



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1768 HD1**

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Palekana Lehulehu, a me ke Kuleana Pū‘ali Koa  
(Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs)

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ikehu, a me ka Pilina O Nā Aupuni  
(Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i  
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 23, 2026

3:00 PM

Lumi 016

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Aloha e Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Chang, Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1768 HD1** which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into agreements that permit them to engage in federal immigration enforcement and limits certain immigration-related actions, except under narrow circumstances. This measure helps preserve clear boundaries between local public safety responsibilities and federal immigration enforcement; while supporting trust between residents and the institutions they rely on for safety, health, and stability.

OHA supports policies that protect access to essential services and strengthen public confidence in government systems. When residents fear that routine contact with local agencies may expose them or their family members to immigration enforcement, they may avoid reporting crime, seeking emergency assistance, appearing in court, or accessing health care, education, and other basic services. That erosion of trust undermines public safety for everyone. This bill addresses that concern by clarifying that local law enforcement should not be drawn into civil immigration enforcement except where required by law.

For Native Hawaiian communities, this issue also carries broader significance. Hawai‘i’s history reflects the harm that can result when government power is exercised without sufficient regard for dignity, fairness, and the protection of civil rights. Native Hawaiians have also experienced longstanding disparities in system contact and disproportionate impacts from policing and criminal legal enforcement. Measures that establish clearer constitutional guardrails, reduce fear, and maintain community trust in public institutions are therefore important to the well-being of OHA beneficiaries and to the broader public.

This bill also promotes sound governance. It preserves local resources for local priorities and helps ensure that state and county law enforcement agencies remain focused on enforcing state and county law, rather than assuming responsibilities tied to federal immigration enforcement. By limiting inquiries, holds, transfers, and access for interview purposes absent legal authority or meaningful consent, this measure sets clearer expectations that protect both individual rights and institutional integrity.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HB1768 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:08:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)	Testifying for Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

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

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 1768 HD 1.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

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

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:01:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sam Guckenheimer	Testifying for Kona Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as Lead of Kona Indivisible Hawaii. This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Title 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.**

**This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.**

**Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.**



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Mar 23, 2026

#### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

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Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** HB1768 HD1 – Relating to Immigration

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **strongly supports HB1768 HD1**, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies from entering into federal immigration enforcement agreements and restricts certain immigration-related actions by local law enforcement except under limited circumstances.

AILH is a statewide, cross-disability, community-based organization that promotes Independent Living philosophy and principles. Our mission is to assist people with all types of disabilities to live independently and to achieve full community participation and integration. We serve consumers across Hawaii with physical, sensory, cognitive, psychiatric, and developmental disabilities.

We support HB1768 HD1 because **community safety depends on trust**, and trust is undermined when people fear that seeking help from local authorities will result in immigration enforcement. This fear is especially dangerous for disabled immigrants, disabled members of mixed-status families, and all disabled people who rely on accessible emergency response, health care, and social services to live safely in the community.

**Why HB1768 HD1 Matters for Disabled People and Independent Living**



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## 1. Fear of Immigration Enforcement Creates Barriers to Safety and Services

National research documents that when local police are entangled with federal immigration enforcement, immigrant communities become “afraid to call 911.” [1] Human Rights Watch interviewed crime victims and police officers who confirmed that trust is eroded when immigrants end up in deportation proceedings after contacting police for help. One immigrant who called police to intervene with a troubled family member and subsequently entered deportation proceedings stated: “All I can say is that if I were in that moment again, I would not call the police. The truth is that that phone call changed my life.” [1]

For disabled people, the stakes are even higher. Disabled immigrants and disabled members of mixed-status families may require emergency medical intervention, accessible transportation, or assistance during mental health crises. When fear of immigration consequences prevents people from calling 911, disabled individuals face increased risk of harm, delayed medical care, and isolation from community supports that are essential to Independent Living.

HB1768 HD1 addresses this barrier by clearly separating local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement functions, helping to restore the trust necessary for disabled people to safely access emergency services and community-based supports.

## 2. Disabled Immigrants Face Documented Violence and Denial of Accommodations During Immigration Enforcement

National disability rights organizations have documented serious harm to disabled people during immigration enforcement activities. The Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) reports that disabled immigrants and U.S. citizens have been “dragged from their cars, and brutalized; others have been abducted from hospitals or other healthcare settings.” [2] People with disabilities detained by immigration authorities face conditions that deprive them of necessary healthcare, medications, assistive devices, and means of communication. [2]



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In August 2025, thirty members of Congress sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security detailing multiple cases of mistreatment of disabled people by immigration enforcement agents, including:[3]

- Deaf individuals denied sign language interpreters, or provided interpreters for the wrong language;
- A person not permitted a new hearing aid when theirs broke in custody;
- A person denied the ability to clean a prosthetic eye, a routine requirement to prevent infection;
- People with diabetes denied blood sugar monitoring or diabetes-friendly meals.[3]

One widely reported case involved a woman with a mobility disability who was pulled from her car by multiple immigration enforcement agents while she told them she was disabled and simply trying to get to her doctor's appointment.[3] In another case, a man who uses a cane due to a work-related disability was violently thrown to the ground multiple times by agents while driving himself to a physical therapy appointment. His cousin recalled: "They broke his window, pulled him out of the car. They slammed him to the ground, they picked him up and slammed him on the hood of their car. He let them know he was disabled, but they didn't care." [3]

These examples illustrate the real, physical danger that disabled people face when immigration enforcement becomes aggressive and fails to provide disability-related accommodations. By limiting state and county law enforcement involvement in federal immigration enforcement, HB1768 HD1 reduces the likelihood that disabled people in Hawaii will experience similar violence and denial of rights.

### **3. HB1768 HD1 Protects Community Integration and Independent Living Principles**



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Independent Living philosophy is grounded in the belief that people with disabilities have the right to make choices, control their own lives, and participate fully in their communities. Fear-based avoidance of public systems—whether schools, hospitals, courts, or police—undermines community integration and self-determination.

HB1768 HD1's preamble recognizes that "all residents of the State are entitled to live in dignity and without fear," and that "immigrants are valuable and essential members of the community and should be able to live full and productive lives without fear of the government."<sup>[4]</sup> This language directly aligns with Independent Living values. For disabled immigrants and their families, living "in dignity and without fear" means being able to:

- Report abuse, neglect, or violence without risking family separation or deportation;
- Access medical appointments, therapy, and durable medical equipment without fearing law enforcement encounters;
- Send children to school and seek educational supports for disabled students without risking immigration consequences;
- Participate in civic life, use public transportation, and access community-based services that support independence.

By prohibiting local law enforcement from inquiring about immigration status (except when required by law or connected to a state or county criminal investigation), honoring federal hold requests, or transferring individuals to immigration authorities without a judicial warrant or probable cause determination, HB1768 HD1 creates clear boundaries that help protect these fundamental aspects of community participation and Independent Living.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **HB1768 HD1 Provisions Support Disability Rights and Due Process**

We specifically support the following provisions of HB1768 HD1 as protective of disabled people's rights:



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## Prohibition of Immigration Enforcement Agreements (Section 2)

The bill prohibits state and county law enforcement from entering agreements under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or similar federal laws that permit local agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.[4] This ensures that local police remain focused on community safety rather than federal immigration enforcement, preserving trust with immigrant communities.

## Limits on Information Sharing and Status Inquiries (Section 3)

The bill prohibits law enforcement from inquiring about immigration status except when required by law or connected to a state/county criminal investigation, and restricts sharing of non-publicly available personal information in noncriminal matters.[4] These protections are especially important for disabled people, whose information may include sensitive disability-related data such as diagnoses, service use, or benefits enrollment.

## Written Consent Requirement for Interviews (Section 3(4))

The bill prohibits federal immigration authorizes from interviewing individuals in state or county custody about immigration violations unless the individual consents in writing, or the interview is required by law or court order.[4] We urge that implementation of this provision include:

- Language access (including sign language interpretation and plain language materials);
- Disability-related accommodations to ensure informed consent;
- Clear procedures to verify that consent is voluntary and understanding is genuine.

## Prohibition on Hold Requests and Warrant Requirement for Transfers (Section 3(5) and (7))

The bill prohibits detaining individuals based solely on federal hold requests and requires a judicial warrant or probable cause determination before



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transferring individuals to immigration authorities.[4] These provisions protect due process rights and reduce arbitrary detention, which disproportionately harms disabled people who may face communication barriers, lack access to legal representation, or be unable to advocate for themselves in custody.

## Implementation Recommendations

While we strongly support HB1768 HD1, we encourage attention to the following during implementation:

1. **Training on disability accommodations:** Law enforcement agencies should receive clear guidance on providing disability-related accommodations when interacting with disabled individuals, including accessible communication, avoiding excessive force with people who have mobility or sensory disabilities, and recognizing behaviors related to psychiatric or cognitive disabilities.
2. **Clarity on exceptions:** The bill allows status inquiries when “required by law” or connected to a state/county criminal investigation.[4] We encourage clear written policies and training to prevent these exceptions from being overused or weaponized against vulnerable populations.
3. **Public reporting and transparency:** Consider requiring annual public reporting on instances where exceptions were invoked, to ensure accountability and allow community oversight.
4. **Community education:** Disabled immigrants and their families need accessible information (in multiple languages, formats, and plain language) about their rights under this law, so they know it is safer to seek help.

## Conclusion

HB1768 HD1 is a necessary public safety and civil rights measure that protects all residents of Hawaii, including disabled immigrants and disabled



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members of mixed-status families, by clearly separating local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement. This separation reduces fear, restores trust, and ensures that disabled people can safely access emergency services, medical care, and community supports that are essential to Independent Living and full community participation.

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii **strongly supports HB1768 HD1** and urges the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director

## References

[1] Human Rights Watch. (2014, May 14). US: Immigrants 'Afraid to Call 911.' <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/05/14/us-immigrants/afraid/call/911>

[2] Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund. (2026, February 17). Immigrant Rights are Disability Rights: ICE & Law Enforcement Out. <https://dredf.org/immigrant-rights-and-ice-out/>

[3] Stine, A. (2026, January 13). The Danger ICE Poses to the Disabled Community. *Nonprofit Quarterly*. <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/the-danger-ice-poses-to-the-disabled-community/>

[4] H.B. 1768, H.D. 1, 33rd Leg., Reg. Sess. (Haw. 2026).



Committee: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 23, 2026, at 3:00 PM  
Place: Conference Room 016 & via Videoconference  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB 1768  
HD1 Relating to Immigration

Dear Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee, and members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") is in **strong support of HB 1768, HD 1**, which prohibits law enforcement from participating in agreements pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g)—also known as 287(g) agreements—or any other law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

**HB 1768, HD 1 affirms Hawaii's constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations**, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself legally, financially, or morally in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.

Across the country, states and local governments have learned—often through costly litigation—that cooperation with federal law enforcement is not neutral. When state or county agencies lend personnel, data, facilities, or credibility to federal operations, they also absorb the **downstream consequences: exposure to civil liability, erosion of community trust, and complicity in actions that violate constitutional norms**. HB 1768, HD 1 reflects a decision to draw principled boundaries around such cooperation.

#### *I. Non-Cooperation is a Lawful and Necessary Exercise of State Power*

The basis for HB 1768, HD 1 rests squarely on **the anti-commandeering doctrine, a foundational principle of American federalism**. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that while the **federal government may enforce federal law, it may not compel states to use their resources**, officers, or political subdivisions to do so. In *New York v. United States*, the Court made clear that Congress may not “commandeer the legislative processes of the States.”<sup>i</sup> In *Printz v. United States*, the Court extended that principle to state executive officials, holding that the federal government may not require state officers to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program.<sup>ii</sup> These cases do not describe an exception; they articulate a structural protection of liberty.

Immigration enforcement is federal, governed by shifting priorities that state governments neither control nor supervise. **When states entangle themselves in those efforts, they surrender authority over how their residents are policed while remaining legally liable.** HB 1768, HD 1 affirms that Hawai‘i will not be commandeered into service of federal programs that it does not direct and cannot meaningfully oversee.

Federal courts have consistently upheld this choice. In *United States v. California*, the Ninth Circuit reaffirmed that states are under no obligation to assist with federal immigration enforcement and may affirmatively restrict the use of state resources for that purpose without violating the Supremacy Clause.<sup>iii</sup>

## *II. 287(g) Agreements Create Real and Predictable Liability*

The risks of cooperation are neither speculative nor abstract. Courts have repeatedly found that **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents have engaged in unconstitutional conduct, such as warrantless arrests, prolonged detention without probable cause, racial profiling, and retaliation against protected speech.** When state agencies assist in these operations—by honoring detainers or embedding officers—they invite liability under both federal and state law.

In *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County*, for example, a federal district court held that a county violated the Fourth Amendment by detaining an individual at ICE’s request without probable cause.<sup>iv</sup> Numerous jurisdictions have paid significant settlements or judgments arising directly from cooperation with ICE requests later deemed unlawful. HB 1768, HD 1 reduces the likelihood that Hawai‘i taxpayers will bear a similar liability.

## *III. Deputization and 287(g) Agreements Are Especially Dangerous*

HB 1768, HD 1 is particularly **important in rejecting deputization arrangements and 287(g)-style cooperation.** Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the federal government to deputize local law enforcement officers to perform civil immigration enforcement functions, often leading to widespread abuse.<sup>v</sup>

By placing local police officers—trained to enforce criminal law—into the role of civil immigration agents, **287(g)-style agreements and memoranda of understanding encourage pretextual policing while blurring lines of accountability. Cooperation also undermines public safety.** When residents fear that contact with state or county agencies may expose them to federal immigration enforcement, they may be less likely to report crimes, seek medical care, enroll children in school, or participate as witnesses. The resulting erosion of trust makes communities less safe.

#### *IV. Federalism Serves as a Shield for Civil Liberties*

Federalism is not merely an abstract allocation of power; it is a concrete safeguard for individual rights. When national enforcement policy veers toward repression, state **refusal to cooperate is one of the most effective lines of defense for civil liberties.**

This principle carries particular force in Hawai‘i as **our State Constitution provides broader protections for individual rights than the federal Constitution.** The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has recognized that our Constitution is an independent source of rights and that federal constitutional minima do not define the outer bounds of liberty in Hawai‘i. In *State v. Zuffante*, the court reaffirmed that Hawaii’s Constitution may—and often does—offer greater protection than its federal counterpart.<sup>vi</sup> So, even when protections are weakened or eliminated at the federal level, **Hawai‘i retains the authority to safeguard civil liberties under its own constitutional framework.**

**By limiting state participation in federal enforcement schemes that threaten due process, equal protection, and expressive freedom,** HB 1768, HD 1 ensures that Hawaii’s constitutional commitments are not undermined. **HB 1768, HD 1 is a prudent response to a federal enforcement landscape that increasingly disregards civil liberties and transparency.** By embracing a general position of non-cooperation, rejecting dangerous deputization schemes, and reaffirming the State’s sovereign rights under our federal system, the Legislature can protect Hawai‘i residents while shielding the State from unnecessary legal and financial liability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Leilani Stacy  
Immigrants’ Rights Attorney  
ACLU of Hawai‘i

*With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai‘i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.*

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<sup>i</sup> *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144, 161–66 (1992), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/505/144/>.

<sup>ii</sup> *Printz v. United States*, 521 U.S. 898, 925–33 (1997), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/521/898/>.

<sup>iii</sup> *United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865, 888–91 (9th Cir. 2019), <https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2019/04/18/18-16496.pdf>.

<sup>iv</sup> *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas Cnty.*, No. 3:12-cv-02317-ST, 2014 WL 1414305, at \*11–13 (D. Or. Apr. 11, 2014), <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/oregon/ordce/3:2012cv02317/110279/163/>. Unreported.

<sup>v</sup> Immigration and Nationality Act § 287(g), 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:8%20section:1357%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:8%20section:1357%20edition:prelim)).

<sup>vi</sup> *State v. Zuffante*, 157 Haw. 194, 200, 576 P.3d 243, 249 (2025), <https://law.justia.com/cases/hawaii/supreme-court/2025/scwc-23-0000376-0.html>.



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair and Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair and Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 3:00 pm, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 1768, HD1 - RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Chang, Senator Hashimoto of Maui, Senator DeCoite of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1768**, Relating to Immigration, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, and prohibits law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots immigrant justice and disaster-response organization formed in the aftermath of the 2023 Maui wildfires. Since then, we have become essential infrastructure for immigrant residents navigating recovery, housing instability, and federal policy shifts. Trust is the foundation of safety in our communities — and today, that trust is eroding under the fear of federal overreach. Families skip work and school; patients decline medical care; congregants stay home from church. We hear from survivors of violence, including women and children, who are now afraid to seek help from local law enforcement. If law enforcement agencies or officials were to enter into agreements to engage in immigration enforcement, or were to engage in immigration-related actions, this would cause the expenditure of scarce local resources on federal activities when Maui is still recovering. It would also deteriorate trust in law enforcement that is already eroding due to increased federal immigration activity. House Bill 1768, HD1 is critical to restore confidence that Hawai'i's law enforcement serves and protects our communities — not federal operations that violate constitutional rights.

Our coalition's volunteer observers, trained to lawfully and peacefully document enforcement activity in public spaces, do so to promote transparency and accountability, values central to democracy. The tragic deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, volunteer observers killed by federal agents in Minneapolis, underscore the stakes. Their story was told only because other observers were present to record the incident — a right protected under the First Amendment.

We are increasingly concerned about data-sharing between local law enforcement and federal agencies that could expose observers or community members to intimidation. Reports from the continent describe the use of facial recognition and license plate data to track and target individuals engaged in constitutionally protected activity. HB 1768, HD1 offers needed guardrails to prevent such misuse of local resources and protect both residents and those who defend their rights. **We urge your support for HB 1768, HD1.** Protecting local autonomy, civil rights, and community trust strengthens public safety for all.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza', written over a horizontal line.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*  
El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1768, HD1  
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

**Committee on Public Safety and  
Military Affairs**

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

**Committee on Energy and  
Intergovernmental Affairs**

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 23, 2026 | Conference Room 016 | Letter Date: March 22, 2026

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) strongly supports HB1768, HD1 which establishes critical guardrails limiting state and county law enforcement participation in federal civil immigration enforcement. As a nonprofit organization that works to advance immigrant justice across Hawai`i through immigration legal services, education, and advocacy, TLC understands that public safety is strengthened when immigrant communities trust local law enforcement.

Local entanglement with federal civil immigration enforcement undermines trust, discourages crime reporting, and ultimately makes communities less safe. Moreover, detaining individuals based solely on civil immigration detainers raises serious constitutional questions and liability exposure for the state and counties. HB1768, HD1 addresses these concerns by prohibiting state and county law enforcement agencies from entering into cooperative agreements on federal civil immigration enforcement, and restricting certain immigration-related activities, including collecting or sharing sensitive information and honoring immigration detainer or transfer requests without judicial authorization.

HB1768, HD1 aligns Hawai`i with other states that have enacted similar policies to protect community trust and constitutional rights, including Oregon, California, Illinois, Washington, New Jersey, and New Mexico. The bill promotes due process and community safety and helps ensure that Hawai`i's law enforcement resources remain focused on Hawai`i's priorities. We urge the Committee's support.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Legal Clinic  
and TLC Board President Amefil Agbayani,

Christina Sablan  
Community & Policy Advocate



Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee

3/23/2026 @ 3:00 pm, CR 016 & Videoconference  
HB1768 HD1 — Law Enforcement, Immigration Actions

TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER  
HB1768 HD1**

This bill prohibits law enforcement agencies and officials from making agreements to assist with federal immigration enforcement under 8 USC 211387(g), and prohibits taking identified actions in support of civil immigration enforcement. This restriction is made necessary by the recent history of apparently unlawful and unconstitutional taken in the name of immigration enforcement by ICE and CBP, among other federal agencies.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business, and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law, including due process and access to counsel. The Trump regime is undermining our national efforts to work toward those goals with racially discriminatory policies and militarized, anonymous and violent actions by armed, masked, federal agents.

This legislature cannot write rules for ICE or CBP, but it can act to protect state and county law enforcement from participating in immigration enforcement, except where legally required.

For these reasons the League asks you to pass HB1768 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important Bill.

Stephen Munkelt

League of Woman Voters of Hawaii

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII  
P.O. Box 235026 ♦ Honolulu, HI 96823  
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**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino  
In SUPPORT of HB1768 HD1**

Senate Joint Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)  
and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)

Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair | Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, EIG Chair | Senator Stanley Chang, EIG Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 23, 2026

Dear Chairs Fukunaga and Wakai, Vice Chairs Lee and Chang, and members of the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of HB1768 HD1**, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, prohibits law enforcement from engaging in certain immigration-related actions except under limited circumstances, designates related records as public, and requires agencies that provide federal immigration authorities access to detained individuals to hold two public community forums per year.

Mercado de la Raza is a Hawai'i-based community marketplace that uplifts Latin American culture through food, small business, and community programming. We work closely with immigrant families and local entrepreneurs, creating a space that fosters connection, cultural exchange, and economic opportunity.

HB1768 HD1 codifies in state law what community trust requires in practice: that Hawai'i's law enforcement agencies are not and cannot become immigration enforcement agents. Hawai'i is one of only 11 states without a 287(g) agreement with ICE. This bill ensures that status is locked in statute — not subject to change by a single agency decision — and adds critical due process protections by prohibiting detention or transfer to ICE without a judicial warrant.

When immigrant and mixed-status communities trust that local law enforcement is focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities — not federal civil immigration enforcement — they report crime, cooperate as witnesses, and seek emergency help. The transparency provisions (public records designation and community accountability forums) ensure that even in cases where ICE access is permitted, residents are informed and have a voice. The Senate PSM/EIG committees can advance this community trust and state sovereignty measure toward final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees **PASS HB1768 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely

Megahn Chun & Alejandro Villarino  
Mercado de la Raza  
808.593.2226



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

**LATE**

## Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill

### In SUPPORT of HB1768 HD1

Hearing Date: March 23, 2026, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

My name is **Liza Ryan-Gill**, and I submit this testimony on behalf of the **Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)**. HCIR is a statewide coalition of 30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations across the pae 'āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai'i as a place where all families can thrive.

We submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB1768 HD1**, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into agreements under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or any other federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, and prohibits law enforcement agencies and officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions except under limited circumstances.

**HB1768 HD1 is a critical public safety and governance measure** that reaffirms constitutional protections, promotes accountability, and safeguards community trust in law enforcement. This bill makes clear that Hawai'i's public safety institutions should not be used to facilitate unlawful or unconstitutional conduct — and should be used to protect and serve Hawai'i's residents, first and foremost.

**This bill draws a necessary constitutional boundary.** HB1768 HD1 ensures Hawai'i's resources are not used to do the job of the federal government in conducting civil immigration enforcement. It prohibits holding individuals in state or local custody beyond their lawful release date on the basis of civil immigration requests, prohibits inquiries into immigration status except as required by law, prevents discriminatory targeting and racial profiling, and ensures that federal agents must have a judicial warrant before any transfer of a person into their custody. These are not radical positions — they are the baseline requirements of constitutional policing and due process.

**Community trust is the foundation of effective public safety.** Immigrant and mixed-status families already hesitate to report crimes, call 911, or cooperate as witnesses when they fear any connection between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement. When survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking cannot safely seek help, everyone



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
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is less safe. As the Office of the Public Defender has noted in its own support for this bill, when individuals fear that any contact with law enforcement may expose them or their loved ones to immigration consequences, they are less likely to appear in court, report crimes, seek essential services, or meaningfully participate in the judicial process.

**The liability and accountability risks are real.** Courts have repeatedly found that honoring civil immigration detainers without judicial authorization violates the Fourth Amendment. Jurisdictions across the country have paid significant settlements arising from cooperation with ICE requests later deemed unlawful. HB1768 HD1 protects Hawai‘i taxpayers and state agencies from this exposure by providing clear, legally sound guidance on what local law enforcement may and may not do.

**Hawai‘i is not alone.** States including California, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, New Jersey, and New Mexico have enacted similar policies, reflecting a growing consensus that state and local agencies must draw clear lines to preserve public safety institutions as distinct from federal civil immigration enforcement.

Importantly, HB1768 HD1 does not interfere with legitimate law enforcement duties or compliance with federal law where compliance is required. Rather, it reinforces constitutional norms and ensures that public safety institutions operate in a manner consistent with Hawai‘i’s values of fairness, accountability, and respect for civil liberties.

HB1768 has passed the House with strong bipartisan support. The Senate Committees on Public Safety and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs are the next step toward advancing this measure to Ways and Means and final passage.

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS HB1768 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

**Liza Ryan-Gill**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:56:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Jennifer Lum from 'Ewa Beach and I am writing to express my support of HB 1768. I really believe this bill is a common-sense move for Hawai'i. When our local police are seen as an extension of federal immigration agents, it makes people afraid to report crimes or ask for help, and that just makes our whole community less safe. We want everyone living here to feel like they can trust our local officers without worrying about their status.

Plus, I think it's important that our local tax dollars and police resources stay focused on local issues—like property crime and traffic safety—rather than doing the federal government's job for them. HB 1768 keeps things clear and fair by requiring a judge's warrant before people are handed over to federal authorities, which protects everyone's rights and prevents profiling. Please consider voting "yes" on this bill to keep Hawai'i a welcoming and safe place for all of us.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:17:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Badia Muhammad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local Law Enforcement should not be working with a Criminal Administration's secret police.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:58:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB1768, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or official in Hawai‘i from entering into agreements under federal law that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement. It also prohibits law enforcement from engaging in specified immigration-related actions except under limited circumstances.

This bill is a critical step toward ensuring that our local police remain focused on public safety and community trust, rather than being conscripted into federal immigration enforcement.

**Hawai‘i Should Not Deputize Local Police as Federal Immigration Agents**

HB1768 targets so-called "287(g) agreements," which are authorized under Section 1357(g) of Title 8 of the United States Code. These agreements allow the federal government to deputize state and local law enforcement officers to perform immigration enforcement functions. Hawai‘i is currently one of only **11 states in the entire country** that does not already have this type of agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We should keep it that way.

When local police are perceived as immigration enforcement agents, it erodes trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities. Victims and witnesses of crime become afraid to come forward, report offenses, or cooperate with investigations simply because they fear immigration consequences. This makes our entire community less safe. HB1768 ensures that our police officers can focus on their primary mission: protecting and serving all residents of Hawai‘i, regardless of immigration status.

**The Bill Is Part of a Broader, Thoughtful Legislative Package**

HB1768 is one of several immigration-related measures advancing this session in response to the increasingly aggressive federal immigration enforcement tactics we have witnessed across the country. As House Judiciary Chair David Tarnas has noted, these bills were drafted in close collaboration with advocates, the Attorney General, and immigration attorneys to address serious concerns facing our communities.

The bill works in concert with other measures, including HB1870 (protecting sensitive locations like schools and hospitals from immigration enforcement), HB1839 (requiring notice of rights

before ICE interviews), and HB1886 (restricting police participation in federal task forces that could lead to deportation). Together, these bills create a comprehensive framework that protects constitutional rights while respecting the lawful authority of federal immigration officials armed with judicial warrants.

### **The Need for These Protections Has Never Been Clearer**

As Senator Karl Rhoads has observed, the difference between this year and last is the ramped-up federal crackdown on immigrants. The January 2025 rescission of the federal "sensitive locations" policy—which had previously limited ICE actions at schools, hospitals, and churches—has created urgent need for state-level protections. Events like the shooting of two U.S. citizens in Minnesota who were observing and protesting federal immigration actions have served as "a pretty crystallizing event" for lawmakers.

Advocates and community members have already documented a "chilling effect" on immigrant communities, with people afraid to attend court proceedings, check in with probation officers, or report crimes. This fear undermines public safety for everyone.

### **This Bill Is Legally Sound and Respects Federal Authority**

Importantly, HB1768 does not attempt to stop federal agents from executing valid judicial warrants. As advocates have made clear, "If Immigration and Customs Enforcement comes with a judicial warrant, there is nothing we can pass or do that can stop them from executing that warrant." What this bill does is ensure that state and local resources are not commandeered for civil immigration enforcement purposes that fall outside our officers' core mission and expertise.

The bill has undergone careful legal review to ensure it protects states' rights while not inappropriately limiting federal agents in carrying out their assigned responsibilities. This careful approach reflects the seriousness with which the House Judiciary Committee has approached this legislation.

### **Community Support Spans a Wide Range of Organizations**

HB1768 is supported by the ACLU of Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, The Legal Clinic, and numerous other advocates who have worked for years to advance immigrant protections. Governor Josh Green has also expressed support for fast-tracking a package of immigration-related bills, stating that "anything that states can do to make it clear that we're standing up against this kind of violence and that we're protecting people, is the right thing to do."

HB1768 is a measured, necessary response to federal immigration policies that have created fear and uncertainty in our communities. By prohibiting 287(g) agreements and limiting local participation in immigration enforcement, this bill protects public safety, preserves community trust, and ensures that our police can focus on their proper role. Hawai'i has never had these agreements, and we should not start now.

I urge this Committee to pass HB1768.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:32:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:40:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1768 which prohibits any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:10:14 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing today in strong support of HB 1768 HD1. Our state and local agencies must create barriers for federal fascism to face obstacles in Hawaii. Minimally what we can do is prevent our local agencies from helping so called federal agents with their tasks of brutal human trafficking. I am in strong support of this bill because it would limit local law enforcement's participation in civil immigration enforcement across the state. We have seen drafted MOUs with police departments that will just further erode trust between the public, and the government and the public and law enforcement. This bill will help keep our communities safe, please support it.

Mahalo, Mariana

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:20:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:13:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:10:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David S Cotner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.**

**This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.**

**Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.**

**Respectfully,**

**David S. Cotner**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:24:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you!

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:50:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Over the past year, I have been watching the erosion of due process across the US. I am very concerned that federal agents have arrested, detained and deported people under the scope of Trump’s immigration crackdown. They have done this with impunity, regardless of proof, legal status, including those who are citizens. I have seen the horrible conditions at detention camps. I have read about individuals who have been detained for nearly a year without being charged with anything at all. I have watched video after video of federal agents hurting, and even killing people. Including hurting and killing those who have done nothing except protecting their neighbors, and documenting immigration operations. What is even more concerning is how governmental officers, including the president, blatantly lie about the victims, contradicting the facts that we clearly see with our own eyes.

Because of all of this, many of us are living in a state of constant vigilance and fear. Some are afraid to leave their homes or go to the doctors to receive needed care. With the potential of unidentified, and masked agents who may appear at any moment and do whatever they want without any accountability, we must be able to count on local law enforcement more than ever before.

Because of all of this, HPD must not collaborate nor have any role in immigration operations or share any information about us with those Federal agencies. This Bill is one way to ensure this issue.

I live in Kahalu‘u, and my 97-year-old mom is at a foster care home on School Street in Kalihi. In both neighborhoods, there is drugs, gangs, and domestic violence. In Kahalu‘u, we also have illegal cock and even dog fighting, which comes with gambling and more drugs. Our safety requires that all our neighbors are willing to call on local law enforcement as we need to. We need a hard line drawn so that our neighbors are not afraid. None of us should think that by calling, we might make ourselves, our extended family, or our circle of friends vulnerable to being targeted or racially profiled. If there is collaboration, the growing climate of fear will undoubtedly result in an environment where criminality reigns and an erosion of trust for local law enforcement.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:53:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1768.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:46:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee E McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Thank you,

AM

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:53:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:25:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No 287g agreements, please. They do not make us safer or protect our neighbors. Show aloha.

Mahao, Maile from Honolulu

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

## TESTIIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 1768, HD1 - RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Chang, Senator Hashimoto for my Maui district, Senator DeCoite of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1768, HD1**, Relating to Immigration, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances.

I am a Know Your Rights volunteer educator and constitutional protector. I have trained teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, as well as parents and senior citizens on their constitutional rights, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and ways to ensure these rights are protected. I have taught them to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work or community service for interactions with federal agents. I am also a constitutional observer, through which I engage in First Amendment-protected documentation of federal agent activity to ensure that people's Constitutional rights are not violated.

The images we have seen on the news and in social media of aggressive, untrained, unmasked, unbadged federal agents attacking citizens and noncitizens alike has eroded trust in law enforcement. Community members are concerned that our local police are collaborating with federal agencies on immigration enforcement. Statewide, there have been reports that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call the police for protection because of fear that it may result in the victim being detained by federal agents for immigration matters instead.

People are afraid to go to school and work due to fear of getting swept up in immigration enforcement raids that, in a reversal of long-standing policy, now focus on law-abiding members of our communities. Our friends and family members, the parents of children at our schools, spouses of our neighbors, and owners of small businesses we frequent and depend upon are being detained. I have witnessed families torn apart. The federal government's attacks on immigrants have expanded to detentions based on the color of people's skin, the work they do, and the way that they speak. We are all at risk when federal agents engage in racial profiling. Attacks on people engaged in constitutionally protected First Amendment recording of law enforcement or in peaceful protest have escalated to the use of chemical deterrents on children and families and the murder of two people.

**I strongly support HB 1768, HD1** because it ensures that our local enforcement agencies protect the communities they serve and do not engage in immigration activities beyond the scope of their authority. House Bill 1768, HD1 also preserves the historical separation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement responsibilities. As an attorney, I feel obligated to remind the members of the Committee that federal law does not require state or local entities to collect or share information with federal

agents conducting immigration enforcement or infringing upon people's First Amendment rights. Our law enforcement agencies have neither the personnel nor the funding to be deputized to undertake such federal functions. To do so would interfere with the primary responsibility of our law enforcement agencies, which is to maintain the trust and confidence of the residents that live here by clearly delineating their role as public safety officers. When state and local law enforcement agencies blur the lines by getting involved with federal agents in immigration matters, immigrants will not come forward as witnesses in criminal investigations, and women will feel that they cannot report domestic or sexual violence. Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents chills our relationship with local law enforcement agencies and the security of our communities is compromised as a result.

Federal agents take photos of people and use name-recognition software to identify them. They take photos of license plates to learn the identity of and track constitutional observers as well as noncitizens. This bill needs to ensure vital protection from federal agents collaborating with local law enforcement on the use of these surveillance techniques to identify people engaged in protected First Amendment activity. It would be one protective step that could help protect not just me, but my family members who live with me. I should not have to fear hostile and lawless federal agents tracking my activities and endangering my family and the community members I serve.

As a lawyer with an understanding of the Constitution and who has taken an oath to uphold it and the rule of law, it is alarming to witness federal agents attack people lawfully engaged in First Amendment-protected activities, such as documenting federal agents in public and protesting federal activity. Seeing video footage of the murders of people engaged in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity has impacted my mental health. As a woman and mother, I am afraid of being targeted by unmasked, unbadged government agents or imposters while engaged in volunteer work to document, record, or protest the activity of federal agents. I am afraid that federal agents, in collaboration with local law enforcement, will take my picture or track my license plate, find out who I am and where I live, and come to my house and harm not just myself but my loved ones. In a training I conducted recently, an audience member asked what constitutional observers like me can do to protect ourselves from being targeted by federal agents. I said that there really is not much we can do other than rely on our community, document the truth, and hope that the courts and the law will protect us as we peaceably engage in constitutionally-protected activity. Our fear is justified based on the unlawful and violent behavior we are witnessing from federal agents. That is why bills like HB 1768, HD1 are so important. **I request that you support HB 1768, HD1** and help protect the Constitution and rebuild trust in government.

Thank you for siding with your community on this issue, and in honor of Alex Pretti and Rene Goode.

Mahalo,

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

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:20:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). HB1768 would prohibit Hawai'i law enforcement agencies from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It also prohibits other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that Hawai'i law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become trapped between the wishes of their families, friends and neighbors and those of Federal immigration enforcement agencies. Those federal agencies will just have to carry out their assignments without Hawai'i law enforcement being involved under 287(g) agreements. Additionally, Hawai'i law enforcement is here to protect and serve all who live in Hawai'i. To that end, trust between the community and police is all-important and must not be destroyed by operating under 287(g) agreements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

David Cuthbert, Pahoa

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:37:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denize Machit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE. Our current federal government has made it clear. They don't care about due process. We, here in Hawai'i are different. We believe all people have rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Denize Machit

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:59:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ginger edmunds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

prohibit 287g agreements

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:42:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
March 18, 2026

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Aloha, Senators,

**I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1768 HD1, Relating to Immigration.**

We all need to be sure that Hawai'i law enforcement officers are not caught up in or complicit in any way with illegal activities of federal agents. Such actions have often been unconstitutional. This bill would forbid our law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering into any agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement.

We don't want 'ohana members to be torn from each other by immigration agents, especially those who are trying to meet quotas for deportation.

**Please vote yes on HB1768 HD1.**

Mahalo and Aloha,

Eileen Cain  
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:33:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for this bill. Over the past year, we have seen countless violations of both human rights and the laws of the United States. Social media, newspapers, and cable news alike have been full of images of parents being pulled out of cars with their children watching, US citizens deported, cancer treatment interrupted, and more. It is immoral, heartbreaking, and, in many cases, illegal. Our police force should have no part in such violence and should be prohibited from engaging in 287(g) agreements with federal immigration agents as detailed in this bill. Please vote in support and help us to prevent even more families from being torn apart by the wanton cruelty of federal immigration policy.

Mahalo,

Maya Maxym

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:36:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Hawaii was built on the backs of immigrants and no human being should ever be subjected to what this administration is doing to immigrants.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:48:00 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathalie Champion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support protecting our immigrant population from ice

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:44:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a very important bill. With all the civil rights violations, against American citizens and others, states must do all they can to rein in the feds as well as other bad actors. ICE is sent everywhere and we need to be prepared. Minneapolis is the flashpoint. It needs to stop and be impeded at every point.

I assume this bill will be amended. Please be advised that I support all bills which will stop, impede, rein in Trump's goons. We may not even survive the 26 elections let alone the next three years.

lynne matusow

Please vote yes and move the bill forward

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 11:43:42 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this proposal. This Legislative proposal is more idealistic and philosophical than it is practical. Local and Federal Agencies have, for decades, supported each other because of the lack of resources and manpower. They make due with what they have. Something that our Legislators have ever and will never understand.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:54:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this Bill. It is absolutely crucial that the state of Hawaii prohibit local law enforcement agencies or law enforcement officials from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

This is crucial for public safety. Allowing local law enforcement officials to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement actions ruins the trust that people in the community (regardless of their immigration status) have in local law enforcement. As all criminological research shows, such trust is the most important aspect of effective policing.

Not passing this Bill will have serious and negative effects on our communities for years to come.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:44:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, and PSM and EIG Committee Members,

As a local resident concerned with public safety, I write in **strong support of HB1768 HD1**, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, prohibits law enforcement from engaging in certain immigration-related actions except under limited circumstances, designates related records as public, and requires agencies that provide federal immigration authorities access to detained individuals to hold two public community forums per year.

As a state, we should have law enforcement measures that engender trust and accountability. Otherwise, our systems diminish, rather than bolster, public safety.

HB1768 HD1 codifies in state law what community trust requires in practice: that Hawai‘i’s law enforcement agencies are not and cannot become immigration enforcement agents. Hawai‘i is one of only 11 states without a 287(g) agreement with ICE. This bill ensures that status is locked in statute — not subject to change by a single agency decision — and adds critical due process protections by prohibiting detention or transfer to ICE without a judicial warrant.

When immigrant and mixed-status communities trust that local law enforcement is focused on Hawai‘i’s public safety priorities — not federal civil immigration enforcement — they report crime, cooperate as witnesses, and seek emergency help. The transparency provisions (public records designation and community accountability forums) ensure that even in cases where ICE access is permitted, residents are informed and have a voice. The Senate PSM/EIG committees can advance this community trust and state sovereignty measure toward final passage.

I urge the Committees to **PASS HB1768 HD1** to promote the safety of all communities in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham



Ramon Maui Quizon  
95-1074 Hoalia Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
[rmquizon82@gmail.com](mailto:rmquizon82@gmail.com)

March 20, 2026

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 1768, HD1 (2026) – Relating to Immigration

Aloha Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chairman, Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM) and Senator Chair Glenn Wakai, Chairman, Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, and distinguished Committee Members,

I am a Hawaii resident submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB 1768, HD1. This bill prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering voluntary agreements with federal immigration authorities (under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or similar laws), inquiring about an individual's citizenship or immigration status (except in narrow criminal investigations), providing information in response to federal notification requests, honoring detainers/hold requests, or otherwise assisting federal immigration enforcement except in limited cases.

While the bill claims to protect community trust and public safety, it directly undermines federal law enforcement authority, conflicts with binding Congressional statutes, Supreme Court precedent, and Executive Branch directives, and effectively promotes violations of federal immigration law.

Immigration enforcement is exclusively a federal responsibility under the Supremacy Clause. The U.S. Constitution (Article VI) and long-standing Supreme Court rulings establish that the federal government has "broad, undoubted power over the subject of immigration." In *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387 (2012), the Supreme Court struck down state attempts to regulate or interfere with federal immigration policy, emphasizing that Congress has created a comprehensive scheme that states cannot obstruct. HB 1768 does exactly that by barring Hawaii's own agencies from cooperating with federal authorities.

The bill directly violates 8 U.S.C. § 1373, a clear Congressional prohibition on restricting information-sharing. Federal law explicitly states:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, State, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, [federal immigration authorities] information regarding the citizenship or

immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.” (8 U.S.C. § 1373(a); see also § 1373(b) and parallel § 1644).

HB 1768’s core prohibitions (Sections -2 and -3) — banning inquiries into immigration status and restricting the provision of information to federal authorities “except as required by law” — are precisely the type of restrictions Congress forbade. This is not optional state policy; it is preempted by federal statute.

The bill frustrates Congressional intent to encourage state-federal cooperation. Congress expressly authorized voluntary partnerships through 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) (the 287(g) program and similar agreements). These provisions allow states to assist federal immigration enforcement when they choose to do so. HB 1768’s blanket prohibition on entering such agreements and on related actions directly undermines the cooperative framework Congress designed.

The bill conflicts with current Executive Branch orders and enforcement priorities. Recent Executive Orders (including E.O. 14159 and related Department of Homeland Security / Department of Justice guidance) direct federal agencies to enforce immigration laws vigorously and to take action against jurisdictions that interfere with federal enforcement, including non-compliance with 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 and 1644. Federal law enforcement (ICE, CBP, and DHS) relies on voluntary state and local cooperation for detainers, status verification, and information-sharing to remove individuals who pose threats to public safety. HB 1768 would actively hinder those federal operations.

The bill promotes the breaking of federal immigration law. By shielding individuals from routine federal immigration inquiries and cooperation unrelated to state criminal violations, the bill effectively creates a sanctuary policy that encourages and facilitates violations of federal immigration statutes. States have no authority to nullify or obstruct federal law in this manner. Doing so harms national security, public safety, and the rule of law that every resident of Hawaii — citizen and non-citizen alike — depends upon.

Hawaii’s law enforcement agencies should remain free to cooperate voluntarily with federal authorities as Congress and the Executive Branch have provided. HB 1768 is not only unnecessary but legally flawed and counterproductive.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 1768, HD1 and any similar measures. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify and for your service to the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ramon Maui Quizon*

Ramon Maui Quizon  
Resident, Mililani Mauka, HI

R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes  
Email: rkgomes@gmail.com  
Phone: 808-348-4074

March 20, 2026

To: Representative Jeanne Kapela, Representative Terez Amato, Representative Tina Grandinetti, Representative Andrew Hussey, Representative Adrian Tam, Representative Rachele F. Lamosao Iwamoto, Representative Mahina Poepoe, Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Representative Lisa Kitagawa Marten, Representative Micah Aiu Miyake, Representative Trish La Chica Olds, Representative Amy A. Perruso, Representative Sonny Ganaden Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs/Economic and International Affairs

Re: Strong Support for HB 1768 HD1 – Relating to Immigration

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees,

My name is R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes, and I am a private Hawai'i resident writing in strong support of HB 1768 HD1. This measure is an important step toward ensuring that all people in Hawai'i, regardless of immigration status, can live with dignity, seek services, and engage with government without fear of immigration enforcement.

HB 1768 HD1 advances three key goals that I strongly support: (1) reinforcing Hawai'i's commitment to equality and human rights for all residents; (2) promoting public safety by strengthening trust between immigrant communities and state and county agencies; and (3) clearly separating local law enforcement duties from federal civil immigration enforcement.

#### Reasons for Strong Support

First, HB 1768 HD1 affirms that all residents of Hawai'i are entitled to live in dignity and without fear, regardless of immigration status. By prohibiting state and county law enforcement from entering into 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or similar agreements, the bill prevents local agencies from acting as federal immigration officers. This maintains a clear boundary between local public safety functions and federal civil immigration enforcement.

Second, the bill directly supports public safety. When immigrant community members fear that contact with police, courts, or other agencies may expose them or their families to immigration enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek essential services. HB 1768 HD1 reduces those fears by limiting status inquiries, restricting nonpublic information-sharing, and requiring judicial oversight before transfers to federal immigration authorities.

Third, HB 1768 HD1 provides clear, statewide rules for law enforcement conduct in the immigration context. The bill defines “immigration enforcement,” “law enforcement agency,” and “law enforcement official,” and specifies actions that state and county agencies may not take, such as honoring civil immigration hold requests, disclosing release dates, or facilitating ICE interviews without consent or legal compulsion. This consistency will help agencies develop internal policies, train staff, and avoid confusion or inconsistent practices across counties.

#### Suggested Improvements to Strengthen HB 1768 HD1

1. Effective date (Section 4).

The bill currently takes effect on July 1, 3000, a standard placeholder date. As written, this would delay the benefits of the bill for generations. I respectfully urge the Committees to amend Section 4 to a realistic and timely effective date so that these protections can begin to operate in the near term—for example, July 1, 2026, or upon approval. Prompt implementation will better align the law with the Legislature’s expressed findings about the urgent need to safeguard the rights and safety of immigrant communities.

2. Clarifying the “except as required by law” language.

Section -3 of the new chapter appropriately limits law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities but includes several exceptions “as required by law.” Without clarification, this phrase could be interpreted broadly and used to justify more immigration cooperation than the Legislature intends. I respectfully recommend that the Committees either: (a) add cross-references to the specific federal or state legal provisions that necessitate cooperation; or (b) add a clarifying subsection stating that “required by law” means only obligations that are mandatory under federal or state statute, court rule, or binding court order, and does not include discretionary agreements or informal requests. This clarification would maintain necessary compliance with law while preventing loopholes.

3. Considering coverage of additional state and county entities.

The bill focuses on “law enforcement agencies” and “law enforcement officials,” which is appropriate given the risk that police and correctional agencies become entangled in immigration enforcement. To fully realize the Legislature’s findings about the need for trust across all state and county agencies, the Committees may wish to consider whether certain additional entities—such as agencies that administer courts, detention contracting, or other custodial functions—should also be explicitly covered or directed to adopt consistent policies. Even a simple statement of legislative intent encouraging other agencies to align their practices with this chapter would help close potential gaps.

4. Adding enforcement, transparency, and accountability mechanisms.

HB 1768 HD1 currently sets out substantive prohibitions but does not specify how compliance will be monitored or enforced. To strengthen the bill, I respectfully suggest considering additional provisions such as: (a) requiring each law enforcement agency to adopt and publicly post written policies implementing this chapter; (b) requiring periodic public reporting to the Legislature or an oversight body regarding any contacts or cooperation with federal immigration authorities; and (c) clarifying that violations may lead to internal discipline, contract consequences, or other appropriate remedies. These

measures would increase transparency, reinforce the statute's importance, and help ensure consistent implementation statewide.

5. Clarifying key terms such as "non-publicly available personal information" and "noncriminal matter."

Section -3 restricts the disclosure of non-publicly available personal information to federal immigration authorities in noncriminal matters, which is essential to protect privacy and prevent backdoor immigration enforcement. To avoid uneven application across different agencies and counties, the Committees could consider adding brief definitions or illustrative examples of these terms. For example, the bill could specify that "non-publicly available personal information" includes data such as home addresses, contact information, employment information, school enrollment, or family relationship details that are not otherwise accessible under public records laws. Similarly, "noncriminal matter" could be described as civil immigration status or documentation issues that are unrelated to an investigation of a state or county criminal offense. Clear definitions will better protect individuals while giving agencies practical guidance.

In closing, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1768 HD1 out of committee and continue to move it forward, while also considering these targeted amendments to strengthen the bill's clarity, effectiveness, and accountability. This legislation will help ensure that immigrant community members in Hawai'i can safely access courts, health care, education, and other essential services, which ultimately benefits the safety and well-being of all residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1768 HD1.

Sincerely,

R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 9:25:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim I Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Title 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. The detainment, cruel treatment, and deportation of non-citizens, many of whom are in the United States legally, by federal agents is in opposition to our state's cultural value of aloha and our country's constitution and laws. Hawai'i's law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority, passage of HB1768 is urgently needed to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an inhumane alliance with ICE.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Miller, Volcano, HI 96785

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:34:03 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1768.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii..

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:52:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you, Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:12:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support prohibit 287(g) agreements

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 6:03:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Hawai‘i is one of only 11 states without a 287(g) agreement — this bill keeps it that way in state law, permanently.
- Civil immigration detainers are not judicial warrants — detention without one violates due process.
- Public records + community forums let residents know when state resources facilitate immigration enforcement.
- PLEASE PASS THIS BILL

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:37:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:53:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1768 - prohibit 287(g) agreements

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:36:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB1768 HD1. Limiting collaboration between ICE and local law enforcement helps ensure that gross violence is not enacted against the people of Hawai'i. Local law enforcement should always be employed to serve and protect us, not work against us in favor of an organization infamous for causing community harm and suffering.  
me ka mana, Kau'i Young

**LATE**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:52:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1768. I believe it is important to codify this into state law to protect the independence of our local law enforcement officers, and to explicitly say that participation in immigration raids with federal law enforcement is not part of their job description. Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:52:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a member of Indivisible. Thank you for supporting this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:46:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Takamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. I prefer ICE **NOT** partnering with local law enforcement. Thank you

**LATE**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:18:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Belinda Pate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

**LATE**

**Testimony of In SUPPORT of HB1768 HD1**

Senate Joint Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)  
and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)

Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair | Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, EIG Chair | Senator Stanley Chang, EIG Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 23, 2026

Dear Chairs Fukunaga and Wakai, Vice Chairs Lee and Chang, and members of the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1768 HD1**, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, prohibits law enforcement from engaging in certain immigration-related actions except under limited circumstances, designates related records as public, and requires agencies that provide federal immigration authorities access to detained individuals to hold two public community forums per year.

HB1768 HD1 codifies in state law what community trust requires in practice: that Hawai'i's law enforcement agencies are not and cannot become immigration enforcement agents. Hawai'i is one of only 11 states without a 287(g) agreement with ICE. This bill ensures that status is locked in statute, not subject to change by a single agency decision, and adds critical due process protections by prohibiting detention or transfer to ICE without a judicial warrant.

When immigrant and mixed-status communities trust that local law enforcement is focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities, not federal civil immigration enforcement, they report crime, cooperate as witnesses, and seek emergency help. The transparency provisions (public records designation and community accountability forums) ensure that even in cases where ICE access is permitted, residents are informed and have a voice. The Senate PSM/EIG committees can advance this community trust and state sovereignty measure toward final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees **PASS HB1768 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**LATE**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:37:15 AM  
Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malialani Dullanty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e committee members,

My name is Malialani Dullanty, Kānaka Maoli and resident of Moku o Keawe. I am writing to urge the committee to support HB1768 HD1.

This will stop law enforcement agencies and/or official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement and/or certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances.

It will provide accountability and transparency to the public and help prevent further facist movements within our government, both federal and state.

Please support this bill.

Me ka mahalo,

Malialani Dullanty

**LATE**

**HB-1768-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:58:33 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/23/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

JJ Wassell