



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,
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March 7, 2025

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1149 SD 1 – Relating to Hate Crimes

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoa and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1149 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.”

SB 1149, establishes the definition for "reported hate crime" and requires reporting of all possible reported hate crimes to appropriate authorities, including consistent documentation and analysis of such incidents. Requires law enforcement officers to receive annual training to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes and possible hate crimes. Requires the Attorney General to establish or update guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the reporting and investigation of hate crimes and possible hate crimes.

Hate crimes are not just attacks on individuals; they are deliberate attempts to intimidate and divide entire communities. They send a chilling message meant to instill fear, erode trust, and marginalize already vulnerable groups. In Hawai'i, where diversity and inclusion are core values, we must take decisive action to protect racial, religious, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and/or expression, and other protected classes from bias-motivated violence. Ensuring safety and justice requires more than just condemning these acts—it demands real accountability, transparency, and proactive solutions.

The Urgent Need for Comprehensive Hate Crime Data

Currently, hate crimes remain vastly underreported and under-documented in Hawai'i. This is often due to a lack of clear reporting protocols, insufficient law enforcement training, and the fear of retaliation experienced by victims. Without accurate, standardized data collection, the full scope of hate-motivated violence remains obscured, preventing an effective response and eroding public trust in our justice system.

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 1149

SB 1149 directly addresses these gaps by requiring the comprehensive collection, documentation, and analysis of all reported hate crimes—even when they do not result in criminal charges. This distinction is critical, as many acts of hate—such as threats, harassment, and vandalism—may not always lead to prosecution but nonetheless inflict deep and lasting harm on the targeted communities. Without data on these incidents, we cannot fully grasp the prevalence of hate-based violence, let alone combat it effectively.

Building Public Trust Through Transparency and Accountability

Transparency is a cornerstone of public trust. By mandating that law enforcement agencies report hate crime data to the Attorney General's Office and requiring annual training for officers, SB 1149 ensures that these crimes are not only tracked but also taken seriously. A well-trained law enforcement workforce will be better equipped to recognize, investigate, and address bias-motivated violence, ensuring that victims receive the support and justice they deserve.

Additionally, the bill's directive for the Attorney General to establish uniform guidelines within 90 days of enactment will create much-needed consistency across all law enforcement agencies. A standardized approach to hate crime documentation will reduce discrepancies, improve accuracy, and allow for a more comprehensive understanding of hate crimes in our state.

A Commitment to Safety, Justice, and Inclusion

By passing SB 1149, Hawai'i will make a clear and powerful statement: Hate has no place in our communities. We will not allow fear and division to take root. We will protect our most vulnerable residents, demand accountability, and uphold the principles of justice and equality for all who call these islands home.

On behalf of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission, I urge this committee to support this critical legislation. The safety, dignity, and fundamental rights of our communities depend on it.

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Sandy Harjo Livingston, Ph.D. (he/him/they/them)
Commissioner – City and County of Honolulu
[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1149, S.D. 1, RELATING TO HATE CRIMES.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Mark S. Tom, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require reporting by the Department of all reported possible hate crimes to appropriate authorities. The bill defines a "reported hate crime" to mean "any reported incident, regardless of whether it results in criminal charges, where there is evidence or indication that bias or prejudice may have been a motivating factor." It also requires training of law enforcement officers and agencies that have primary investigative, action, or program responsibility for adult or juvenile offenses to ensure the consistent documentation and analysis of the reported incidents by the Department.

The Department has been working to transition the statistical crime reporting in the State of Hawaii from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) nationwide Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program's traditional Summary Reporting System, which allows the State to collect limited data, to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) program, which is a more robust system that includes hate crime data and has the ability to collect and provide circumstances and context for crimes, such as location, time of day, and whether the reported incident was attempted or completed. The Department is dedicated to expanding and improving the State's UCR program's capacity to collect and report NIBRS data. Much of the recent and planned work is

focused on additional development of the state NIBRS data repository and statistical dashboards, as well as assisting and certifying local reporting law enforcement agencies for NIBRS. NIBRS includes "reported incidents" for all offense codes captured under NIBRS.

While the Department supports the intent of the bill, with the current ongoing transition to NIBRS, the requested hate crime data collection in this bill may not be necessary, as it would duplicate procedures already in place. The Department administers the State UCR/NIBRS program, and all four county police departments have been reporting FBI-style hate crime data to the Department using the FBI's NIBRS format. Additionally, the Department is developing a user-friendly, public dashboard that should be completed by September 30, 2025, and will provide more transparency and accessibility to hate crimes data. NIBRS hate crime reporting is expected to eventually supersede Hawaii's current prosecutor-level reporting program and is evolving to provide the most accurate and accessible hate crime data. In short, the Department has been and continues to take proactive steps in reporting accurate and comprehensive hate crime data.

Lastly, the Department is concerned regarding the proposed addition of section 846-53(b), HRS, on page 4, line 13-16, which mandates training for all law enforcement officers. Currently, NIBRS training is provided by the FBI several times per year in two-day online courses and is coordinated and documented by state UCR program staff. The training is open to all police personnel with key responsibilities for crime reporting, including support staff such as the records and information technology personnel who generate, review, revise, verify, and report NIBRS data. The FBI also coordinates with the state UCR program to audit the police department's crime reporting data and procedures on a tri-annual basis. Beyond that, each police department has unique capabilities, resources, needs, policies and procedures to address hate crime training for all officers. The Department does not believe that this bill provides the specificity or the potential funding needed to accomplish its purpose, and believes that current policies and procedures regarding hate crime training are sufficient at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the bill.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

KOMIKINA PONO KĪWILA O HAWAI‘I

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

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

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

Re: S.B. 1149 S.D. 1 Relating to Hate Crimes
Testimony in SUPPORT

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

S.B. 1149 S.D. 1 defines "reported hate crime" and requires reporting of all possible reported hate crimes to appropriate authorities, including consistent documentation and analysis of such incidents. The bill requires law enforcement officers to receive annual training to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes and possible hate crimes. It also requires the Attorney General to establish or update guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the reporting and investigation of hate crimes and possible hate crimes. The bill is intended to combat hate, discrimination, and structural racism in Hawai‘i.

As the agency tasked with enforcing laws protecting the people of Hawai‘i from discrimination in real estate transactions, employment, public accommodations, and state and state funded services, HCRC defers to the Attorney General and criminal law enforcement to implement this law which contemplates criminal acts.

HCRC would like to highlight for the committees the December 9, 2021 Report to the Legislature, [“Addressing Racism in Hawai‘i: Looking Back, During the Covid-19 Pandemic, and Moving Forward”](#) which recommends, in part, that law enforcement agencies and the Attorney General should (continue to) migrate to police-level hate crime data reporting. The Report highlights the need for regular training on hate crimes for local law enforcement, as well as anti-discrimination training for law enforcement such as unconscious bias and bystander intervention training. The Report also noted underreporting is a barrier to data collection.

HCRC supports this bill to help to identify areas of need in intervention and prevention resources to stop hate in our state.

HCRC supports S.B. 1149 S.D. 1.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1149 SD1, RELATING TO HATE CRIMES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
March 11, 2025 at 2:00pm

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB1149 SD1, RELATING TO HATE CRIMES. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party believes that all humans have inherent rights to freedom, justice, dignity, and peace. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the preservation of equal civil rights and liberties for all people.

This bill seeks to strengthen the reporting and documentation of hate crimes in Hawai'i and is an essential step in ensuring transparency, accountability, and the protection of our communities against bias-motivated violence.

Hate crimes not only harm individual victims but also instill fear and insecurity within entire communities. Unfortunately, due to underreporting and inconsistent data collection, the true extent of hate crimes are unknown, making it difficult for policymakers and law enforcement to address these incidents effectively. By mandating the consistent collection and reporting of all possible hate crimes, this bill ensures that every incident is documented, providing critical data for analysis and intervention.

Key provisions of the bill, such as the expanded definition of "reported hate crime," enhanced responsibilities for law enforcement agencies, and mandatory annual training for officers, will significantly improve how our state identifies, investigates, and prevents hate crimes. Additionally, the bill's requirement for standardized reporting procedures and potential administrative penalties for noncompliance underscores the importance of accountability in addressing these crimes.

Hawai'i is known for its rich cultural diversity and spirit of aloha. By passing this bill, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting all residents from acts of hate and discrimination. We respectfully urge the committee to advance this legislation and support its passage. We appreciate your leadership in ensuring the safety and dignity of all people in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1149 SD1, RELATING TO HATE CRIMES. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.



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

March 7, 2025

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1149 SD 1 – Relating to Hate Crimes

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoa and fellow committee members,

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

On behalf of Pride at Work - Hawai'i, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 1149, which seeks to strengthen Hawai'i's Hate Crime statute by introducing the definition of a "reported hate crime" and implementing vital measures to ensure transparency, accountability, and training regarding hate crimes in our state.

As an organization dedicated to advocating for LGBTQIA+ workers and their families, we recognize the devastating impact that hate crimes have on marginalized communities. Hate-motivated violence and intimidation not only harm individual victims but also instill fear across entire communities.

Unfortunately, many hate crimes go unreported or they are not accurately documented due to inconsistencies in reporting mechanisms and the lack of comprehensive training for law enforcement officers.

Hawai'i's Hate Crime statute, which was signed into law in 2001 by then Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono, has it that a crime in Hawai'i is only reported as a hate crime when the perpetrator is caught, then the case goes to trial, and finally the enhanced sentencing provision is used. If the culprit is never caught or the case is pleaded out then it is not reported as a hate crime. SB 1149 is a crucial step toward addressing these shortcomings and fostering a safer, more inclusive Hawai'i.

Specifically, SB 1149:

- Establishes a clear definition for "reported hate crime," ensuring that incidents perceived as motivated by bias are properly recognized and investigated.
- Requires law enforcement agencies to document and report all possible hate crimes to appropriate authorities for further analysis.
- Implements mandatory annual training for law enforcement officers to improve their ability to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes effectively.
- Directs the Attorney General to develop or update guidelines, protocols, and training materials to standardize hate crime reporting and investigation practices statewide.

These measures will provide a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of hate crimes in Hawai'i, allowing policymakers and community organizations to implement targeted interventions and resources for affected communities. Additionally, ensuring that law enforcement personnel are adequately

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 1149

trained will promote greater trust between officers and the communities they serve, leading to increased reporting and better outcomes for victims.

Hate and discrimination have no place in Hawai'i, and we must take proactive steps to ensure that those targeted for their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other protected characteristics receive the justice and protection they deserve. SB 1149 is a necessary and timely effort to uphold these principles.

According to [Department of Justice's own website](#):

“Reporting suspected hate crimes is vital to support victims and send a clear message that such actions are unacceptable. Law enforcement can also use this information to prevent future incidents.”

For these reasons, Pride at Work - Hawai'i urges the committee to pass SB 1149. Mahalo for your time and consideration of this important measure.

In solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
President
[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 12:34:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, and I am honored to be here today to express my unwavering support for Senate Bill 1149. As a mother and a long-time advocate for justice and equality, I have spent decades fighting for protections that ensure every member of our community can live without fear. In 2001, I proudly stood alongside other advocates to help pass our state's original Hate Crimes law, and today, I am here to urge you to strengthen those protections by supporting SB 1149.

This legislation is vital in ensuring that all reported hate crimes and possible hate crimes are properly documented, investigated, and addressed. Hate crimes are not just attacks on individuals; they are attacks on entire communities. When these crimes go unreported or are inconsistently documented, we fail not only the victims but also our broader commitment to justice and public safety.

Senate Bill 1149 mandates the reporting of all possible hate crimes to the appropriate authorities, ensuring that incidents do not go unnoticed or unaddressed. It further requires law enforcement officers to receive annual training to properly identify, investigate, and document hate crimes. This is essential in combating bias, improving response efforts, and building trust between communities and law enforcement.

Additionally, SB 1149 ensures that the Attorney General establishes and maintains clear guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the effective reporting and investigation of hate crimes. Without consistent standards, we risk underreporting and misclassifying these incidents, ultimately failing those who need our protection the most.

As a mother and advocate, I know the deep desire to protect our children from harm. I want my children—and all children—to grow up in a world where hate and violence are not tolerated, where every individual is valued and protected under the law. The passage of this bill is not just a legal necessity; it is a moral imperative.

By supporting SB 1149, you are taking a stand against hate, ensuring transparency in our justice system, and reaffirming that we do not turn a blind eye to injustice. I urge you to vote in favor of this crucial legislation and continue the progress we began in 2001.

Mahalo for your time and hopefully your YES vote.

Sincerely,

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



SENATE BILL 1149, SD1, RELATING TO HATE CRIMES

MARCH 11, 2025 · JHA HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports 1149, SD1, relating to hate crimes, which defines "reported hate crime"; requires reporting of all possible reported hate crimes to appropriate authorities, including consistent documentation and analysis of such incidents; requires law enforcement officers to receive annual training to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes and possible hate crimes; requires the Attorney General to establish or update guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the reporting and investigation of hate crimes and possible hate crimes.

According to a 2018 report published by the data clearinghouse Statista, 64 percent of teenagers in the U.S. have encountered hate speech on social media. At the same time, incidents of political violence have been escalating. The Washington Post reported in 2021 that right-wing extremists have been involved in 267 plots or attacks in the U.S. since 2015, resulting in 91 fatalities.

Furthermore, over half of the deaths caused by right-wing confrontations were committed by people who voiced support for white supremacy. Many of those outbursts were organized virtually amidst the shadows of social media. Washington Post's investigation found that from 2015 to 2020, the use of websites and social media by right-wing extremists rose in five of the six years that the news outlet studied, leading Georgetown professor George Hoffman to call social media a "propellant" for the spread of violent extremism.

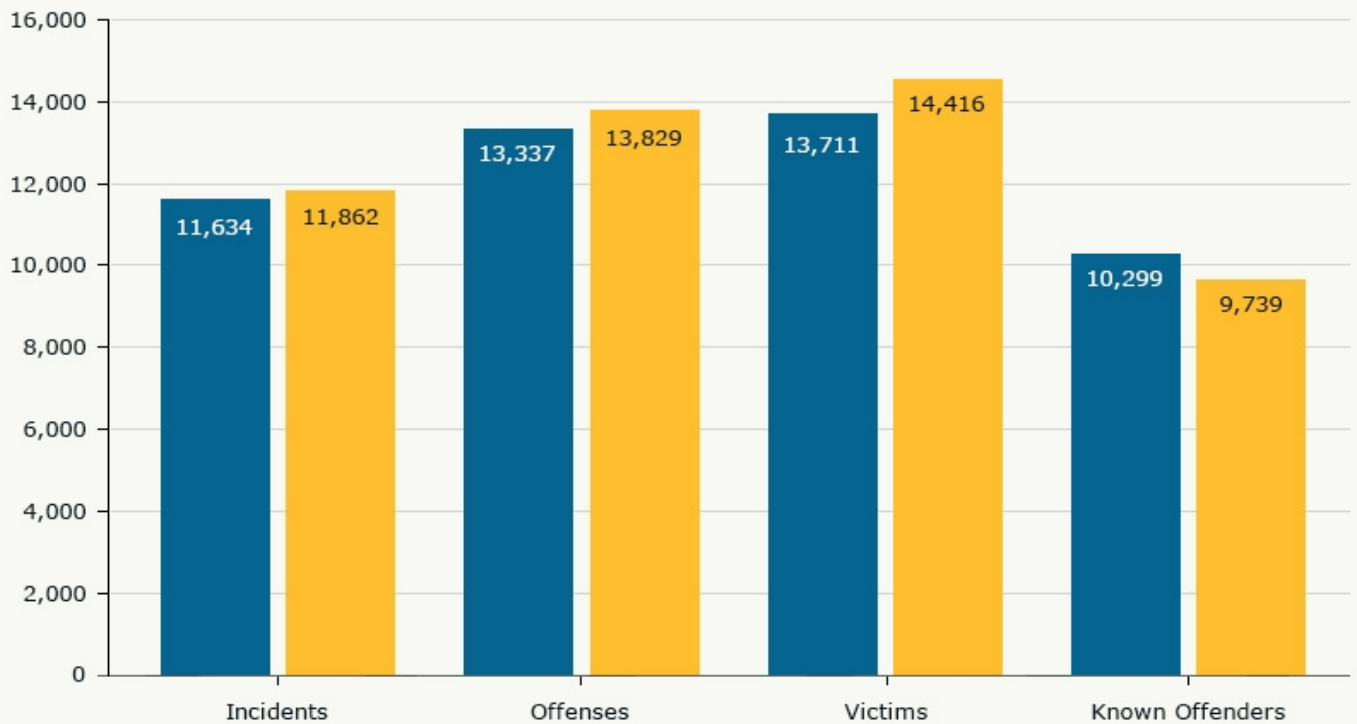
We have witnessed a resurgence in hate-related extremism in recent years, which has been spurred in part by the rise of Donald Trump to the presidency on a campaign of xenophobia, white supremacy, and fear. The Trump administration is currently attempting to roll back diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives (DEI programs) across the country in an effort to undermine the advancement of racial justice in schools, colleges, businesses, and the public sector.

At the same time, Trump officials have issued multiple executive orders eliminating the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, including orders banning transgender service members, moving transgender women back into men's prisons, denying passports with gender markers, defunding gender-affirming care for transgender youth, and blocking schools from requiring teachers and other school staff to use names and pronouns that align with transgender students' preferred gender identify rather than the sex they were assigned at birth.

Per data from the U.S. Department of Justice, hate crimes are rising throughout the nation. In 2023, the DOJ recorded 13,829 reported hate offenses involving 14,416 victims. Those numbers are up from 2022, which saw 13,337 reported incidents and 13,711 victims, an increase of roughly 500 offenses and 700 victims.

Reported Hate Crime, 2022 - 2023

KEY: 2022 2023



Hatred has no place in our society or on our shares. In an era in which extremism quickly goes viral, we must take steps to prevent hate crimes from spreading throughout our community.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com

HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.B. No. 1149 (S.D. 1)
Submitted to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
March 08, 2025

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I stand firmly against Senate Bill No. 1149 (S.D. 1) and urge you to vote NO. This bill, cloaked as a tool for transparency, is a dangerous overreach that wastes taxpayer dollars, undermines justice, and risks dividing our communities. As someone rooted in principles of limited government, personal accountability, and common-sense solutions, I present an objective case that should resonate with Democrats who value efficient spending, equitable law enforcement, and unity over bureaucracy. Hawaii deserves better than this flawed legislation—here's why.

1. Vague Definitions Threaten Due Process

The bill's definition of a "reported hate crime" as any incident with evidence or indication that bias may have been a motivating factor—even without charges (Section 2)—is a legal minefield. This vagueness invites abuse, turning subjective perceptions into official records. California's hate crime reporting expansion under Assembly Bill 1985 (2016) saw a 20% spike in logged incidents from 2015-2017, but many were minor disputes mislabeled as hate-driven, diluting focus on real crimes ([California DOJ, "Hate Crime in California 2017"](#)). Democrats who champion fair justice should reject a system that risks punishing thoughts rather than acts, eroding due process for all.

2. Bureaucratic Excess Drains Public Funds

Mandating the Attorney General to collect, store, and analyze all reported hate crimes—substantiated or not—creates a costly data empire with no proven payoff (Section 3). Add mandatory annual training and new guidelines (Sections 4 and 5), and the price tag soars. New York's Hate Crimes Task Force, launched in 2019, consumed \$10 million yearly for data and training, yet hate crime convictions barely increased ([NYPD, "Hate Crime Task Force Reports 2020-2022"](#)). Hawaii's taxpayers—your constituents—can't afford this boondoggle. Democrats who prioritize schools or healthcare over bloated bureaucracy should demand a leaner, smarter approach.

3. Free Speech Takes a Hit

Requiring law enforcement to document possible hate crimes based on "indicators of bias" (Section 4) chills free expression. A heated argument or stray comment could land someone in a database, charged or not. The UK's "non-crime hate incident" policy logged over 120,000 cases from 2014-2019—often for tweets or jokes—sparking public backlash over surveillance creep ([College of Policing, "Hate Crime Operational Guidance"](#)). Democrats who value open discourse and community trust should see this as a step toward division, not progress.

4. Law Enforcement Overload Weakens Safety

Forcing every agency—police, prosecutors, courts, corrections—to report and train on “possible hate crimes” (Section 4) stretches our thin blue line to the breaking point. Oregon’s 2020 hate incident tracking mandate increased police paperwork time by 15%, pulling officers from patrols with no drop in violent crime ([Portland Police Bureau, “2021 Annual Report”](#)). Hawaii needs cops solving real crimes—murders, thefts—not chasing uncharged “bias indicators.” Democrats who support working families know public safety suffers when resources are misdirected.

5. Data for Data’s Sake Fails Communities

This bill piles up data on “reported hate crimes” but offers no plan to reduce violence or help victims (Sections 2-4). Illinois’ hate crime reporting law (775 ILCS 5/1-102) has churned out stats since 2005, yet hate crime rates climbed 17% from 2016-2020 ([Illinois State Police, “Crime in Illinois 2020”](#)). Data without action is a hollow promise—Hawaii deserves results, not reports. Democrats who demand tangible outcomes over symbolic gestures should call this what it is: a waste of time.

6. Training Risks Politicizing Police

Mandating annual training to “recognize bias indicators” and “interact with impacted communities” (Section 4) sounds benign but flirts with ideological overreach. Minneapolis’ post-2020 bias training pushed cultural narratives over neutral policing, tanking officer morale and trust ([MPD, “2022 Internal Review”](#)). Hawaii’s police need practical tools to enforce laws, not seminars that blur justice with politics. Democrats who value impartial law enforcement should reject this slippery slope.

Call to Action

Honorable Representatives, S.B. 1149 (S.D. 1) is a bad deal for Hawaii. It squanders money, threatens rights, and burdens our police—all for a data dump that’s failed elsewhere. California, New York, and Oregon show us the playbook: expansive hate crime reporting breeds inefficiency and resentment, not solutions. Democrats and Republicans alike should want a state where justice is fair, resources are wisely spent, and communities are safe—not surveilled. Vote NO and send this bill back to the drawing board. We can tackle hate smarter—together—without this mess.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Crossland
Hawaii Patriot Republicans

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:49:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean zhamer	Qwaves Media	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

As anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric is normalized around the nation, hate and violence against queer people is on the rise. It is only a matter of time before this trend spreads to Hawai'i. Such crimes not only harm the victims, they spread fear among everyone in our diverse LGBTQ+ communities.

This legislation will allow clearer, more accurate tracking of the incidence of hate crimes. The fact that it is supported by the Prosecuting Attorney is clear evidence for its importance.

Please uphold Hawai'i's reputation as a safe haven and place of aloha for all by voting yes on SB 1149.



TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 11, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1149 SD2 Relating to Hate Crimes

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii'i, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of our Caucus in strong support of SB1149 SD2, which strengthens Hawaii's hate crime laws by improving data collection, mandating law enforcement training, and ensuring accountability in reporting.

Hate crimes are not just offenses against individuals; they are attacks on entire communities, instilling fear and division. Unfortunately, these crimes are often underreported or misclassified, making it difficult to understand the full scope of the problem and take effective action. SB1149 SD2 is a critical step toward addressing these issues by ensuring accurate reporting and accountability.

Why This Bill Is Necessary

1. Better Data for Stronger Protections

- Hate crimes are vastly underreported, and without proper data, we cannot effectively allocate resources or develop targeted policies.
- By requiring the reporting of all possible hate crimes—even when no charges are filed—this bill ensures transparency and prevents bias from being overlooked in investigations.

2. Annual Training for Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement officers play a crucial role in identifying and addressing hate crimes.

- This bill mandates annual training to help officers recognize bias indicators and interact appropriately with impacted communities, fostering better relationships and trust.

3. Accountability and Compliance

- SB1149 SD2 ensures all law enforcement agencies follow standardized reporting procedures.
- Agencies that fail to comply may face administrative penalties, reinforcing the importance of accurate and consistent hate crime reporting.

How This Bill Helps Protect Hawaii's Communities

This legislation does not create new crimes or penalties; rather, it ensures that existing hate crimes are properly documented and addressed. In doing so, it provides:

- A clearer picture of hate crimes in Hawai'i, helping policymakers respond effectively.
- More support for victims and communities affected by hate crimes by ensuring their experiences are not dismissed or ignored.
- Stronger public trust in law enforcement, as clear procedures and oversight improve response to bias-motivated crimes.

Hawai'i prides itself on being a diverse and inclusive state. By passing SB1149 SD2, we take an important step toward protecting all residents from bias-motivated violence and ensuring justice is served.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB1149 SD2 and strengthen Hawaii's commitment to equality, safety, and justice.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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



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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [SB149 SD1](#)

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
March 11, 2025

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

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law, **supports SB1149.**

In the face of increased attacks on LGBTQ+ communities, we must do more to investigate and prevent hate crimes.

Please support SB1149. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

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

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 10:40:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Nash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1149 because it will provide more training for Law Enforcement as well as reporting of hate crimes. It's pono to protect all people!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 10:54:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB1149. There is ample evidence that hate crimes are underreported in our state and this bill will allow for accurate reporting and subsequent protections for the most vulnerable in our community.

I respectfully ask that you vote yes on this measure.

Mahalo,

Lynn Robinson Onderko, Ewa Beach

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 11:54:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important Bill, in order to address the problem of hate crimes that victimize whole groups of people , we must have good information, and that means to collect info at grassroots/ boots on the ground level

March 7, 2025

To: Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB1149 – RELATING TO HATE CRIMES

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

My name is Dr. Kathleen O'Dell and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB1149. This bill is an essential step toward addressing the increasing threats faced by the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups in Hawaii.

As our nation grapples with an alarming rise in hate-motivated violence, particularly targeting LGBTQ+ individuals, comprehensive and transparent data collection is vital. The current political climate has emboldened extremist rhetoric and acts of violence, creating a pressing need for enhanced protections and accountability. Hate crimes are not only attacks on individuals but also on entire communities, instilling fear and undermining the values of inclusivity and respect that define our state.

SB1149 ensures that all reported possible hate crimes are documented and analyzed, regardless of whether they result in criminal charges. This measure will provide law enforcement, policymakers, and community organizations with the necessary tools to understand, prevent, and respond effectively to hate-based violence. It also strengthens law enforcement training to recognize and investigate hate crimes properly, fostering greater trust between impacted communities and law enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, timely and accurate reporting will allow for targeted interventions, educational initiatives, and policy decisions that protect vulnerable communities. The LGBTQ+ community, alongside other marginalized groups, deserves the right to safety and justice, and this legislation is a crucial step in affirming that right.

I urge you to pass SB1149 to enhance accountability, improve law enforcement responses, and uphold Hawaii's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I am available for any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 3:07:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Steinbacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the Kaua‘i representative to the Hawai‘i LGBTQ+ Advisory Commission, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1149. Hawai‘i must make a clear and powerful statement that hate has no place in our communities and does not align with the principle of aloha. Our most vulnerable resource is our people – all our people – so we must demand accountability and uphold the principles of justice and equality. I urge this committee to support this critical legislation. The safety, dignity, and fundamental rights of our peoples depend on it.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 11:39:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rossh Watso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1149 because Hate crimes should not be tolerated. People need to feel safe to report injustices happening to themselves and their neighbors.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 11:56:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loretta Tanioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill sb1149. People committing crimes against someone out of hate for thier race, gender, sex, religion, or other, should be stopped. History has shown us how hate destroys communities and society as a whole. Let's be better.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 11:59:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tonya Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no room for hate in a state of aloha. I support this bill sb1149. Any act of hate should be stopped and penalized if committed. Live pono!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:18:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is such an important bill, ensuring that those who protect us know how to protect all of us. Reporting and training to ensure an accurate reporting of hate crimes and crimes against those most vulnerable is so important to the fabric of our Hawaii community. Clocking hatred as such means an accurate view of our neighborhoods and accurate punishment for crimes.

Mahalo,

Mecca Monson-Gere

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 1:49:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

With the current political environment I expect hate crimes to skyrocket! Vulnerable communities need protection in any way they can get it!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:20:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1149, which defines "reported hate crime" and establishes essential measures for identifying, reporting, and addressing hate crimes in our community. This bill is a crucial step toward combating hate-driven violence, discrimination, and prejudice in our state and ensuring that our law enforcement agencies are equipped to respond effectively to these incidents.

The bill's provisions, which require the reporting of all possible reported hate crimes to appropriate authorities and consistent documentation and analysis of such incidents, are vital for a comprehensive and informed response to hate crimes. The ability to track, document, and analyze hate crimes is essential for understanding the scope of the problem, identifying trends, and developing effective strategies to combat hate and bias in our communities. This data will allow policymakers and law enforcement to respond proactively, preventing further harm and protecting vulnerable communities.

Equally important is the requirement that law enforcement officers receive annual training to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes and possible hate crimes. Hate crimes often go underreported or misclassified due to lack of recognition or understanding of their severity. By ensuring that law enforcement officers are properly trained to identify these crimes, we can better address the emotional, psychological, and physical harm they cause, as well as hold perpetrators accountable. The proposed annual training will also foster a culture of vigilance and empathy among law enforcement, which is critical in building trust with affected communities.

Furthermore, the bill's requirement for the Attorney General to establish or update guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the reporting and investigation of hate crimes ensures that there is a consistent, well-informed approach to addressing these crimes across the state. The development of these resources will provide law enforcement officers with the tools and frameworks needed to respond to hate crimes effectively and with the sensitivity that these incidents demand.

This bill not only enhances law enforcement's ability to identify and address hate crimes, but it also sends a strong message that our state is committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all residents, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

For these reasons, I strongly support SB 1149 and urge the committee to pass it into law. This bill is an important step toward ensuring justice and equality for all individuals in our state, and I believe it will have a lasting positive impact on the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:48:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB1149. Please pass this important bill.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:54:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop this Marxist ideology being pushed in our capitol.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:56:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, all that wil come out of this bill is frivolous and unjustified complaints because they feel violated because they feel they are a so called protected class. First of all no one group of people should have more rights than another, we are all human beings and should be treated the same no matter what. A crime committed by one should be investigated the same as the other. Stop wasting time and resources that law enforcement does not have to do such things.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:09:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHA Committee Members,

As a local resident concerned with justice, I write in strong support of SB1149 SD1. Establishing local processes to deal with hate crimes will be important to protect local communities.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:53:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:56:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 9:58:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:05:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE this bill as written despite my concern for hate crimes. I feel that this could be used against a person or group in a malicious way and cause more damage than good.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 10:21:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition towards this bill mahalo.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:34:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB1149.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:37:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1149. While it is important to investigate serious threats, this bill is too broad and would waste law enforcement resources. It is not reasonable to expect police to monitor every "POSSIBLE" hate crime threat. The definition of "hate crime" is too vague and too easily manipulated to mean different things to different people. When you start getting into the realm of "possible hate crimes," you're really just persecuting free speech. The intent behind may be a noble one; it may be a authoritarian one - it's too nebulous to tell. And it's too wide of a net to cast.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:47:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Standing in Opposition

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:13:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivek Pathela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Don't be tyrannical. We don't need HAWAII to become a Banana Republic of LIBTARDS. We support our President Donald J Trump and all Hawaii politicians ought to follow suit. Stop being corrupt! Stop money laundering taxpayer funds.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:35:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It pushes against the first amendment. It is overreach of governmental authority. It's also a waste of taxpayer funds.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:17:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1149 (SB1149), which mandates the reporting of all "possible" hate crimes and imposes extensive data collection requirements. While addressing hate crimes is a laudable goal, this bill raises serious concerns regarding constitutional rights, privacy, and the proper role of law enforcement.

Constitutional Violations

SB1149 infringes upon fundamental rights protected under both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution:

- **Free Speech:** Article I, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution explicitly protects freedom of speech, assembly, and petition. By requiring law enforcement to investigate incidents based solely on perceived bias or prejudice—without clear evidence of a crime—this bill risks chilling free expression and creating an environment where individuals may fear expressing their opinions.
- **Privacy Rights:** Hawaii's Constitution uniquely recognizes an explicit right to privacy, stating that this right "shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest" (Article I, Section 6). SB1149's broad data collection mandate violates this principle by allowing authorities to gather information about individuals based on unsubstantiated allegations of bias.

Overreach and Administrative Burden

The bill's vague definition of "reported hate crime" as any incident where bias "may" have been a factor creates significant overreach. It places law enforcement in the untenable position of acting as judge, jury, and investigator for incidents that may not meet the legal threshold for criminal activity. This undermines due process and diverts critical resources away from addressing actual crimes.

Additionally, SB1149 imposes costly administrative burdens on law enforcement agencies by requiring extensive training and data reporting. These requirements drain taxpayer funds that could be better allocated to solving real crimes or improving community safety.

Role of Law Enforcement

The primary role of police is to protect citizens and enforce laws—not to surveil individuals or adjudicate ambiguous situations. SB1149 risks eroding trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve by positioning officers as arbiters of subjective perceptions rather than enforcers of clearly defined laws.

Proposed Alternatives

Rather than adopting SB1149 in its current form, I urge the legislature to:

1. Focus on prosecuting hate crimes based on clear and convincing evidence, as determined by judicial processes.
2. Strengthen existing laws to ensure victims receive justice without compromising constitutional rights.
3. Allocate resources toward community programs that foster understanding and prevent bias-motivated incidents.

In conclusion, while combating hate crimes is essential, SB1149 undermines fundamental freedoms, burdens taxpayers, and misdirects law enforcement efforts. I respectfully urge you to reject this bill in favor of solutions that uphold constitutional rights and promote justice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Umiamaka

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 4:21:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

****Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1149 (S.B. No. 1149, S.D. 1)****

Aloha Mai Kākou,

My name is Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian and resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years. As a kama‘āina deeply rooted in the cultural and communal fabric of this ‘āina, I submit this testimony to voice my unequivocal opposition to Senate Bill 1149 (SB1149). While the bill’s stated intent—to enhance data collection and reporting of hate crimes—may appear benign or even laudable on its surface, a closer examination reveals it to be a precipitously flawed measure, antithetical to the principles of justice, community cohesion, and individual liberty that define Hawaii’s unique ethos. I urge the Legislature to reject this bill for the reasons articulated below.

I. Overbroad Definitions and the Risk of Arbitrary Enforcement

SB1149 amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to introduce the term "reported hate crime," defined as "any reported incident, regardless of whether it results in criminal charges, where there is evidence or indication that bias or prejudice *may have* been a motivating factor" (emphasis added). This language is alarmingly vague and subjective, inviting overreach by law enforcement and administrative authorities. The phrase "may have been" lowers the threshold for documentation and investigation to mere suspicion, disenfranchising individuals from the presumption of innocence—a cornerstone of any equitable legal system. In a multicultural state like Hawaii, where interactions are inherently complex and interwoven with diverse perspectives, this ambiguity risks transforming routine misunderstandings or interpersonal disputes into state-sanctioned accusations of bias, irrespective of intent or evidence.

II. Erosion of Community Trust and Cultural Harmony

Hawaii’s strength lies in its people—a tapestry of Native Hawaiian, immigrant, and local identities forged through mutual respect and aloha. SB1149, by mandating the collection and analysis of "possible hate crimes" with such expansive latitude, threatens to fracture this harmony. The requirement that law enforcement officers receive annual training to "identify, investigate, and document" incidents based on "bias indicators" (Section 4(b)) presupposes a lens of suspicion rather than understanding. For a Native Hawaiian like myself, who has witnessed the resilience of our communities in overcoming historical injustices, this approach is antithetical

to the spirit of reconciliation and coexistence. It risks casting neighbors as adversaries, compelling officers to scrutinize every interaction for latent prejudice rather than fostering dialogue or resolution.

III. Administrative Overreach and Resource Misallocation

The bill imposes significant burdens on the Attorney General and various agencies, requiring the development of a comprehensive reporting system, updated guidelines, and training materials within a mere ninety days of enactment (Section 5). Such a mandate, while deferred to an inexplicably distant effective date of July 1, 2077, signals a troubling disconnect between legislative ambition and practical governance. Even setting aside this temporal anomaly, the resources demanded—financial, human, and technological—would divert attention from more pressing needs, such as housing, education, and cultural preservation, which remain critical to the wellbeing of Hawaii's residents. In Kahalu'u, where community priorities center on sustaining our land and people, this bureaucratic expansion feels not only superfluous but also detached from the lived realities of our neighborhoods.

IV. A Chilling Effect on Free Expression

Perhaps most insidiously, SB1149's broad sweep imperils free speech. By cataloging incidents based on perceived bias—without necessitating criminal charges—the state creates a mechanism to monitor and potentially penalize expressions of opinion or belief. In a democratic society, and particularly in a place as pluralistic as Hawaii, the right to speak freely, even imperfectly, must be safeguarded. This bill, however, establishes a precedent whereby individuals may self-censor out of fear that their words or actions could be misconstrued as "possible hate crimes," subject to investigation and permanent record. For Native Hawaiians, whose voices have historically been suppressed, any measure that further stifles expression is a step backward from the progress we have fought to achieve.

Conclusion

SB1149, though framed as a tool for transparency and accountability, is a misguided endeavor that undermines the very communities it purports to protect. Its vague definitions, potential for mistrust, administrative overreach, and threat to free expression render it an ill-conceived response to the complex issue of hate crimes. As a Native Hawaiian who has called Kahalu'u home for 45 years, I implore the Legislature to reject this bill and instead pursue solutions that honor our shared values—solutions grounded in education, cultural understanding, and genuine aloha, rather than surveillance and suspicion.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Tiare Smith

Resident of Kahalu'u, O'ahu

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 4:25:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Just because you find something offensive or disagree with it doesn't automatically classify it as hate speech. Speech doesn't need to please everyone to be protected—its value lies in its freedom, not its popularity. Any attempt to suppress it based on personal dislike risks eroding First Amendment rights, which exist precisely to shield the unpopular, the provocative, and the unpalatable. The line should be drawn at direct incitement to violence or harm, not hurt feelings or differing views.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:25:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bad bill!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:40:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An attack on free speech i strongly oppose

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:03:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill which forces our police force to spy on every "possible hate crime", which again infringes our rights to free speech. Our tax-payer funds should not be mis-appropriated toward oppressive training and data demands!! GOD KNOWS AND SEES ALL!!!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:18:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:36:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha JHA Committee,

I respectfully oppose this bill for multiple reasons.

Hate crimes are not, by and large, simple to deal with. Different states identify different categories of people to be protected under their laws. And the authorities must prove not only guilt, but intent. It isn't enough to find fingerprints on a weapon. The authorities must explore a suspect's state of mind, and then find ways of corroborating it.

In Los Angeles, Liebe Geht, director of the Museum of Tolerance, which has for years provided training to officers as consultants, has said, "Hate crimes are so nuanced and the laws can be so complex. You're trying to deal with the motivation of a crime."

With the limited funds that we have it seems that it would be wiser to spend on more pressing needs of our communities.

We are a melting pot and hate crime has never been an issue here. This bill crushes free speech and makes political correctness mandatory.

Other states have adopted such laws and it is expensive. In class, instructors caution students to be "very careful" in classifying offenses as possible hate crimes when writing up incident reports. The instructors worry that logging incidents as potential hate crimes can cause trouble for the officers when they testify in court: an aggressive defense attorney might challenge the officer's decision to label the offense as a hate crime, particularly if prosecutors don't wind up charging it as such.

On an island this small it will be detrimental to them and their family. For these reasons I strongly oppose this bill.

Respectfully

R. Lilia Jaime

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:43:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Strongly oppose SB1149. Lawful gun owners are NOT the ones committing crimes. We need more law enforcement suport. Not more useless regulations infringing on our person rights. STOP, YOU WILL LOSE IN A COURT BATTLE and waste our taxpayer money.

This bill shockingly forces police to spy on every "possible" hate crime, crushing free speech and draining taxpayer funds with oppressive training and data demands.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 11:56:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelvien Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

this Bill will crush free speech and drain taxpayers money on oppressive training and data demands.

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)

Testifying in support of SB1149 SD1

Tuesday March 11, 2025

2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and all committee members,

My name is Holly-Jill Zablan, and I am a social work student at The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. These opinions are my own and do not represent any of these organizations.

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify and advocate strongly for the passage of SB1149 SD1, a bill that is critically needed to address the rising tide of hate and bias in our state.

We are living in a time of increasing division, where hate crimes against marginalized communities are on the rise. We cannot ignore the very real fear and vulnerability that many of our residents are feeling. Moreover, we are seeing deliberate attempts to undermine diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts, which only exacerbates these problems. These are not isolated incidents; they are part of a troubling trend that demands our immediate attention.

SB1149 SD1 is a vital response to this crisis. By requiring the reporting of all reported possible hate crimes, regardless of whether charges are filed, we will gain a much more accurate understanding of the scope and nature of these incidents in Hawai‘i. The current system simply does not capture the full reality, leaving many victims feeling unseen and unheard.

Furthermore, the bill's mandate for annual law enforcement training is essential. This training will equip officers with the knowledge and skills to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes effectively. In a climate where subtle and overt forms of bias are becoming more prevalent, it is crucial that our law enforcement officers are prepared to recognize and address these crimes appropriately. This training is especially important given the complexities of investigating hate crimes and the need for sensitivity when interacting with impacted communities.

This is not just about data collection or training; it is about protecting our neighbors, our friends, and our families. It is about creating a Hawai‘i where everyone feels safe and valued, regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other aspect of their identity. SB1149 SD1 is a crucial step toward achieving that goal.

Therefore, I respectfully encourage you to support SB1149 SD1 and demonstrate your commitment to combating hate and building a more inclusive Hawai'i for all.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:24:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvie Madison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose S.B. 1149, which burdens law enforcement with unnecessary reporting requirements for "possible" hate crimes, even when no criminal charges are filed. This bill mandates officers to document and investigate every allegation of bias, collect demographic data, and undergo annual training, diverting resources from real public safety concerns. By expanding data collection to subjective claims, it risks politicizing law enforcement and encouraging unverified reports. Penalizing agencies for non-compliance adds further strain on already overworked departments. Instead of creating more bureaucracy, the Legislature should focus on policies that support law enforcement and ensure fair, effective crime prevention.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:16:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:11:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:57:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:57:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support SB1149 because it would force police to look into anything that is deemed a "hate crime", even if it's a simple disagreement. For example, a Christian Pastor could be investigated for preaching marriage as being for one man and one woman. That is dangerous and it puts our 1st amendment rights at risk.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:25:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:26:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose this bill

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:32:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose these bill, SB1149. It crushes free speech and will drain taxpayer funds with oppressive training and data demands.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:41:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezra Sonoda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Ezra Sonoda and as a citizen and taxpayer for the State of Hawai'i I strongly oppose SB1149. As a citizen of Hawai'i and the United States of America I understand that the right to the Freedom of Speech is embodied in the US Constitution under the first amendment; that the rights of the Constitution shall not be infringed. Pushing a bill to police people based on their opinions is actions that are hateful within itself and actions that Communist countries practice. As long as we are a Free Country and a Constitutional Republic i think the state should adhere to and respect the constitution and the right to free speech for all citizens of Hawai'i; without fear of dictatorship like consequences mahalo.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:52:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:03:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealohi Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose!!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:07:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai and fellow committee members:

I am writing to **strongly support SB1149** to improve the ability of our proud state to collect data demonstrating what we are doing well and what we can improve upon to ensure each individual citizen is allowed to be themselves.

I experienced a violent crime during which the perpetrator said vile, disgusting slurs targeting my identity. The psychological impact of those words, which made it a hate crime, made it even more difficult to heal. Furthermore, they created a lasting fear I would be targeted again because of who I am.

I believe that as a community we do not condone violence targeting a specific group (women, Filipinos, Jews, kupuna, persons with disabilities etc.). How can we know, however, if this is happening? Without accurate information about how often such crimes are committed, it will be impossible to track progress on reducing such crime.

Some people oppose labeling crimes as hate crimes. It is hard, however, to imagine anyone from a marginalized or underrepresented group opposing such labeling, as it helps protect these communities from unfair targeting.

Free speech *IS* protected under the constitution - but crime is not. Furthermore, when crime is part of a pattern of behavior targeting a specific demographic, it deserves specific attention. When women were targeted for violence during the suffragette movement, there was a disproportionate impact that may have caused women to re-examine their commitment to equality. During the Night of Terror, over 30 women from the National Woman's Party (NWP), led by Alice Paul, were brutally beaten and tortured by guards at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. These women had been arrested for peacefully picketing outside the White House in support of women's suffrage. During numerous public protests, men attacked, groped and beat women while police stood by and did nothing.

Reporting of hate crimes will allow our state to progress in tolerance, acceptance and aloha, ensuring ALL citizens are allowed to thrive. It will increase accountability amongst the many groups involved. Without the ability to quantify a problem, we cannot improve, and thus we run the risk of ending up on the wrong side of history.

I hope one day reporting of hate crimes will not be necessary and specific groups will not be targeted. We are not there yet. Until then, our work continues.

Again, I urge you to **SUPPORT SB1149** to ensure hate crimes are reported and thus counted.

Respectfully,

Shanda Brack

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:14:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB1149. This bill may force police to spy on every "possible" hate crime, it crushes free speech and can drain tax payers funds with oppressive data demands and trainings. It is unnecessary.

Mahalo, Chelle Galarza

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:09:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose the proposed amendment to Section 846-51 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes as outlined in SB 1149, Section 2. This amendment broadens the definition of a "reported hate crime" to include any reported incident—regardless of whether it results in criminal charges—where there is merely "evidence or indication" that bias or prejudice may have been a motivating factor. Additionally, it expands the definition of "hate crime data" to encompass these loosely defined "reported hate crimes." This change is problematic for several reasons and threatens to undermine fairness, due process, and the integrity of legal standards in Hawaii.

First, the vague language of the amendment—"evidence or indication" and "may have been a motivating factor"—creates an overly broad and subjective standard. This could lead to the classification of incidents as "hate crimes" based on speculation or minimal evidence, rather than concrete proof of intent or criminality. Such ambiguity risks mislabeling lawful behavior or speech as hateful, potentially chilling free expression and unfairly tarnishing individuals' reputations without due process.

Second, by including incidents that do not result in criminal charges, the amendment effectively lowers the threshold for what constitutes a "hate crime" in official records. This could inflate hate crime statistics, creating a misleading picture of bias-related incidents in Hawaii. Public policy and resource allocation should be based on accurate data reflecting substantiated crimes, not unverified reports or subjective interpretations.

Third, the collection and retention of "hate crime data" based on such a loose definition raises serious privacy concerns. Individuals accused of a "reported hate crime" could have their personal information documented and stored by the attorney general without ever being charged or convicted, let alone given an opportunity to defend themselves. This approach risks creating a de facto blacklist, disproportionately harming innocent individuals and eroding trust in the justice system.

While the intent to address bias and prejudice is commendable, this amendment sacrifices precision and fairness for breadth. It fails to distinguish between criminal acts and mere allegations, potentially punishing perception rather than reality. I urge lawmakers to reject this amendment and instead pursue measures that protect both public safety and individual rights through clear, evidence-based standards.

Lawrence Ramirez

Kailua Kona

lardg@yahoo.com

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:20:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphael Moller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All hate crimes should be reported to the corresponding authorities. The police department should be trained regularly to identify, investigate, and document hate crimes and possible hate crimes. The Attorney General ought to establish and update guidelines, protocols, and training materials for the reporting and investigation of hate crimes and possible hate crimes. It is their duty to protect all citizens regardless of the person's actual or perceived race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, national origin, place of birth, sex, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:22:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Necaise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1149 because it will provide law enforcement with more training & reporting of hate crimes.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:18:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

If this bill becomes law, it could possibly be too intrusive and expensive. It is not needed.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:26:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Stuppelbeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to provide support for this legislation.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:32:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:27:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill requiring all hate crimes to be reported, for law enforcement to get training about recognizing and appropriately reporting hate crimes, and for our State's Attorney General to make all hate crimes known to the public.

At this precarious time when our country's president and leadership is not only allowing but empowering prejudicial treatment of marginalized citizens, our State needs to make a stand against hate and the crimes it fosters. I am proud of you for presenting this bill! THANK YOU!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:48:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A hate crime is a particularly evil sort of crime, and must be reported as such and investigated as such. Because such crimes are so embedded in our violent, systemic racism culture, it is urgent for our police forces to be properly trained to be able to identify and report.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:33:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Dr. Rebecca Stotzer and I am a Professor of Social Work at UHM with my area of research expertise in bias, hate crimes, discrimination, and prejudice, although I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen and do not represent UHM in this matter. I am writitng in **support** of SB1149. Hawai'i has lagged behind all other states in terms of our training and counting of hate crimes. In a 2014 study of LGBTQ people across the state, we asked respondents about their experiences of crime, and hate crime, here in Hawai'i. A significant portion reported having these experiences, but multiple respondents were told by local law enforcement that Hawai'i does not have hate crime laws at all and the LEOS would not investigate information related to a hate motive. A similar study we conducted about bias against people from the Micronesian region here in Hawai'i in 2018 showed respondents reflecting similar concerns about even reporting their victimization, for fear that they would not be believed, or that their prejudice-motive would not be taken seriously. These studies provide evidence of the ongoing need for more training for our law enforcement personnel and others in the criminal justice system to better understand how to recognize hate crimes, investigate them appropriately, and accurately report them through NIBRS.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:06:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bevin Parker-Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Hawai'i State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1149 SD 1 – Relating to Hate Crimes

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoa and fellow committee members:

My name is Bevin Parker-Evans from the island of Kaua'i and I am writing to strongly support SB1149 SD1. Not only is the prosecution of Hate Crimes important to the state of Hawaii but showing law enforcement how to create and collect accurate data will not only improve prosecution of hate crimes but it will work to prevent future hate crimes as well. Helping to assist law enforcement with support and training is exactly what these crimes are calling for.

I stand with this bill as a member of the Democratic Party's Women's Caucus where we know that hate crimes not only exist in the adult world, but are also frequently seen among minors which can be termed as "Bullying," but often can lead to violent crime and or create mental health issues and even suicide among children.

Adult Women are also often subject to hate crimes, especially due to their religion, income levels, gender identity and/or ethnicity. Common responses to hate crimes include fear, anxiety, worry, confusion, and anger. People may develop distrust of people who are similar to the original perpetrator or avoid certain locations where they feel they may be targeted. This distrust and avoidance can amplify and worsen psychological symptoms and feelings of safety. A law which can improve prosecution of those persons who commit hate crimes can help people of Hawaii or all genders, and ages.

We do know that young people in particular, people with lower incomes, and people who are part of minority groups are more likely to be the victims of hate crime. However, hate crime can actually affect anyone, regardless of their background or personal characteristics.

Social media messages calling for violence against a specific person or group and web pages that show pictures, videos or descriptions of violence against anyone due to their perceived

differences are another form of hate crime. Even chat forums where people ask other people to commit hate crimes against a specific person or group exist and are commonly seen on the internet and this is why I feel these items need to be documented so that hate crimes can be better prosecuted.

Strengthening the learning and perception of what hate crime is and documenting the occurrences of hate crimes with the correct forms of collected and documented data will assist our law enforcement officers to make certain that hate crimes in Hawaii can begin to diminish.

Please support SB1149 SD1 with your commission's voice and vote. Moving this bill forward will make Hawaii a safer place.

Respectfully submitted,

Bevin Parker-Evans, Resident of Kaua'i, 3721 Omao Rd. Koloa, HI 96756

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:58:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celine Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: Strong Support for SB 11496

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1149, which requires the reporting of all possible reported hate crimes, mandates that law enforcement officers receive training on recognizing and addressing hate crimes, and ensures that the Attorney General reports hate crime data to the public. This bill is a vital step toward fostering a more inclusive, safe, and just community for all residents.

Hate crimes are an abhorrent violation of the values that bind our society together. Unfortunately, many hate crimes go unreported or underreported, which undermines efforts to fully understand the scope of this issue and hampers the ability of law enforcement to effectively address it. SB1149 addresses this by mandating the reporting of all possible hate crimes, ensuring that every reported incident is considered and investigated appropriately, regardless of the initial classification. This transparency will not only aid in the effective tracking of hate crime trends but also provide our communities with the knowledge they need to respond proactively.

Additionally, SB1149's requirement that law enforcement officers undergo specialized training on hate crimes is a critical step toward improving law enforcement's ability to recognize and respond to these crimes. Hate crimes often involve unique dynamics and require a nuanced understanding of the experiences of affected individuals. Training law enforcement personnel will ensure that officers are equipped with the skills to identify hate crimes accurately, handle investigations with sensitivity, and provide appropriate support to victims.

Moreover, the provision in SB1149 requiring the Attorney General to report hate crime data to the public is crucial for fostering transparency and accountability. Public access to this information will empower communities to understand the prevalence of hate crimes, advocate for necessary changes, and foster a collective effort to combat hate in all its forms. Regular reporting will also allow for better resource allocation and the identification of patterns or emerging threats, enabling law enforcement and lawmakers to respond swiftly and effectively.

The passage of SB1149 will have a profound positive impact on our communities by:

1. Ensuring that all hate crimes are reported and addressed with the seriousness they deserve.
2. Equipping law enforcement with the tools and knowledge needed to handle hate crimes effectively.
3. Promoting transparency through the regular public reporting of hate crime data, which will help drive informed policy decisions and community engagement.

I urge the committee to pass SB1149 and take this critical step in standing against hate in all its forms. By supporting this legislation, we demonstrate our commitment to building a safer, more equitable society for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:17:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:25:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose.

"Hate Crime" is an ambiguous term which could be easily used to suppress free speech and it could put more burden on the police force, diverting resources, time, and training away from dealing with problems we are already having (violent crime, narcotics problems, etc).

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:10:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose sb1149

-Sierra Mcveigh