the process is so unjust.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:11:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to express my strong support of SB816 by Senator Aquino. Every person deserves an attorney. This is urgently important for immigrant families. Please do the compassionate thing and pass SB816.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

Big Island

House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hearing
Wednesday, March 10, 2025 at 10:00 am
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 423
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: SUPPORT - SB816, SD2, RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS.

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong SUPPORT SB816, SD2. As a member of the Hawai'i State Bar since 1999, I was shocked to recently learn that there is a backlog of over 1.9 million cases before immigration courts in the U.S., and that 47% of unaccompanied minor immigrant children have no legal representation before immigration courts. Here in Hawai'i, we have an estimated 50,000 undocumented immigrants in need of free or low-cost immigration legal services, and only about twelve attorneys statewide to serve them. Given the current climate, with immigration enforcement actions being undertaken nationwide, the need for these services is expected to increase. The proposed bill will help us as a community uphold our values and our respect for our immigrant communities by providing due process protections.

I humbly request that you please pass SB 816, SD2.

Mahalo,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:54:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Our taxpayer funds should NOT go towards this at all!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:44:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposition to this bill. Monies from tax payers US citizens, should Not be appropriated towards legal representation of non citizens. We currently have a severe shortage in court appointed attorneys representing defendants who are unable to pay. This bill gives monies to non citizens and yet legal US citizens are currently running the risk of non representation, back logging the courts. No to non citizens looking for immigration representation for free or discounted.

Louella Vidinha

Hawaii resident

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:23:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado Oppose Bill SB816 SD2

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:06:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:26:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Cain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Please support SB816 SD2 Everyone has a right to expect due process in legal proceedings in the US. Many people cannot afford a private attorney to fight their case. Due process should be a given in the US.

Mahalo!

Eileen Cain, Mo'ili'ili

March 10, 2025

Hawaii State Legislature
Thirty-Third Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Re: Written Testimony in Support with Comments from **William S. Richardson School of Law Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic Advisory Committee** for SB 816, SD2, Relating to Due Process Protections

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 423, State Capitol

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The William S. Richardson School of Law Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic (“RILC”) Advisory Committee **supports** SB 816, SD2 (“Bill”), and suggests the “Powers and duties” portion of the Bill be amended to include the following requirement for contracted entities:

Provide training and education for, or partner with entities capable of training and educating, law students and legal practitioners to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, including, but not limited to, deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration-relief processes.

The Advisory Committee is a group of community volunteers who are committed to actively supporting the critical role and mission of RILC. We submit this testimony in support of the Bill, and the suggested amendment, in our personal or individual capacities.

RILC is the only immigration law clinic in the State that provides both immigration legal services and training for future immigration law attorneys to represent income-eligible non-citizen adults and children residing in Hawai‘i in some of the most complex and challenging immigration proceedings. The mission of the RILC is to educate and train law students and attorneys to provide free or low-cost legal representation for asylum, removal defense, and other forms of humanitarian relief. Along with its community partners, including non-profit legal services organizations, RILC is part of a critical network of programs and organizations providing free immigration legal services to some of the most vulnerable, yet underserved and unrepresented, members of our community, including undocumented residents who have been working and contributing to our local economy.

Supporting Hawai‘i’s immigrants in court proceedings and their attainment of legal status is critical to a thriving local economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2022 American Community Survey, in 2022, undocumented immigrants in Hawai‘i alone paid over \$93 million in federal taxes and over \$72 million in state and local taxes, and immigrant-led households in Hawai‘i paid \$2.0 billion in federal taxes and \$1.2 billion in state and local taxes. One in five Hawaii workers are immigrants, comprising a significant portion of our State workforce. As consumers, Hawai‘i’s undocumented immigrants alone held over \$514 million in spending power (after-tax income) in 2022; together, all of Hawai‘i’s immigrant households held \$7.9

billion in spending power in 2022. Thus, supporting undocumented immigrants who seek a legal process and protections afforded by the U.S. government leads to millions of dollars in State revenue and sustains our local workforce.

As the Bill clearly recognizes, and as evidenced by the aforementioned statistics, Hawai'i is home to a large population of foreign-born residents. This diverse population includes both long-term residents and recent arrivals as well as residents both young, including unaccompanied minors, and old. Despite their diverse stories and backgrounds, these individuals and families share a common need for safety and security that cannot be met in their originating country and for legal representation to legally achieve that safety and security here in Hawai'i. Unfortunately, despite the long-term benefits of immigrants to the local economy, many of these residents are currently without the financial resources to hire an attorney, and there is a disproportionately large population of residents with free or low-cost immigration legal services needs compared to the handful of attorneys providing such services in Hawai'i. This has resulted in a considerable unmet need for free and low-cost immigration legal representation in Hawai'i. Furthermore, due to the priorities of the new federal administration, the need for immigration legal services has escalated because of the number of removal proceedings and the need for legal representation in those as well as immigration legal matters such as asylum and other humanitarian relief.

As Advisory Committee members, we have seen firsthand the positive impact that legal representation has had in the outcome of cases--outcomes that are life-altering. Some of us have personally and directly contributed to these life-altering outcomes by serving as pro bono counsel for RILC clients under the guidance of RILC. From our involvement with RILC, what is absolutely clear to us is that building the capacity to meet the overwhelming need for competent and compassionate legal representation begins with educating and training more immigration law attorneys, which includes both students who will hopefully become immigration law attorneys as well as non-immigration attorneys who wish to hone their legal skills and knowledge to meet this need as volunteers.

We support the Bill and request that it be amended, as suggested above. The suggested amendment to require the Judiciary to partner with qualified entities will broaden existing and future collaborations to deliver urgently needed free or low-cost legal representation to Hawai'i residents in immigration-related proceedings. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our written testimony.

Aloha,

Kevin Block
Greg Kim
Corianne Lau
Jan Tamura
Melinda Yamaga

Members, WSRSL Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic Advisory Committee
c/o William S. Richardson School of Law Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic
2584 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:26:54 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My tax dollars should not be used to fund a defense for people are criminals, and the fact that they are here in our country illegally makes their presence a crime.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:03:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings!

Thank you for hearing this bill.

The measure recognizes the complexity of the US legal system and the need to help those who find themselves overwhelmed by it through no fault of their own. I especially send this testimony of support for DACA.

Mahalo.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:12:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppse giving free legal services to persons who are not American citizens.

Please vote "NO."

Thank you.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:15:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JR Dowd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is JR Dowd and I am writing as a concerned citizen of Hawai'i. I strongly support this measure and urge the committee to pass it on.

I work as a social worker and I have had numerous families worried for their immigration status as the new Trump administration begins their second reign of terror and intimidation against our most vulnerable populations.

As we see what is happening with Mahmoud Khalil in New York, the federal government and ICE will detain and threaten even green card holding citizens for nothing more than expressing their first amendment rights in a manner they do not agree with. We must protect our immigrant population here in Hawai'i from being rounded up and removed, maintaining their humanity as best we can.

Thank you for your reading this testimony and your consideration, it is greatly appreciated.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:44:44 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dianne Deauna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the ECD Committee:

I strongly support this bill. Please provide much needed resources to protect vulnerable immigrants in this time of hostility from the federal government towards us.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:46:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Manding	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB186

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:08:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB816. These illegal immigrants BROKE the Federal law by being in our country illegally. I Do Not want my tax dollars spent on facilitating, aiding or abetting these criminals. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:54:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joey Badua	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I strongly support meaningful justice and dignity for our immigrants.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:20:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chachie Abara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of **SB 816**, which seeks to enhance due process protections within our legal system. Due process is a fundamental right guaranteed by both the U.S. and Hawai‘i State Constitutions, ensuring fairness, transparency, and justice for all individuals navigating legal proceedings.

As a Filipino living in Hawai‘i, I understand firsthand the importance of due process, especially for immigrant and marginalized communities. Many Filipinos, including those in the diaspora, have experienced legal and systemic barriers that make it difficult to advocate for their rights. Historically, Filipinos in the U.S. have faced discriminatory laws, labor exploitation, and lack of access to fair legal representation. These injustices highlight the need for strong due process protections to ensure that no one—regardless of their background—is left vulnerable to unfair treatment.

This bill is critical in safeguarding the rights of all individuals by reinforcing procedural protections, preventing arbitrary or unjust actions, and maintaining public trust in our judicial system. By strengthening due process measures, **SB 816** promotes accountability and ensures that individuals receive fair treatment under the law.

In Hawai‘i, where our Filipino community has contributed so much to the social and economic fabric of the state, it is essential that we uphold the highest standards of justice. Passing **SB 816** will ensure that legal processes remain equitable and that all individuals—especially those from historically underrepresented communities—are afforded the protections they deserve.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure and uphold the principles of justice and fairness in our legal system. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chachie Abara

Filipino Mental Health Initiative - Hawaii

mariachachie.hawaii@gmail.com

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:41:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

People who either entered the country illegally or have violated their terms of immigration status should not have free representation.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 1:21:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Stop throwing our money to non citizens

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:03:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Mcveigh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose sb816.

-Sierra Mcveigh

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:06:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Caey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB816. I want my tax dollars to support Hawaiians and Americans, not support criminals whose first act upon entering our borders is to break our laws. The very act of entering our country ILLEGALLY makes them criminals. These are not people we want in our county. Chanara Richmond HD42

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:28:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- This bill to protect families and communities.
- This is bill to ensure due process and fairness.
- Individuals in deportation proceedings face permanent separation from their families and their communities, and sometimes life-threatening risks in their countries of origin.
- Individuals, some with language difficulty, appear before immigration court, including minors, and are not entitled to government-funded legal representation, leaving them to navigate complex legal systems alone, unless they are able to afford costly counsel or other assistance on their own.
- Those who are able to obtain costly counsel in immigration court are likely to achieve more favorable outcomes in immigration proceedings, such as relief from deportation or successful asylum applications.
- Data show that those appearing with counsel in Hawaii immigration court removal cases are nearly three times more likely to receive a favorable outcome than those who are unrepresented.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:39:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose SB816 SD2. We should jail od deport any illigal immigrant with no lawyers and jail those who support there crime!!!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:46:01 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bad bill.

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:50:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 11:24:36 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote No.

I strongly oppose SB 816

This wastes our tax payer money on illegal immigrants. It favors lawbreakers, weakens borders and funds their defense.l.

support AMERICANS. Fund the rebuild of Lahaina. America first.

Please represent the people who elected you!

SB-816-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:10:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastacia Narrajos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Anastacia Narrajos and I am writing as a concerned citizen of Hawaii. I strongly support this measure and urge the committee to pass it on.

I work as an educator for the DOE and I serve numerous families worried for their immigration status as the new Trump administration begins their second reign of terror and intimidation against our most vulnerable populations. ^(L)_(SEP)

As we see what is happening with Mahmoud Khalil in New York, the federal government and ICE will detain and threaten even green card holding citizens for nothing more than expressing their first amendment rights in a manner they do not agree with. We must protect our immigrant population here in Hawaii from being rounded up and removed, maintaining their humanity as best we can.

Thank you for your reading this testimony and your consideration, it is greatly appreciated.

With you in community,

Ana Narrajos