



Testimony in SUPPORT of HR59 and HCR74
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator David A. Tarnas, Chair
Senator Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 2, 2024

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) is in support of HR59 and HCR74 which urges the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and implement a U Visa certification policy.

HCIR is a statewide coalition of immigrant and migrant-led and -serving organizations—some of whom are legal providers— working to promote the full inclusion and social justice of immigrants and migrants in Hawai'i.

The implementation of a U visa policy has far-reaching effects. A U visa certification would serve as a helpful tool for law enforcement by encouraging undocumented victims of crime or witnesses to crime to step forward without the fear of deportation. Fostering this trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities would strengthen public safety and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. For victims of crimes, this certification provides hope and a remedy, incentivizing cooperation with law enforcement while offering the possibility of a more secure future.

The U visa certification also benefits attorneys and service providers by providing another possible defense strategy against removal orders. Although the process takes time and effort, it offers a potential pathway toward legal status for out-of-status residents. This strategy empowers advocates to serve their clients better and ensures that they have access to all available legal avenues for protection and relief.

Lastly, implementing a U Visa certification policy protects our immigrant community and benefits our wider community. Such a policy could contribute to public safety for all, and a possible path to legal status for some.

I urge you to support the development and implementation of the U visa certification policy.

Thank you for your support and consideration,
Maria Rallojaj
Policy & Communications Coordinator



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HR59/HCR74

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2023 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today on behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) to express our strong support for HR59 and HCR74, which urge the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and implement a U Visa certification policy. This critical measure holds immense potential to foster trust, enhance public safety, and provide a lifeline for undocumented victims of crime or witnesses to crime in our community.

The implementation of a U visa certification policy would serve as a vital tool for law enforcement agencies in Hawai'i. By providing undocumented individuals with assurance that cooperation with law enforcement will not result in deportation, this policy encourages victims and witnesses to come forward without fear. This increased trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities is essential for ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and for maintaining public safety for all residents.

Moreover, the U visa certification process offers significant benefits for attorneys and service providers who work with immigrant populations. By providing a potential defense strategy against removal orders, this policy empowers advocates to better serve their clients and ensures that they have access to all available legal avenues for protection and relief. While the process may require time and effort, the prospect of legal status offers hope and security for out-of-status residents, making it a crucial aspect of immigration advocacy.

Furthermore, the implementation of a U visa certification policy is not only beneficial for our immigrant community but also for our wider society of Hawai'i. By protecting undocumented individuals and enhancing their access to justice, this policy contributes to public safety and strengthens the social fabric of our community. It is a testament to our commitment to justice and inclusivity, ensuring that all members of our society are afforded the protection and dignity they deserve.

In conclusion, we urge you to support HR59 and HCR74 and take the necessary steps to implement a U visa certification policy in Hawai'i. By doing so, we can create a safer, more inclusive community where everyone, regardless of immigration status, can live free from fear and persecution. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "F".

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HR-59

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 12:12:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HR59 and HCR74, which urges the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and implement a U Visa certification policy.

The implementation of a U visa policy has far-reaching effects. A U visa certification would serve as a helpful tool for law enforcement by encouraging undocumented victims of crime or witnesses to crime to step forward without the fear of deportation. Fostering this trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities would strengthen public safety and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. For victims of crimes, this certification provides hope and a remedy, incentivizing cooperation with law enforcement while offering the possibility of a more secure future.

The U visa certification also benefits attorneys and service providers by providing another possible defense strategy against removal orders. Although the process takes time and effort, it offers a potential pathway toward legal status for out-of-status residents. This strategy empowers advocates to serve their clients better and ensures that they have access to all available legal avenues for protection and relief.

Lastly, implementing a U Visa certification policy protects our immigrant community and benefits our wider community. Such a policy could contribute to public safety for all, and a possible path to legal status for some.

I urge you to support the development and implementation of the U visa certification policy.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu - 96826

HR-59

Submitted on: 3/30/2024 9:55:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and JDC Committee Members,

As a concerned citizen and public health professional, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR59 and HCR74, which urges the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and implement a U Visa certification policy.

A U visa certification would serve as a helpful tool for law enforcement by encouraging undocumented victims of crime or witnesses to crime to step forward without the fear of deportation. Fostering this trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities would strengthen public safety and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. For victims of crimes, this certification provides hope and a remedy, incentivizing cooperation with law enforcement while offering the possibility of a more secure future.

The U visa certification also benefits attorneys and service providers by providing another possible defense strategy against removal orders. Although the process takes time and effort, it offers a potential pathway toward legal status for out-of-status residents. This strategy empowers advocates to serve their clients better and ensures that they have access to all available legal avenues for protection and relief.

Lastly, implementing a U Visa certification policy protects our immigrant community and benefits our wider community. Such a policy could contribute to public safety for all, and a possible path to legal status for some.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator David A. Tarnas, Chair
Senator Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 2, 2024

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HR59 and HCR74, which urges the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and implement a U Visa certification policy.

As a child, I was a victim of a crime, and I vividly remember the fear I felt when going to the police station. Being a first-generation immigrant added more to my fear since being in any state and government building felt so daunting. Reflecting on my experience, I cannot fathom how much more daunting it would have been without any legal status at all. That is why I am in full support of this resolution.

The implementation of a U visa policy has far-reaching effects. A U visa certification would serve as a helpful tool for law enforcement by encouraging undocumented victims of crime or witnesses to crime to step forward without the fear of deportation. Fostering this trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities would strengthen public safety and ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. For victims of crimes, this certification provides hope and a remedy, incentivizing cooperation with law enforcement while offering the possibility of a more secure future. The U visa certification also benefits attorneys and service providers by providing another possible defense strategy against removal orders. Although the process takes time and effort, it offers a potential pathway toward legal status for out-of-status residents. This strategy empowers advocates to serve their clients better and ensures that they have access to all available legal avenues for protection and relief. Lastly, implementing a U Visa certification policy protects our immigrant community and benefits our wider community. Such a policy could contribute to public safety for all, and a possible path to legal status for some.

I urge you to support the development and implementation of the U visa certification policy.

Thank you for your support and consideration,
Maria Rallojaj

HR-59

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 2:00:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/2/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iris Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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I urge you to support the development and implementation of the U visa certification policy.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Iris Mendoza