



**WRITTEN 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:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Thursday, February 27, 2025 **TIME:** 10:25 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Mark S. Tom,
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-1500)

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

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 State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission

Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community



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

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

February 25, 2025

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 10:25 AM

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

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

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1149 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](#)



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

Thursday, February 27, 2025

10:25 a.m.

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

To:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

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.



SENATE BILL 1149, SD1, RELATING TO HATE CRIMES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 · JDC/WAM 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.

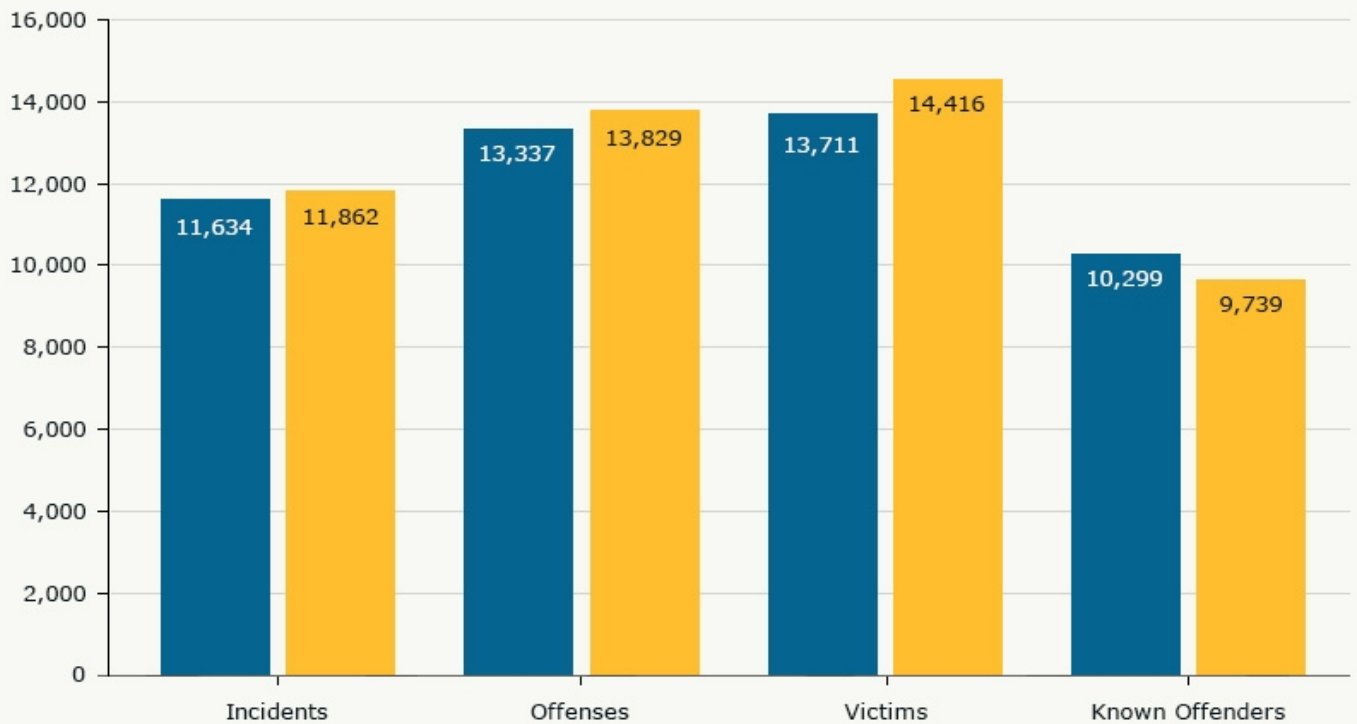
We have witnessed a resurgence in hate-related extremism in recent years, which has been spurred in part by the rise of Donald Trump to the presidency on a campaign of xenophobia, white supremacy, and fear. The Trump administration is currently attempting to roll back diversity, equity, and inclusion 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



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

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND WAYS AND MEANS
February 27, 2025**

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

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB1149, 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, 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



TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

JOINT HEARING OF SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY

February 27, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1149 SD1 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, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of our Caucus in strong support of SB1149 SD1, 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 SD1 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 SD1 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 SD1, 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 SD1 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>



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

February 25, 2025

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

Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 10:25 AM

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

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

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

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: 2/25/2025 7:15:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chairperson Rhoads, Chairperson Dela Cruz, 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



TESTIMONY
SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY & WAYS AND MEANS
SB1149 RELATED TO HATE CRIMES
Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 10:25 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

SB1149 is a direct violation of Article 1, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

SB1149 proposes that a "Reported hate crime" means 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.

This bill's definition of a "hate crime" is subjective. This is a clear effort to violate freedom of speech.

Who is the adjudicator or arbiter of defining what a "hate crime" is? The Legislature? The Attorney General?

SB1149 proposes that "Hate crime data" means information, incident reports, records, and statistics relating to hate crimes and reported hate crimes, collected by the attorney general."

Why would we the people want to give an "unelected" bureaucrat the authority to collect information on alleged "hate crimes"?

May I respectfully remind you that Article I, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution states:
FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION

NO law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

Our own Queen Liliuokalani said, "You must remember never to cease to act because you fear you may fail."

And finally, John Adams said, "Posterity! You will never know how much it costs the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make good use of it." Please preserve our constitutional right of freedom of speech.

May I respectfully remind you that our actions today will impact future generations to come. Please vote NO on SB1149.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Respectfully submitted:

Jamie Detwiler, President
Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:36:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Wing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it can be used as a weapon against the free speech of people who do not agree with the liberal democratic agenda of this government

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:44:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it is an attack on free speech.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:50:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE this ridiculous orwellian infringement on free speech. Marxist ideology does not belong in America.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:51:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1149, which mandates the reporting, documentation, and analysis of all “reported hate crimes” and possible hate crimes in Hawaii, along with requiring annual law enforcement training and administrative penalties for non-compliance. While I recognize the intent to enhance transparency and address bias-motivated incidents, I have several concerns about the bill’s approach and implications:

1. Overbroad Definition of ‘Reported Hate Crime’: The bill defines a “reported hate crime” as any 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.” This vague and subjective standard could lead to over-reporting of incidents that may not meet legal thresholds for hate crimes, potentially overwhelming law enforcement resources and diluting focus on actual criminal acts

2. Risk of Misclassification and Public Mistrust: Without clear, objective criteria for identifying bias or prejudice, there is a risk of inconsistent application or misclassification of incidents, which could erode public trust in law enforcement and the legal system. This could also lead to unintended stigmatization of communities or individuals falsely labeled as perpetrators or victims of hate crimes.

3. Potential for Overreach and Chilling Effects: Mandating the reporting of all possible hate crimes, even those not resulting in charges, could create a chilling effect on free expression and community interactions. Individuals or groups might fear being reported or investigated for perceived bias, even in non-criminal contexts, which could discourage open dialogue and exacerbate social tensions.

Addressing hate crimes is important, but this bill, in its current form, risks creating more problems than it solves.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:53:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill does not outline what a "hate crime" specifically is and could be falsely interpreted to fit anyone's definition of what they deem as a hate crime. This bill has the potential to criminalize people for their free speech which is protected by the Constitution's First Amendment.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:05:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1149,

Paul Giles

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:11:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is an attack on our 1st Amendment of free speech and therefore unacceptable. Do the right thing and vote no on this egregious and unconstitutional bill.

Dayna H.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:13:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Adrienne Ouellette and I am a resident of Oahu. I strongly support this bill. Required reporting of hate crimes and continued training for government employees about hate crimes is essential to addressing and preventing crimes motivated by prejudice. I believe that reporting, monitoring, and analyzing of these incidents will benefit the residents of Hawaii.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:41:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, In other words turn in people who speak up against the wrongs of the government, truth and transparency is what the people want. Government over reaching again.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:56:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1149

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:52:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:17:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:32:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deirdre Madrid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A hate crime is a gray area that becomes hard to define when upholding free speech.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:52:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D Y	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB1149

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:59:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rocco Vick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1149 which will require reporting of all possible hate crimes. This will also require law enforcement officers to receive training specific to hate crimes and for them to be reported to the public. It is critical to report hate crimes not only to show support and get help for victims, but also to send a clear message that the state of Hawaii will not tolerate these kinds of crimes. Reporting hate crimes allows communities and law enforcement to fully understand the scope of the problem in the community and put resources toward preventing and addressing attacks based on bias and hate. As an LGBTQ+ resident I am VERY concerned that with this new federal administration focused on hate and division, we will see an increase in hate crimes to people of my own community, as well as persons of color, and non Christian religious folks as well. Please let's make sure Hawaii continues to be the state of Aloha for all of its residents.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Rocco Vick

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:43:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

February 25, 2025

RE: SB1149

Dear JDC Chair Earl Rhoads and Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of JDC Stanley Chang, Joy A. San Buenavetura, and Brenton Awa and

WAM Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and WAM members Aquino, DeCoite, Elefante, Hashimoto, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Kim, Lee, Wakai, and Fevella:

My name is Bevin Parker-Evans and I am a resident of Kaua'i. I am writing today to give testimony in strong support of SB1149. It is vitally important that our law enforcement officers are trained properly and are provided with the correct resources about the incidences of violent hate crimes and where exactly they are occurring in our communities and how they can be recognized and prosecuted.

The accurate documentation and analysis of such incidents is critical to fighting back against all types of Hate Crime. In order to document these types of crimes, the law enforcement team needs our support and training to make certain that the guidelines and protocols for reporting hate crimes are followed to the letter. This will be accomplished by working with the Attorney General's office.

In many past cases, the documentation of these hate crime events is not complete or accurate or detailed enough to prove the distribution and alignment of facts. This bill will require the Attorney General to establish and update current guidelines and supply our law enforcement agencies with the proper training materials for reporting hate crimes. Hate crimes typically involve violence and are motivated by prejudice on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and similar grounds. Even in the case of incitement of hatred alone, we must stand up for those persons who are targeted by hate crimes.

Please pass this bill out of your committee with strong support so that you can proudly claim that you are standing up for all Hawaii people, no matter their background and that you believe in equality and fairness for all people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your strong support of SB1149,

Bevin Parker-Evans 3721 Omao Rd. Koloa, HI 96756

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:03:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Introducers of this bill have zero clue and zero qualifications to recommend such a law.

Leave investigative training to the experts in law enforcement.

OPPOSE!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 4:28:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this Bill, in order to address this important issue, real time hard data is necessary. Currently , we do not have the necessary information on which to base sound decisions and plan accordingly

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:19:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to strongly oppose S.B. No. 1149 and urge you to **VOTE NO**. This bill, while framed as a tool for transparency, is a dangerous overreach that threatens free speech, burdens law enforcement, and wastes taxpayer dollars—all without proven benefit to our communities. As a citizen who values liberty and practical governance, I present the following objections, crafted to resonate with both Republicans and Democrats who care about fairness, efficiency, and unity in Hawaii.

Threat to Free Speech and Thought Policing

S.B. No. 1149 mandates reporting of any incident where bias “may have been a motivating factor,” even without criminal charges. This vague standard risks chilling free expression, as everyday disagreements or heated words could be labeled “possible hate crimes” and tracked by the state. Democrats who champion civil liberties and Republicans who defend the First Amendment should agree: government shouldn’t be in the business of policing thoughts or punishing people for unproven intent.

Bureaucratic Burden on Law Enforcement

This bill forces police, prosecutors, and courts to document and analyze every reported “possible hate crime,” regardless of evidence or outcome, piling paperwork on already overstretched agencies. Resources should focus on solving violent crimes, not chasing speculative reports that clog the system. Both sides of the aisle want effective policing—diverting officers to this mandate undermines real public safety, a goal we all share.

Wasteful Spending with No Clear Impact

Requiring annual training, new guidelines, and data systems for unproven “hate” incidents means millions in taxpayer costs, yet the bill offers no evidence this will reduce crime. In a state with pressing needs—housing, healthcare, education—this is a misallocation of funds. Democrats

fighting for fiscal responsibility and Republicans opposing government waste can unite here: let's invest in proven solutions, not symbolic gestures.

Unfair Targeting and Community Division

The broad definition of “reported hate crime” risks unfairly tagging individuals and groups as bigots based on mere accusations, fostering resentment instead of reconciliation. Rural and working-class communities, often misunderstood, could feel singled out, while urban Democrats seeking equity might see this as inflaming tensions rather than healing them. We need laws that bring us together, not drive us apart with vague, punitive measures.

Lack of Evidence-Based Justification

Proponents claim this improves accountability, but where's the data showing current hate crime laws fail? Without proof that this expansive reporting fixes a real problem, it's just government overreach dressed up as progress. Both parties value results over rhetoric—reject this bill until it's backed by facts, not feelings.

Conclusion: Vote No for Liberty and Common Sense

S.B. No. 1149 sacrifices free speech, strains police, squanders resources, and divides us—all for an unproven cause. I urge you, whether you prioritize individual rights or community well-being, to **VOTE NO** and demand laws that respect Hawaii's people, not burden them. Let's focus on real solutions that work for everyone.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:12:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Golojuch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an essential bill that will save lives

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:20:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is an attack on free speech! Stop trying to amend our civil liberties. Y'all need to reread the Constitution and Bill of Rights!! God knows and sees all!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:08:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB1149. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:55:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

I am writing in support of SB1149.

As a transgender person who has first hand experience being targeted by extremists on the mainland, and in Hawaii where I fled, I have come to realize the importance of updating and strengthening Hawaii's Hate Crimes law.

The anti transgender targeting that I endured on the mainland, which caused me to have to quit my job working for the City of Phoenix, has also followed me here to Hawaii. The extremists used social media to track where I fled to in Honolulu and have been using aggressive actions in order to intimidate. Their network is vast and it even intrudes into my own apartment complex, where they try to use physical and verbal intimidation to attack me as a transgender person. Without a Hate Crimes law in Hawaii, these anti-transgender actions will inevitably turn towards more criminal actions based on the hatred of a transgender person like me.

Hawaii needs this Hate Crime law. I need this Hate Crime law. As a former 22 year enlisted and officer veteran of the United States Marine Corps and Navy, with six OIF/OEF deployments, with four of these deployments being inside Afghanistan and Iraq for a grand total of very close to four years of my life, I know first hand how hatred of others can turn very quickly into mass violence if there are no structural forces in play to prevent that from happening.

Hawaii's Hate Crimes law is that force which prevents extremists from acting with impunity against the transgender and other vulnerable populations living here.

I need help against the hatred directed against me by extremists, as do many others who have attracted the hatred of extremists. Please update and strengthen the only law preventing these extremists from harming me and others like me.

Sincerely,

Sergius Rodriguez

USMC/US Navy retired

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:52:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer Dehnavi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to aide in combating hate crimes, which are unacceptable in any civilized society. All vulnerable groups need to be clearly included in defining a hate crime so that any violence enacted out of bigotry can be penalized with due severity.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:21:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey Ines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Kasey and I am a resident here in Hawaii. I am in support of this bill because I believe that all hate crimes should be taken seriously and that all those involved in investigating said hate crime should have formal training in identifying hate crimes. In such a diverse state and time, it is important that law enforcement is up to date and competent about dealing with hate crimes so they can continue to protect the people they serve.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:18:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1149. This has Orwell's 1984 written all over it. We live in America, not the old USSR. I am flabbergasted that our distinguished civil SERVANTS would seek to violate the First Amendment rights of the people they SERVE. The government is not the master and overlord of the people. This bill is unconstitutional and wasteful of our taxpayer resources. Preserve free speech and free expression.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:24:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Government control needs cut not extended.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:40:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:40:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm genuinely alarmed by this bill, S.B. No. 1149, and the chilling implications it carries. It's unsettling to think that every fleeting hint of bias—whether it's a muttered word or a misinterpreted look—could be swept into some vast, Orwellian database, tracked and dissected by the Attorney General regardless of evidence or charges. The idea of law enforcement bogged down by this invasive reporting, forced to catalog every petty grievance as a "possible hate crime," makes me shudder at the overreach. Requiring annual training to decode "bias indicators" feels less like accountability and more like a mandate to turn officers into thought police, prying into minds instead of solving actual crimes—a dystopian shift that could erode trust and freedom. I'm haunted by the thought of resources being siphoned from real safety needs into this bureaucratic black hole, all for questionable gains. And the 2077 start date? That's not a typo—it's a grim promise to saddle future generations with this madness when I'll be long past caring, assuming I even see that far. This isn't just impractical; it's a deeply troubling step toward surveillance over substance, and it keeps me up at night.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:44:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB1149. This is a waste of our tax dollars. Vote no. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:45:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to reduce theft, drug and human trafficking (aka slavery) and other heinous crimes. Our law enforcement should not be bogged down with more ridiculous laws to enforce where whoever is in charge at the time gets to define "hate crime," which more than likely is just a difference of opinion. Instead of writing bills like this, get out there and practice aloha and make sure you are perpetuating righteousness in your own life.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 7:51:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:03:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong Support for SB 1149 – Strengthening Hate Crime Reporting and Accountability

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1149, which seeks to improve the documentation, analysis, and response to hate crimes in Hawai‘i. The rising tide of bias-motivated violence—both nationally and within our state—demands a comprehensive, transparent, and data-driven approach to ensure that every community in Hawai‘i is protected.

SB 1149 is an essential step toward strengthening our hate crime laws by requiring the reporting of all possible hate crimes, regardless of whether they result in criminal charges. The bill’s focus on uniform data collection, law enforcement training, and the creation of clear investigative guidelines will enhance accountability and allow policymakers and law enforcement to better address the root causes of hate-based violence.

As we know, many hate crimes go unreported or are misclassified due to inconsistencies in how bias indicators are identified and documented. By mandating that all agencies involved in criminal investigations cooperate with the Attorney General in reporting and analyzing potential hate crimes, SB 1149 ensures that no incident is overlooked. Additionally, requiring annual law enforcement training will better equip officers to recognize and respond to hate crimes with the care and diligence these cases deserve.

In a state as diverse and inclusive as Hawai‘i, we must lead by example in protecting marginalized communities from hate and discrimination. SB 1149 provides the necessary tools to ensure that every act of hate is acknowledged, investigated, and prevented to the fullest extent possible.

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to support and advance SB 1149. This legislation is not just about data—it is about justice, community safety, and reaffirming Hawai‘i’s commitment to aloha for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:14:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I stand in strong support of SB1149.SD1. The local Native Hawaiian population has been discriminated by those that think they can control our islands and have labeled us with mental health issues and criminal charges and sent to hospitals, jails, and prisons for issues they would not have done to their own race! This has been happening for centuries when visitors to our islands felt they could prosper in our islands, seduce the women, spread their diseases, bring in liquor, and steal our wealth and our lands!

We have always been the Kingdom of Hawaii and the Kamehamehas protected our people! We were never under the rule of the U.S.A. in the middle of the Pacific Ocean! We are the role models to the world with our Aloha Spirit! Do we own the District of Columbia, which we are listed after as the 51st? Or do we own the entire East Coast, but with flagship stores in our islands, we probably own all of the U.S.A.!

So, learn to treat us with respect no matter what color we are, since we all come from the same lady in Africa 180,000 years ago! Just European men didn't want to share all their discoveries, stole the lands from the natives or even tried to prosper from Blacks who did all the work for them and knew a lot more, which is coming out in documentaries now! PBS.org An American Experience! Listen to the people, not to outsiders, who just want to profit off of us! Hawaii survived the pandemic better than most states because we care for the community like the Native Americans! We are village or island thinkers!

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:15:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:21:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of the People of Hawai'i~

TYSVM for reading & reviewing these testimonies as a vital part of the process of vetting these bills, to give space for the voices of WE THE PEOPLE! Mahalo plenty!

I stand in strong OPPOSITION to SB 1149 re: Excessive Reporting & Government overreach.

This proposed bill mandates excessive reporting of every possible "hate crime" & who is determining & defining what "hate" is? A subjective special group of a few? No thank you. This excessive overreach & violation of privacy even without solid evidence, threatens free speech of our citizenry. For what purpose? A few special people funded by special interests has determines it offends them? No thank you.

Also, it will further bog down our already over-strained & understaffed Police Departments who cannot possibly enforce all such "grievances."

It is a heavy-handed government overreach that prioritizes political correctness over practical policing, wasting resources of time, finances, talent, staff, paperwork, natural resources like trees to print the paperwork, landfills for the waste, it truly goes on and on. This is a waste of resources on endless data collection. For whose benefit? A bigger government is a bigger drain on society, no thank you.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose SB 1149 & I ask you to do the same. Thank you!

Malama Pono,

Dawn O'Brien

Pres., HOPE HI, Inc.

Lifelong resident & taxpayer of State of Hawai'i

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:26:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tryslynn Kauionalani Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members and senators,

I strongly oppose this bill because it's unconstitutional and a threat to our freedom of speech and first amendment rights.

Mahalo

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:01:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition to this bill. Mahalo

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:11:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozalynn Marae Erickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a direct violation of the First Amendment and leaves room for misinterpretation. This is government overreach and a direct violation of the constitution.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:14:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1149

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:22:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. As if law enforcement needed more paperwork to do, now it needs to waste time and taxpayer money documenting 'feelings'. If this is so important why are they proposing it to take effect 52 years from now?

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:36:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it infringes on my second amendment rights.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:45:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Vote NO ! No censoring free speech. This will affect all speeches. Even when we Deem what we believe is appropriate. The Bible will become hate speech if this is passed.

No ! To this bill ! Whole

Louella

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:47:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments: This is a very concerning bill. This could potentially violate people's 1st amendment rights by labeling even simple criticism as "hate speech". Christians would be greatly impacted by this. Anyone who believes in common sense would be impacted by this. This bill is dangerous and it should never have been introduced.

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:48:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates my freedom of speech. This is an infringement on the first amendment of the United States Constitution. I oppose this bill.

vincent a Tibbles

Waikoloa Village, Hawai'i county

96738

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:49:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph hudson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1st amendment

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 9:52:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

In Opposition of SB1149 SD1

As a citizen who values both public safety and personal freedom, I strongly oppose the trend of over-reporting police reports to Nanny state officials who twist them into something they're not—like so-called 'hate incidents.' I've watched neighbors call the police over simple disputes, only to see those reports blown out of proportion by bureaucrats eager to slap a 'hate' label on anything remotely emotional. It's not protection; it's control. Last year, a friend of mine had an argument with a coworker—heated, sure, but just words. The police came, took a routine report, and suddenly it was flagged as a potential 'hate incident' because someone felt offended. No evidence, no intent—just feelings dictating reality. This isn't justice; it's a slippery slope to policing thoughts, not actions. It wastes police time, clogs the system, and turns honest people into suspects. We need common sense, not a surveillance state jumping at shadows. Let's keep police work focused on real crimes, not hurt feelings.

Lawrence Ramirez
Kailua Kona, Hawaii
lardg@yahoo.com

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:19:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wallyn Christian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Wallyn K Christian, am STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1149!

I am attaching the description of this bill below:

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. Effective 7/1/2077. (SD1)

In the paragraph above: There are questions that need to be addressed. First, the phrase "possible hate crimes", the question is who determines this? Just because one person may think its a hate crime does not mean the person accused of it thinks the same. This is a subjective issue and not based on fact or evidence!

The second question: How does one determine if the person, (attorney general or police officers) is an expert on hate crimes? Did they go through some type of training (in number of years) to be called an expert? This is a serious question to address since society requires individuals to go through years of education, training and professional experience to be determined as "an expert" to make such decisions and determinations; as such as referring to "hate crimes or possible hate crimes".

Most importantly, this bill would be infringing on the First Amendment rights of the people for free speech!

What is covered by laws that are already in place:

Threatening a life with bodily harm or death.

In the act of physically harming a person

Discrimination acts

And the list goes on! This bill is simply an infringement of the people's First Amendment rights and must be killed! Vote "Nay" on SB1149!

Mahalo,

Wallyn K Christian

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 10:30:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1149 this is clearly another over reach of government. This will waste our resources on endless data collecting that cannot be handled as it stands. Adding to the mess is ridiculous.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:00:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1149. This bill mandates excessive reporting of every "possible hate crime," even without solid evidence, threatening free speech and bogging down law enforcement with red tape.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:03:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:05:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 1:38:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 3:05:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

As the Kaua'i representative to the Hawai'i LGBTQ+ Advisory Commission, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 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.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:30:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Aloha e nā Senators,

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 this community, I submit this testimony in fervent opposition to Senate Bill 1149 (SB1149), which mandates the expansive reporting, documentation, and analysis of all "reported hate crimes" by law enforcement and the Attorney General. While the bill ostensibly seeks transparency and accountability, its provisions are precipitously overbroad, antithetical to individual liberties, and poised to disenfranchise vulnerable populations—including Native Hawaiians—through an ill-conceived expansion of state surveillance and bureaucratic overreach.

First, SB1149’s definition of "reported hate crime" 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" is alarmingly vague. This amorphous standard invites subjective interpretation, empowering authorities to catalog and scrutinize incidents absent concrete evidence of criminality. Such a framework risks transforming mere allegations—however baseless or malicious—into permanent records, thereby stigmatizing individuals and communities without due process. For Native Hawaiians, whose historical disenfranchisement has often been perpetuated through systemic over-policing, this bill threatens to exacerbate an already fraught relationship with state institutions.

Second, the mandate for comprehensive data collection by the Attorney General and ancillary agencies, coupled with annual law enforcement training to "identify, investigate, and document" possible hate crimes, establishes a regime of pervasive monitoring that is antithetical to the cultural values of aloha and pono that define our islands. The bill’s requirement to report demographic information, incident details, and investigative statuses—irrespective of substantiation—creates a chilling effect on free expression and association. Residents of Kahalu‘u and beyond may hesitate to voice dissent or engage in robust community discourse, fearing that their words or actions could be misconstrued as "bias-motivated" and indelibly etched into a state database.

Third, the administrative burden imposed by SB1149 is both impractical and inequitable. Law enforcement agencies, already strained by limited resources, will be compelled to divert attention

from tangible public safety priorities to comply with this expansive reporting scheme. In rural communities like Kahalu‘u, where police presence is often minimal, this redirection of focus could precipitously undermine responsiveness to urgent needs—disproportionately affecting Native Hawaiian and other underserved populations who rely on equitable allocation of state resources.

Finally, the bill’s deferred effective date of July 1, 2077, belies any claim of urgency, rendering its immediate consideration a perplexing legislative misstep. If the intent is to address hate crimes with alacrity, this temporal disconnect undermines the bill’s purported purpose, suggesting instead a premature rush to codify a system that lacks refinement or empirical justification.

I urge the Legislature to reject SB1149 in its current form. Rather than erecting a sprawling apparatus of surveillance and conjecture, our state should pursue targeted, evidence-based measures that address verifiable hate crimes without imperiling civil liberties or further marginalizing communities like mine. As a Native Hawaiian who has borne witness to the resilience and struggles of Kahalu‘u for nearly half a century, I implore you to prioritize justice tempered by wisdom—not bureaucracy masquerading as progress.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:48:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1149 SD1. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-1149-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2025 7:25:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2025 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill