

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs
and on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

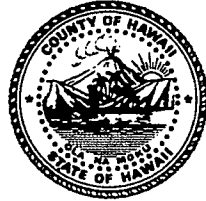
From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: March 23, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1839, H.D.2
Relating to Immigration

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would require local law enforcement to inform individuals of their rights before a custodial interview with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), host two annual community forums when ICE is given access to a detainee, and make all records related to ICE's access to a detainee in state or local custody public. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) previously requested amendments to the bill's records and community forum provisions, which were incorporated in H.D. 2. OIP has no further concerns with this measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Reed K. Mahuna
Police Chief

William V. Brilhante Jr.
Managing Director

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

March 18, 2026

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

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
And Members
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Fukunaga and Lee and Wakai and Chang and Members:

RE: HOUSE BILL 1839, HD2 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION
DATE: MARCH 23, 2026
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

The Hawai'i Police Department (HPD) respectfully opposes HB1839 HD2, Relating to Immigration. While we understand the measure's intent to promote transparency and due process for individuals in custody, the bill imposes substantial and unfunded mandates on county law enforcement agencies without providing resources or mechanisms to support implementation. In its amended form, the bill significantly increases administrative obligations by requiring law enforcement agencies to issue written multilingual consent forms before any civil immigration interview can take place, now including explanations of rights under the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. It also mandates that juveniles in custody be given a reasonable opportunity to contact a parent, guardian, or legal custodian prior to any such interview. These additions introduce further procedural complexity, increase the potential for technical errors, and require new staff training, legal review, and expanded translation capacity.

The bill now replaces references to ICE with the broader term "federal immigration authority," which widens the scope of agencies and interactions that HPD must log, track, and report on. This change expands the volume of required documentation and creates

ambiguity regarding which federal contacts trigger compliance. In addition, HB1839 HD2 clarifies that all records relating to federal immigration authority access are public records and not subject to standard public-records exemptions. This mandate alone generates significant administrative burden due to the need for intensive review, mandatory redaction of personal identifying information, and timely production of records. The bill further requires quarterly transmittal of de-identified records to the Attorney General and obligates agencies that provided federal immigration authorities access within the past year to host at least two public community forums that must be open to the public. Preparing for and conducting such forums will place additional strain on limited staff and require new infrastructure for data gathering, public engagement, security considerations, and compliance with open meeting requirements.

These expanded mandates are particularly concerning because the Department already operates under significant resource limitations and must prioritize core public-safety responsibilities. HPD's current policy expressly prohibits involvement in civil immigration enforcement, yet HB1839 HD2 indirectly compels the Department to participate in civil immigration processes through mandatory notifications, recordkeeping, reporting, and community presentations. This conflicts with established policy and diverts personnel away from essential law enforcement functions. The bill also increases the Department's exposure to liability by creating numerous technical requirements—such as constitutional advisement delivery, juvenile notification protocols, multilingual form administration, and precise handling of federal immigration authority communications—where any procedural misstep could result in legal challenges or corrective orders.

Given the substantial unfunded mandates, expanded administrative burdens, conflicts with departmental policy, and increased liability risks, the Hawai'i Police Department respectfully urges the Committee to reject HB1839 HD2. While we support due process and transparency, this measure imposes operational obligations that the Department is not resourced to meet and ultimately detracts from our mission to protect and serve Hawai'i's communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Na'u Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

REED K. MAHUNA
POLICE CHIEF

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:04:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 1839 HD 2.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:58:35 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as Lead of Kona Indivisible. This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartssock

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: HB1839 HD2 – Relating to Immigration

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) is a Center for Independent Living (CIL) that serves people with all types of disabilities across our islands. AILH submits this testimony in **strong support of HB1839 HD2**.

HB1839 HD2 recognizes that Hawaii is home to hundreds of thousands of immigrants, including undocumented community members, and affirms the State's commitment to equal protection and civil rights for all residents. For disabled immigrants and their families, these commitments are not abstract—they determine whether people feel safe seeking help, reporting abuse, or accessing services that support independent living.

This bill takes three important steps:

- It requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights before any civil immigration interview with federal authorities can begin, including the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, and the voluntary nature of the interview.
- It requires that this consent be documented on a written form, translated into the key languages supported by the Office of



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Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

Member

Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
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Language Access, with accommodations for other languages, and that people have reasonable access to a telephone to contact an attorney or, for youth, a parent or guardian.

- It makes records of federal immigration authorities' access to detained individuals public (with personal identifiers redacted) and requires agencies that provide such access to hold at least two community forums per year, so the public can receive information and offer input.

From an Independent Living perspective, HB1839 HD2 promotes informed choice, self-determination, and community trust—all core to disability rights. Disabled immigrants may have communication disabilities, use interpreters, or rely on supporters to understand complex legal information. Without clear, translated written notices and a real opportunity to consult with counsel, these individuals are at high risk of unknowingly waiving rights or agreeing to interviews that could lead to permanent family separation. Making consent forms available in languages common in Hawaii, while requiring “other accommodations” for languages not covered, is a critical step toward meaningful language access for our diverse communities.

National disability rights organizations have documented how entanglement between local law enforcement and immigrant enforcement creates fear and prevents immigrants from seeking help. Human Rights Watch has reported that immigrants are often “afraid to call 911” because interactions with local police can trigger immigration consequences, undermining public safety for the whole community. Disability advocates have also raised alarms about disabled immigrants being questioned or detained without appropriate language or disability-related communication accommodations, increasing the risk of coercion, misunderstanding, and harm. HB1839's requirement for written, language-accessible consent and public reporting help address these dangers by ensuring that immigration-related interviews in local custody are transparent, rights-based, and subject to community oversight.



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Jennifer Hartsock

The public records and community forum requirements are especially important for disability and Independent Living advocates. By designating records about federal immigration authorities' access to detained individuals as public (with identifying information redacted), HB1839 allows communities to see how often, and under what circumstances, immigration authorities are involved in local custody situations. The requirement for at least two community forums in any year when access has been provided creates a regular venue for people with disabilities, immigrant communities, and service organizations to raise concerns and recommend improvements in policy, training, and practice.

AILH respectfully urges the Committees to pass HB1839 HD2. This measure advances Hawaii's values of dignity, fairness, and equal protection, and it will help ensure that disabled immigrants and their families can make informed decisions, exercise their rights, and feel safer accessing the systems they need to live and thrive in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director



Committees: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental 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 H.B.
1839, HD2, Relating to Immigration**

Dear Chairs Fukunaga and Wakai, Vice Chairs Lee and Chang, and members of the
Committees:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, **I write in strong support of HB 1839, HD2**, which represents a vital step toward ensuring due process and transparency for individuals in state or county custody by mandating that they receive information about their rights, in a language they understand, before any civil immigration interview. It is critical that these interviews only proceed with clear, voluntary, and informed consent.

In Hawai'i's immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can often prevent individuals from seeking help¹ or understanding their rights. It is essential that no one is questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without being made aware that the interview is voluntary and that they have the right to request counsel.

HB 1839, HD2 guarantees that individuals in custody receive a notice of their rights—including their Fifth Amendment right to remain silent—before any civil immigration interview. This ensures that they are informed—clearly and in a language they understand—that participation in the interview is voluntary, and they have the option to decline or request an attorney. This notice is crucial because it empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their circumstances.

Furthermore, HB 1839, HD2 establishes a requirement for written, multilingual consent before any interview with federal law enforcement. This creates a clear standard that no civil immigration interview can take place without documented consent, provided in the person's language whenever possible. This documentation must clarify that the interview is voluntary, identify the agency requesting it, explain the purpose of the interview, and inform the individual that they may decline and/or have an attorney present. Ensuring that

¹ See Reva Dhingra et al., "Immigration Policies and Access to the Justice System: The Effect of Enforcement Escalations on Undocumented Immigrants and Their Communities," *Political Behavior* 44 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-020-09663-w>

consent is obtained in an accessible manner is vital for maintaining trust and promoting informed participation.

Transparency and accountability are also central to HB 1839 HD2. The bill mandates that facilities log requests and outcomes related to civil immigration interviews, making this information available for public oversight. This level of transparency is essential for building trust within the community; when individuals know that there is a system of checks and balances in place, they are more likely to seek help without fear of repercussions.

Moreover, HB 1839, HD2 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance, including model forms, policies, and training. This uniformity ensures that everyone in custody receives the same protections, regardless of where they are detained. Consistency in the application of these protections is crucial for fostering confidence in the system.

This approach is modeled on successful policies already in place in other states,² demonstrating that strong consent-and-notice rules can be effectively implemented with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures. By following these best practices, we can avoid confusion and enhance the rights of individuals in custody.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1839, HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Leilani Stacy
Immigrants' Rights Attorney
ACLU of Hawai'i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization founded in 1965 that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds.

² See e.g., California's TRUTH Act. AB 2792 (2016).



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

Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1839 H.D. 2, Relating to Immigration
Hearing: March 23, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 1839 H.D. 2.

H.B. 1839 H.D. 2 promotes government accountability by ensuring public access to the records needed to better understand the activity of federal law enforcement agencies in our community. Accountability in law enforcement is the backbone of public trust. It protects constitutional rights and improves officer safety and professionalism. And it helps communities understand whether law enforcement agencies are acting in accordance with community values and legal standards.

Additionally, the requirement to hold public forums fosters direct communication between agencies and the communities they serve, furthering the goals of a transparent and participatory government.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1839 H.D. 2.





TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1839, HD2 – 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 HB1839, HD2, which strengthens due process protections for individuals in state or county custody when federal immigration authorities seek access for civil immigration interviews or request custody transfers. TLC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing immigrant justice in Hawai'i through legal services, education, and advocacy. We also serve on the steering committee of the Campaign for Immigrant Justice alongside the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, and this measure is among the campaign's top priorities this legislative session.

HB1839, HD2 requires that before any civil immigration interview may occur for an individual in state or county custody, law enforcement agencies must obtain informed, voluntary, written consent from the individual. Individuals must be advised of their rights, in a language they understand, including the right to decline the immigration interview and to request the presence of an attorney. The bill's requirements for prior written consent and consent forms available in multiple languages help prevent coercion and uninformed participation, particularly for individuals facing language barriers or who are unfamiliar with the legal system.

Recent data highlights the need for these safeguards. According to government data provided by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the Deportation Data Project and analyzed by TLC, between October 2023 and October 2025, ICE placed detainees on approximately 132 individuals in custody in Hawai'i. Detainers are formal requests asking another law enforcement agency to hold individuals for up to 48 hours beyond their scheduled release date so ICE may conduct interviews or assume custody. Compliance with detainers is discretionary, and detainers have raised concerns about constitutional violations and potential liability exposure because they may result in unlawful detention without probable cause or judicial warrants.

During the October 2023 – October 2025 reporting period, 83 percent of ICE detainers in Hawai'i were issued for individuals in state or county facilities, including correctional jails and prisons, police departments, and sheriff holding cells. Notably, fewer than half of those individuals in state or county custody had criminal convictions; the remainder had pending or no criminal charges at all.

In this context, requiring state and county law enforcement agencies to provide clear notice of rights before any civil immigration interview is essential. It ensures that individuals in custody have a meaningful opportunity to consult with counsel and make an informed, voluntary decision – especially when they may be facing life-changing immigration consequences.

Lastly, HB1839, HD2 provides transparency and accountability. The bill requires agencies to log civil immigration interview requests, including whether consent was provided and in what language. It mandates that individuals receive copies of immigration hold or transfer requests and notice whether the law enforcement agency intends to comply. It also requires that records of ICE interactions be maintained as public records, subject to appropriate privacy protections. Agencies must provide data to the Department of the Attorney General, which in turn must report aggregated data to the Legislature. These provisions ensure that policymakers and the public have access to reliable information about the frequency and nature of ICE interactions with individuals in state or county custody.

HB1839, HD2 upholds fundamental due process protections for individuals in custody by requiring informed, voluntary consent, ensuring language access, and establishing meaningful transparency and oversight. We urge the Committees to advance this measure.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Legal Clinic
and 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
HB1839 HD2— Inmates, Immigration Rights, Due Process

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
HB1839HD2**

This bill requires law enforcement to notify inmates of their rights before any civil immigration interview, designates records of immigration enforcement concerning inmates as public records, and requires public disclosure of such enforcement activities.

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.

The first step toward due process is advising people of their rights, including the right not to answer questions. HB1839 HD2 provides for state officers to supply this crucial information to individuals in state custody. This has never been needed in the past, because we could rely on federal agents to follow the law and provide due process to immigrants. We can no longer assume that to be the case, and this Bill will not impose a significant burden on corrections officers. Transparency is also enhanced by making records of these contacts public.

For these reasons we urge you to **pass HB1839 HD2**.

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
Voicemail 808.377.6727 ♦ my.lwv.org/hawaii ♦ voters@lwvhi.org

**Testimony of Megahn Chun & Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2**

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 HB1839 HD2**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in their custody of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities regarding civil immigration violations can begin, designates all records relating to federal immigration authorities' access to detained individuals as public records, and requires agencies that have provided such access within the prior year 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.

You cannot waive a right you don't know you have. People in law enforcement custody — particularly those who may face civil immigration consequences — often do not realize they can refuse an interview with federal immigration agents, or that what they say may be used against them in removal proceedings. HB1839 HD2 ensures that before any civil immigration interview takes place, the person is clearly informed of their rights and must provide explicit consent. Without that notice and consent, the interview cannot proceed.

The public records and community accountability forum provisions address a broader transparency gap: when state resources are used to facilitate federal immigration access, communities have the right to know. These are not radical protections — they are the basic infrastructure of due process and democratic accountability. HB1839 HD2 passed the House with strong bipartisan support and the PSM/EIG committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committees **PASS HB1839 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.
Sincerely,

Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
Mercado de la Raza
808.593.2226



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

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)

In SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2 Relating to Immigration (TRUTH Act)

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: Monday, March 23, 2026

Aloha 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 Liza Ryan-Gill, testifying on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR). HCIR is a 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 strongly support HB1839 HD2, a bill to provide due process and transparency to ensure that people in state or county custody receive "Know Your Rights" information before any civil immigration interview, and that any interview proceeds only with clear, voluntary, informed consent.

The Core Purpose: Due Process Cannot Be Waived Without Notice

HB1839 HD2 strengthens civil rights protections for individuals in state or county law enforcement custody by establishing clear, enforceable due-process requirements before any civil immigration interview may take place. Individuals in custody are in an inherently vulnerable position. Without clear safeguards, people may not understand that they have the right to decline an interview, request an attorney, or avoid answering questions that could have serious immigration consequences. In practice, many individuals mistakenly believe that they are required to speak with immigration officers or that declining will negatively affect their criminal case or custody status.

You cannot waive a right you don't know you have. This bill ensures that individuals receive written notice — in multiple languages — explaining the purpose of any civil immigration interview, that participation is voluntary, and that they may decline to participate or request that



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

an attorney be present. These protections are essential to ensuring that any consent is truly informed and not the result of confusion, pressure, language barriers, or fear.

Proven Best Practices From Across the Country

HB1839 HD2 reflects best practices already adopted in other states and local jurisdictions. States and major cities including California, Illinois, New York, Connecticut, and Washington have implemented similar notice, consent, documentation, and transparency requirements governing local law enforcement interactions with federal immigration authorities. These policies are widely recognized as effective tools to protect due process, ensure informed decision-making, and maintain public trust — while still allowing federal authorities to carry out their own responsibilities independently.

Experience from these jurisdictions shows that requiring informed consent and public documentation does not interfere with legitimate law enforcement functions. Instead, it promotes clarity, reduces coercion, prevents misunderstandings, and strengthens confidence in the justice system.

Acknowledging and Addressing Law Enforcement Concerns

HCIR has carefully reviewed the concerns raised by Hawai‘i’s Chiefs of Police in prior testimony on this bill. We take those concerns seriously, and we believe they can be fully addressed through targeted amendments that preserve the bill’s due process protections while reducing administrative burden on departments. We offer the following recommendations for the Committee’s consideration:

1. In-Language Materials: Leverage the Office of Language Access

The Chiefs of Police raised legitimate concerns about the burden of producing multilingual "Know Your Rights" materials across Hawai‘i’s many languages. We recommend amending the bill to direct the **Office of Language Access (OLA)** to develop and distribute a standardized set of rights notification materials in the languages most commonly spoken in Hawai‘i. Individual law enforcement agencies would use or adapt these OLA-approved materials rather than produce their own. This approach relieves departments of translation costs and workload, ensures statewide quality and consistency, and leverages existing state infrastructure — without weakening the bill’s language access protections.

2. Reporting Requirements: Streamline to Reduce Administrative Burden

Law enforcement testimony indicated concern that data collection and reporting could be cumbersome, particularly for smaller county departments. We recommend that the bill be



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

amended to direct the Attorney General to develop a simple, standardized reporting form — ideally a brief checklist — that departments complete when ICE access is granted. Rather than per-incident narrative reports, departments would submit annual aggregate data (total requests received, number granted, number in which rights were provided) to the Attorney General, who would compile a statewide transparency report. Digital submission should be authorized to minimize processing time. These changes preserve transparency and accountability while minimizing per-incident workload for officers on the ground.

3. Public Community Forums: Clarify Purpose to Support — Not Burden — Police Departments

Some Chiefs of Police expressed concern that the semi-annual public forums would add immigration-related discussions to already full community meeting agendas. We believe this reflects an understandable but addressable misreading of the forums' intent. These forums are not meant to insert immigration enforcement questions into every community policing meeting. On the contrary — they are designed as **dedicated, standalone events** that give departments a structured, bounded venue to address immigration enforcement questions publicly, precisely so those questions do *not* bleed into every other departmental interaction with the community.

We recommend an amendment that: clarifies the forums are standalone events, separate from regular community policing or neighborhood board meetings; specifies a limited agenda focused on reporting ICE access data and receiving public comment; authorizes flexibility in format, including joint county agency forums and videoconference options; and provides that departments with no ICE access in the prior reporting period may submit a written public notice in lieu of convening a live forum. Framed this way, the forums become a management tool for law enforcement — a predictable, contained process for handling transparency obligations, rather than an open-ended additional burden.

Conclusion

HB1839 HD2 is about fairness, transparency, and respect for due process. People should not face life-altering immigration consequences without fully understanding their rights and without making a truly voluntary and informed choice. The operational concerns raised by law enforcement are real and deserve to be addressed — and we believe the amendments outlined above accomplish exactly that, without compromising the bill's fundamental commitments.

HB1839 HD2 passed the House with strong support, and the PSM/EIG Committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage. HCIR stands ready to work with the Committees, bill sponsors, and law enforcement stakeholders to refine amendment language as needed.



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committees to PASS HB1839 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With gratitude,

Liza Ryan-Gill

Executive Director

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:15:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Badia Muhammad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Detained individuals should be allowed to know their rights under the constitution.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:15:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee, my name is Jen Lum and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1839. This bill is a commonsense due process measure ensuring that individuals in state or county custody receive "Know Your Rights" information before any civil immigration interview. In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion often prevent people from understanding their basic protections. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they have the right to counsel. By establishing a bright-line rule for written, multilingual consent and requiring clear notice of which agency is requesting the interview, HB1839 ensures that any participation is truly informed and voluntary.

Furthermore, HB1839 promotes essential accountability through statewide model policies and transparency logging. By requiring facilities to document requests and outcomes for public oversight, we build community trust and ensure that constitutional protections remain consistent regardless of where a person is detained. While some may raise concerns regarding administrative staff time, these are easily addressed through standardized forms and clear workflows—concerns that do not outweigh the fundamental importance of due process. This approach is already a proven success in other jurisdictions, showing that Hawai‘i can follow best practices to protect the rights of all residents. I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, ‘Ewa Beach

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:59:23 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 HB1839**, which would require law enforcement to notify individuals in custody of their rights before any immigration-related interview, designate ICE access records as public, and require public forums from agencies that have provided access. This bill is about basic fairness, transparency, and ensuring that our local facilities operate with the trust of the communities they serve.

HB1839 ensures ICE interviews in custody are voluntary and informed. Individuals held in local facilities—particularly those with limited English proficiency or without access to counsel—may not understand their right to refuse an interview with immigration authorities. This bill guarantees that they are notified of their rights before any such interview begins, ensuring that participation is truly voluntary and not coerced.

The bill creates consistent safeguards statewide so practices are lawful, documented, and not coercive. Without clear, uniform rules, custody interventions can vary widely by jurisdiction or even by officer. HB1839 establishes a consistent standard across Hawai‘i, ensuring that every interaction is documented, lawful, and free from coercion.

It improves transparency and accountability through public records and required community forums. By designating records related to ICE access as public, this bill gives residents the ability to see what is happening in their own facilities. The requirement that agencies hold public forums—if they have provided ICE access in the past year—creates a direct opportunity for community oversight and dialogue. Transparency is not just a principle; it is a practice, and HB1839 embeds it into law.

Finally, the bill strengthens community trust so residents feel safer reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that a trip to the police station or a jail visit could lead to deportation, they withdraw from public life. They stop calling 911. They stop cooperating with investigations. That breakdown in trust harms everyone. HB1839 helps rebuild that trust by drawing a clear line between local facilities and federal immigration enforcement.

HB1839 is a straightforward, preventive measure that protects individual rights, ensures public oversight, and keeps our communities safer by keeping them connected to law enforcement.

I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:34:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:36:49 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1839 which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in the custody of a state or county law enforcement agency of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities pertaining to certain matters regarding civil immigration violations can commence.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:58:19 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am writing in strong support of this bill. We are seeing every day that civil rights that are law, are not being followed by so called federal agents. This bill would support the civil rights that should be respected and followed by every law enforcement agent. Many people do not understand their rights, and that is used against them by federal agents. Doing our part as the state/county to reduce the brutality of ICE and DHS is the morally correst thing to do. Please support this bill.

HB-1839-HD-2

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

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:46:40 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my testimony in support of HB1839.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:10:07 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this Bill

Mahalo

Larry Smith

Indivisible

HD 27

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:43:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Opposition to H.B. 1839, H.D. 2 – Relating to Immigration

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Hawaii House of Representatives,

I am a proud naturalized U.S. citizen and Kapolei resident. I honorably served our nation for 34 years in the United States military—14 years in the National Guard and 20 years on Active Duty. I followed every rule of the legal immigration process because I believe in the rule of law and earning American citizenship through sacrifice and integrity—not by breaking our borders.

As a retired veteran who defended this country for over three decades and respected every step of legal immigration, I submit my ****fierce and unequivocal opposition**** to House Bill 1839 HD2.

The legislature touts Hawaii’s “rich immigrant heritage” and civil rights record. I am part of that heritage—the ****legal**** part—earned through blood, sweat, and unwavering loyalty. This bill does not honor it. Instead, it erects deliberate barriers to federal ICE enforcement, turns state and county law enforcement into obstacles, piles on costly bureaucracy, and creates de facto sanctuary protections for those who illegally entered or overstayed. This deeply devalues my service, every legal immigrant’s sacrifice, and puts Hawaii families, service members, and communities at grave risk.

Immigration enforcement is a

"federal" responsibility. ICE exists to protect national security and public safety by removing criminal aliens already in local custody. In Hawaii, ICE operations have surged, successfully targeting the “worst of the worst”—individuals charged with kidnapping, assault, firearms offenses, drug trafficking, and theft—thanks to safe jail handoffs via detainers rather than dangerous street arrests.

HB 1839 HD2 directly sabotages that life-saving cooperation:

- It mandates multi-language “consent forms” with Fifth Amendment warnings and “voluntary” declarations ****before**** any civil immigration interview. This is not due process—it is deliberate obstruction. It forces local officers to act as immigration defense advisors, allowing criminal aliens to evade removal and return to our streets.

- It requires detailed logging, public records, quarterly reports, and **two public forums per year** for any cooperation. This politicizes policing, invites activist harassment and lawsuits, wastes taxpayer dollars, and creates a chilling effect that will end legitimate partnerships.

- It forces notification of immigration holds, giving detainees extra time to delay or disappear.

Federal law (8 U.S.C. § 1373) prohibits restricting communication with ICE. This bill circumvents it by making cooperation so burdensome and litigious that agencies will simply stop helping. The result: ICE forced to hunt dangerous individuals in our neighborhoods, endangering everyone.

As a 34-year veteran who swore an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, I am deeply outraged that Hawaii would extend extra “rights” and warnings to illegal immigrants while undermining the very system my service and taxes helped protect. True civil rights and due process exist to safeguard law-abiding citizens, veterans, and legal residents—not those who cut the line and threaten our safety.

I fully defend ICE operations. These dedicated federal officers enforce laws passed by Congress to secure our borders. In Hawaii’s strategic Pacific islands—with critical military bases, a vital tourism economy, and unique vulnerabilities—strong ICE enforcement is essential to deter trafficking, smuggling, and exploitation while preserving the aloha spirit for those who truly belong here legally.

Hawaii’s aloha must first protect those who honor our laws and defended our nation with their lives—not reward those who violate them. This bill does the opposite: it rewards lawbreakers, burdens our police, invites endless litigation, and disrespects every veteran and legal immigrant who earned their place the right way.

I urgently call on you to "vote NO" on HB 1839 HD2 in its entirety. Support full cooperation with ICE, uphold the rule of law, and affirm that Hawaii stands for **legal** immigration and the protection of its citizens and veterans.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony. I am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Medeiros

A Naturalized U.S. Citizen, Retired U.S. Military Veteran (34 years of service),

and Hawaii Resident

Kapolei, Hawaii

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:07:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Respectfully,

David S. Cotner

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:23:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you!

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:45:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support of HB1839 which would require state and local agencies to provide those in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals. Due process, the backbone of a democratic society, is eroding before our eyes.

Sadly, federal courts have found that ICE and CBP have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of those (including noncitizens) who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies. These are our basic rights, and it is shocking that we even need this bill to affirm them.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:52:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1839.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:44:41 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee E McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Thank you,

Aimee McCullough

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:49:44 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:18:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect our rights and due process. Show aloha.

Mahalo, Maile from Honolulu

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:43:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Supporting this bill ensures that every individual is clearly informed of their rights and guaranteed fair treatment under the law. Requiring timely notification of rights and strengthening due process protections promotes transparency, prevents misunderstandings, and reduces the risk of wrongful actions or decisions. It helps build trust in public institutions by ensuring that all people—regardless of background—have a meaningful opportunity to understand and exercise their legal rights. Ultimately, this bill reinforces the fundamental principle that justice must be fair, accessible, and accountable.

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

HEARING:

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 3:00 pm

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 1839, HD2 - 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. I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui, an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years, a volunteer Know Your Rights educator, and a founding coalition member of and volunteer constitutional observer with El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I write to you today in **strong support of HB 1839, HD2**, Relating to Immigration.

As a volunteer Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide, I have helped train teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, parents and senior citizens on what their constitutional rights are, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and how to ensure these rights are not violated. I begin each training with an overview of why knowing our rights is important:

- **AWARENESS:** Many people in our communities simply do not know their rights, so they also do not know when their rights are being violated. Federal agents can take advantage of our ignorance about our constitutional protections as a mechanism to deprive us of them.
- **EMPOWERMENT TO EXERCISE RIGHTS:** Know Your Rights education empowers people to be able to exercise their rights to protect themselves, their school, and their employees, students, and communities.
- **COLLECTIVE SAFETY:** The more people know their rights and how to exercise them, the more power they have when faced with immigration agents. Knowing your rights is the first step to collective safety.

I request your support of HB 1839, HD2, to ensure that people in the custody of state and county law enforcement agencies are notified of their rights before interviews with ICE regarding civil immigration matters. House Bill 1839, HD2 ensures that no one is questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without understanding their rights or giving clear, voluntary, informed consent. House Bill 1839, HD2 provides for an implementation that includes statewide standardized forms, multilingual access, and training to ensure consistency across jurisdictions. These procedures have proven workable in other states and support both equitable justice and effective governance.

House Bill 1839, HD2 strengthens public trust, ensures due process, and creates a transparent, uniform standard for engagement between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies. I respectfully **request you support HB 1839, HD2** and vote it out of committee.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:34:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denize Machit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Denize Machit

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:58:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginger edmunds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We citizens and immigrants are allowed constitutional rights, and due process as stated in our constitution.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:39:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1839 HD2, Relating to Immigration.

Arrests and Due Process: We in the islands reject fear tactics in our schools and on our farms, in clinics and places of worship.

This bill would make it necessary for law enforcement officers in Hawai'i to make detained immigrants aware of their legal rights, to guarantee due process.

Due Process is guaranteed under the Constitution for everyone. If anyone is denied due process, then everyone could lose their right to due process. We are all at risk. Everyone has a right to legal counsel and a chance to plead their case, just as Donald Trump himself had when he was charged with crimes. He always had due process. That is what everyone needs.

I am haole (caucasian) and have lived in Hawai'i for nearly 50 years; I embrace diversity and oppose the white-supremacist agenda that is playing out in the US.

Please vote yes on HB1839 HD2.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 2:37:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is a slap in the face to all who have come here legally. I urge you to vote NO on this bad bill.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:47:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As much as we must protect the rights of American citizens. we must also protect the rights of immigrants. Immigrants made this country. Most of us are descendants of immigrants. We must protect them. Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 2:56:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of this Bill. It should be a no-brainer that the state of Hawaii would require state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in the custody of a state or county law enforcement agency of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities pertaining to certain matters regarding civil immigration violations can commence. Why wouldn't we want local law enforcement officials to do so?

The most important responsibility of Hawaii state officials is to protect the rights of all of its residents, regardless of immigration status. This is crucial for maintaining the trust of the community - the most important aspect of effective law enforcement.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:41:28 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 citizen concerned with safety in our communities, I write in **strong support of HB1839 HD2**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in their custody of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities regarding civil immigration violations can begin, designates all records relating to federal immigration authorities’ access to detained individuals as public records, and requires agencies that have provided such access within the prior year 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.

You cannot waive a right you don’t know you have. People in law enforcement custody — particularly those who may face civil immigration consequences — often do not realize they can refuse an interview with federal immigration agents, or that what they say may be used against them in removal proceedings. HB1839 HD2 ensures that before any civil immigration interview takes place, the person is clearly informed of their rights and must provide explicit consent. Without that notice and consent, the interview cannot proceed.

The public records and community accountability forum provisions address a broader transparency gap: when state resources are used to facilitate federal immigration access, communities have the right to know. These are not radical protections — they are the basic infrastructure of due process and democratic accountability. HB1839 HD2 passed the House with strong bipartisan support and the PSM/EIG committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage.

I urge the committess to **PASS HB1839 HD2** for the safety of our local communities.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

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

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 1839, HD2 - 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,

Roots Reborn **strongly supports HB1839, HD2**, Relating to Immigration. This measure requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights before interviews with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding civil immigration matters; makes related ICE access records public; and requires agencies providing ICE access to detained individuals to hold two public forums annually.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and across Hawai'i. Formed after the August 2023 Maui wildfires, we have since grown into an organization providing pro bono immigration legal services, Know Your Rights education, and rapid response coordination for immigrant residents statewide.

In partnership with our coalition, we have:

- Trained 700+ community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Provided 50+ trainings for service providers, employers, and community leaders
- Responded to over 450 tipline calls related to federal enforcement activity
- Trained 60+ volunteer observers in verification, peaceful documentation and de-escalation

These direct experiences ground our testimony. We have seen how fear and confusion about immigration enforcement undermine recovery, safety, and trust — especially among wildfire survivors and victims of domestic violence.

HB1839, HD2 is a common-sense due process and transparency measure. It ensures that no one is questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without understanding their rights or giving clear, voluntary, informed consent. The bill affirms that constitutional protections apply to all people within the United States, regardless of status. We urge that implementation include statewide standardized forms, multilingual access, and training to ensure consistency across jurisdictions. These procedures have proven workable in other states and support both equitable justice and effective governance.

HB1839, HD2 strengthens public trust, ensures due process, and creates a transparent, uniform standard for engagement between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies. We respectfully urge your strong **support for HB1839, HD2**.

Sinceramente,

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

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

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

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair

The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

And Members of the Senate Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hawai‘i State Legislature

Re: Strong Support for HB1839 HD2 – Relating to Immigration

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Wakai ; Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing as a private, concerned citizen to express my strong support for HB1839 HD2, Relating to Immigration. This bill is an important step toward ensuring that all people in state and county law enforcement custody in Hawai‘i are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect for their constitutional rights, regardless of their immigration status.

HB1839 HD2 requires law enforcement agencies to provide individuals in custody with clear, written notice of their rights before any civil immigration interview with federal authorities may begin, including the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, and the right to decline or participate only with counsel present. The bill also mandates that consent forms be available in multiple languages, including those widely spoken in Hawai‘i’s immigrant communities, and requires agencies to give copies of the signed forms to the individual and their attorney or representative. These protections help ensure that consent to an interview is truly informed and voluntary, not the result of confusion, fear, or language barriers.

The bill strengthens transparency by treating all records related to federal immigration authorities’ access to detained individuals as public records, with personal identifying information appropriately redacted. It further requires law enforcement agencies to log each civil immigration interview request, notify individuals about immigration holds, notifications, and transfer requests, and provide timely written notice when they inform federal authorities of a

person's release date. Quarterly submissions of de-identified data to the Department of the Attorney General and annual reports to the Legislature, along with at least two public community forums each year where such access occurred, will help the public understand how civil immigration enforcement interacts with our local systems.

I also appreciate that HB1839 HD2 directs the Department of the Attorney General to develop standardized consent forms and model policies by December 31, 2026, and allows for investigation and corrective orders when agencies fail to comply. These features will promote consistent implementation statewide and provide meaningful accountability when people's rights are not respected.

At the same time, I respectfully offer a few recommendations to make the bill even stronger and more workable:

- First, the current effective date of July 1, 3000 would delay these protections far beyond any realistic timeframe. I urge you to amend Section 4 to a near-term effective date, such as July 1, 2026, with any necessary phased implementation to allow agencies to update their policies, forms, and data systems.
- Second, the bill's private right of action applies only to violations of the consent-form and language-access provisions in subsections (a) and (b). Expanding this remedy to cover other core procedural protections—such as timely notice of immigration holds and requests, logging requirements, and the obligation to share data—would help ensure full compliance, while the Legislature can still limit monetary exposure by focusing on injunctive and declaratory relief and reasonable attorney's fees.
- Third, smaller or rural law enforcement agencies may need support to carry out the reporting, logging, and public forum requirements. I encourage the Legislature to consider adding explicit language authorizing funding and technical assistance, including centralized templates and tools from the Department of the Attorney General, and to allow regional or joint community forums where appropriate while maintaining accessibility for affected communities.
- Finally, while I strongly support public access to records about federal immigration authorities' access to detained individuals, it may be helpful to refine the public-records language to balance transparency with genuine safety and operational concerns. Clarifying that any limited exemptions cannot be used to hide the scope of cooperation or the demographics of affected individuals would protect both civil rights and legitimate security needs.

With these improvements, HB1839 HD2 will provide critical protections for people in custody, promote trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement, and reflect Hawai'i's commitment to civil rights, fairness, and transparency. I respectfully urge you to pass HB1839 HD2, with the recommended amendments to strengthen its effectiveness and ensure timely implementation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support.

Sincerely,

R.Kana'iaupuni Gomes

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 9:01:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies. In doing so, this bill also helps to protect our democracy.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kim Miller, Volcano, HI 96785

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:10:31 AM

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

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

Comments:

As stated in the Bill, Hawai'i has a proud history of respecting immigrants and their rights. If passed, this Bill will follow that tradition, and is definitely needed during this dark time.

M. Elaine Lee

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:36:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1839.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:50:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:10:48 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support notification of rights, due process

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 5:49:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Dalton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Nadine Dalton

In SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2

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 Nadine, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1839 HD2**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in their custody of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities regarding civil immigration violations can begin, designates all records relating to federal immigration authorities' access to detained individuals as public records, and requires agencies that have provided such access within the prior year to hold two public community forums per year.

I am a resident of Oahu and a parent of school-age children, testifying as an individual. I believe residents and visitors, regardless of citizenship, documentation, or reason for existing in Hawaii, deserve the legal protection from the weaponization of the justice system. I've seen firsthand the power of human beings with ill intent and a badge, and the effects can be devastating. We need laws to protect us all from the bad apples, and so do the people who work so hard to keep us safe.

Law enforcement holds extraordinary power over ordinary people. That power should be taken seriously. The provisions in this bill help ensure the safety, integrity, and high standards we all deserve, especially the immigrant community, which is being unfairly targeted all across the nation, which I find horrific. Safety is paramount, and I do not want to see Hawaii suffer someday like Minnesota is right now. It may be a slim chance, but it's a chance nevertheless, and prevention and protection are key, yeah?

ICE is not what it used to be, and we need to protect people from the appaulingly corrupt situation that is a direct result of having a commander in chief who is a 39-count felon. Unskilled, untrained, ill-equipped randos have no business cosplaying as GI-Joe, but if they try it here, please protect ALL immigrants from people who choose to weaponize the system against them. Please.

You cannot waive a right you don't know you have. People in law enforcement custody — particularly those who may face civil immigration consequences — often do not realize they can refuse an interview with federal immigration agents, or that what they say may be used against them in removal proceedings. HB1839 HD2 ensures that before any civil immigration interview takes place, the person is clearly informed of their rights and must provide explicit consent. Without that notice and consent, the interview cannot proceed.

The public records and community accountability forum provisions address a broader transparency gap: when state resources are used to facilitate federal immigration access, communities have the right to know. These are not radical protections — they are the basic infrastructure of due process and democratic accountability. HB1839 HD2 passed the House with strong bipartisan support, and the PSM/EIG committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees PASS HB1839 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nadine

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 6:06:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. PLEASE MOVE IT FORWARD.

- A rights notice before any ICE interview ensures informed, voluntary consent.
- Civil immigration interviews can lead to deportation — people in custody deserve to know they can refuse and consult an attorney.
- Ensures democratic accountability for state agency cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:36:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

We see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:52:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1839 - notification of rights, due process

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:41:23 PM

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

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

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support HB1839 HD2. I support the requirement of law enforcement to notify someone in custody of their rights before speaking to ICE. Protecting our collective civil and human rights is critical during these unprecedented times.
me ka mana, Kau'i Young

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:49:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1839 because I believe all people are entitled to a robust defense and due process regardless of immigration status. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:50:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 2:47:58 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Takamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill! We need to make sure our neighbors are informed of their rights prior to any interviews with ICE agents.

LATE

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:16:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Belinda Pate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2



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 HB1839 HD2**, which requires that individuals in custody receive a clear rights notice and provide informed, written consent before any civil immigration interview with ICE, and strengthens transparency and accountability through documentation, public reporting, and community forums.

As an educator working closely with immigrant and multilingual students and families, I see firsthand how fear and confusion around immigration enforcement can undermine trust in public institutions. HB1839 SD2 takes important, measured steps to ensure that individuals in state or county custody clearly understand their rights before any civil immigration interview occurs. Requiring written notice, informed consent, language access, and reasonable opportunities to consult with counsel are basic due process protections that align with Hawai'i's constitutional values and do not interfere with federal immigration authority.

HB1839 HD2 is important because people in custody are in a vulnerable situation and may not understand their rights, especially if they have limited English proficiency or do not have legal counsel. This measure ensures that any ICE civil immigration interview is truly voluntary and informed, with clear documentation and safeguards against coercion or misunderstanding.

This bill also strengthens public trust by requiring transparency: agencies must document ICE access requests and outcomes, provide public information (with appropriate redactions), and hold community forums. These steps create accountability and help ensure local practices are consistent, lawful, and responsive to community concerns.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1839 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

LATE

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:25:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

LATE

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:56:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JJ Wassell

LATE

HB-1839-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:31:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malialani Dullanty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e committee,

My name is Malialani Dullanty, Kānaka 'Ōiwi and resident of Moku o Keawe. I am writing to urge the committee to support HB1839 HD2.

This bill increases accountability and transparency by requiring state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in the custody of a state or county law enforcement agency of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities pertaining to certain matters regarding civil immigration violations can commence. The designation of all records relating to federal immigration authorities access to detained individuals provided by a state or local law enforcement agency as public records aids in transparency. While requiring state and county law enforcement agencies that have provided federal immigration authorities access to a detained individual within the previous year to hold two public forums per year helps with accountability.

It also helps maintain the rights of the people. With this in mind, I urge the council to support this bill.

Me ka mahalo,

Malialani Dullanty