



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 598, RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Thursday, January 30, 2025      **TIME:** 9:15 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Philip D. Higdon, Administrator, Hawaii Criminal Justice Data  
Center

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) appreciates the intent of the bill and offers the following recommendations and comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a Hawaii Hope Card Program within the Department to issue Hope Cards upon request to individuals holding a long-term protective order. These laminated cards, similar in size and shape to a credit card, would contain all essential information about the protective order and all covered parties, allowing law enforcement to quickly verify the order's existence rather than requiring the protected individual to carry a copy of the entire protective order.

The proposed section 28-A(a), on page 1, lines 7-12, requires the program to issue Hope Cards, so law enforcement agencies can quickly verify the existence of a long-term protective order. However, based on the Department's experience, the information proposed for inclusion on the card would not provide all the information necessary for law enforcement to confirm the validity of an order. Currently, when a petitioner presents a protective order to a law enforcement officer, the officer must still verify its validity by contacting the law enforcement agency records department or checking the Hawaii Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS-HI). These additional steps are necessary to confirm proof of service on all parties, determine if amendments have been made to the original order, and clarify the order's terms. Even with the

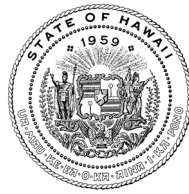
issuance of Hope Cards, these verification practices will still be necessary, diminishing the card's intended utility.

The proposed section 28-A(d)(3) (page 3, lines 5-6) requires the Department to include the issuance and expiration dates of the long-term protective order on the Hope Card. While the Department can include the expiration date from the original order, subsequent changes, such as extensions or early terminations, will not automatically be reflected on the card unless the card holder notifies the Department and requests an updated card.

The proposed section 28-A(d)(4) (page 3, line 7) requires the terms of a long-term protective order to be displayed on Hope Cards. However, protective order terms can be detailed and case-specific, making it impractical to condense all essential information onto a small card. Additionally, without a mechanism to ensure the card reflects any changes to the protective order, law enforcement agencies may still request a cardholder to present the actual order, undermining the purpose of the Hope Card.

A query of the CJIS-HI Temporary Restraining Order and Protective Order module indicates that there are currently 9,298 active protective orders. To implement the proposed Hawaii Hope Card program, the Department estimates initial costs of \$450,000 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. The funding would cover: two full-time employees, office equipment, postage, website and database development, and identification card hardware and software. Ongoing operational costs would amount to approximately \$110,000 annually. Without sufficient funding, the Department would be unable to effectively implement and operate the program, and based on its limited effectiveness, as described above, this program may not be practical.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
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FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 598

**January 30, 2025  
9:15 a.m.  
Room 016 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 598 adds a new part to Chapter 28, HRS, to: 1) establish the Hawai'i Hope Card Program within the Department of the Attorney General (AG) for the purpose of issuing hope cards to holders of a long-term protective order to allow law enforcement to quickly verify the existence of the long-term protective order and easily obtain information regarding the long-term protective order; 2) specify the form and content of the hope card and who cards may be issued for; 3) require AG to employ a coordinator and assistant coordinator and other personnel as necessary, without regard to Chapter 76, HRS, to administer the program; 4) authorize AG to charge an unspecified fee for each hope card issued; 5) require AG to maintain a confidential database of all hope cards; 6) establish the Hawai'i Hope Card Special Fund (HHCSF) and specify all authorized sources of revenue and uses of funds; 7) appropriate an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 26 and FY 27 to be deposited into the HHCSF; and 8) appropriate an unspecified sum of expenditure ceiling for FY 26 and FY 27 for the HHCSF.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund, which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding S.B. No. 598, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed HHCSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**LATE**

**SB-598**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:07:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Stand in STRONG SUPPORT!