

**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, MD**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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March 16, 2026

**TO:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members

**FROM:** John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to  
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

**RE:** **HB 1961-HD1 -- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

**HEARING:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 @ 1:00 pm; Conference Room 225

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports HB1961-HD1, with comments.

This bill is intended to ensure that patients and health care providers can access health care services safely and without obstruction, intimidation, or harassment. The bill does this by prohibiting conduct that interferes with a person's ability to enter or leave a health care facility or that disrupts a facility's normal operations, and by establishing clear civil and criminal penalties to deter and address violations.

This bill would protect facilities providing abortion services from harassment, and would keep Hawai'i's health care facilities secure, orderly, and responsive for anyone who needs care.

Thank you for hearing HB1961-HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



# Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission



*Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community*

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

Email: [hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com)  
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

March 15, 2026

House's Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM

**RE: STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1961 HD 2**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1961 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature to

“improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.”

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission strongly supports House Bill 1961, which would prohibit interference with a person's access to or from a health care facility, protect the normal functioning of health care facilities, establish meaningful enforcement mechanisms, and authorize both private and state action when harm occurs.

Access to health care is a fundamental right. No individual should be harassed, obstructed, intimidated, or endangered when seeking medical care, nor should health care providers and staff be subjected to disruption or threats while delivering essential services. House Bill 1961 affirms this principle by ensuring that health care facilities remain safe, accessible, and operational for all who rely on them.

This bill is particularly important for [māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+](#) individuals, who already face disproportionate barriers to care, including stigma, discrimination, and fear of harassment. For transgender, nonbinary, māhū, QTPI+ and gender-diverse people, especially those seeking gender-affirming care, interference at health care facilities is not hypothetical; it is a documented and growing concern nationwide. Such interference can deter people from seeking medically necessary care, worsen health outcomes, and undermine trust in the health care system.

*Proudly established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 369, as enacted through Act 41, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022*

## HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Support of HB 1961

House Bill 1961 appropriately balances the protection of lawful expression with the need to safeguard public health and safety. It does not prohibit free speech or peaceful protest; rather, it draws a clear and necessary line against conduct that interferes with access to care, disrupts medical services, or causes harm to patients and providers. By classifying violations as a petty misdemeanor, creating a private right of action, and authorizing the Attorney General to seek injunctive or equitable relief, the bill provides a comprehensive and enforceable framework to prevent harm before it escalates.

The Commission strongly believes that Hawai'i must remain a place where everyone regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression can access health care with dignity, safety, and respect. House Bill 1961 sends a clear message that intimidation and obstruction have no place in our health care system.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission urges your strong support of House Bill 1961.

If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at [hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com).

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Sandy Harjo Livingston (he/him/they/them)

Chair

[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)

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### [Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Glossary](#)

The [Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#) has this webpage and that is dedicated to understanding and being able to use the correct terms when talking about the rainbow community from māhū to LGBTQIA+ to QTPI+ to MVPFAFF+ and beyond. The list found on this page is not an exhaustive list and will be updated as appropriate.



**March 18, 2026 at 1:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 225**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey

From: Hilton R. Raethel  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1961 HD 2, Relating to Health Care**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which creates a new state law that makes it illegal to interfere with access to health care facilities or disrupt their normal operations. We appreciate the intent, which is to ensure that patients, providers, and staff can enter, leave, and operate health care facilities without obstruction, intimidation, harassment, or threats.

Hospitals, clinics, and other care settings must be places where patients, families, and health care professionals can safely enter, deliver, and receive care without fear of obstruction, intimidation, or disruption. This measure helps reinforce that fundamental principle by establishing clear protections for safe and unobstructed access to health care facilities. We appreciate the legislature's continued commitment to protecting access to health care services across Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.



March 15, 2026

House's Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM

RE: **STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1961 HD 2**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1961 HD 2**.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i strongly supports House Bill 1961, which protects access to health care facilities, ensures the uninterrupted delivery of medical services, and establishes clear accountability when interference causes harm.

As an organization representing māhū, and LGBTQIA+ workers and our allies across Hawai'i, we approach this bill through the lens of worker safety, patient dignity, and the right of all people to access health care without fear or obstruction. Health care workers, many of whom are union members and frontline essential workers, deserve workplaces free from harassment, intimidation, and disruption. Patients deserve the same respect and security when seeking care.

Interference with health care facilities places workers and patients at risk. When entrances are blocked, services are disrupted, or staff are harassed, it is not an abstract political statement—it is a workplace safety issue and a public health concern. These actions can delay care, escalate conflict, and force workers into unsafe situations that should never be part of their job.

For māhū, and LGBTQIA+ workers and patients, the stakes are even higher. Māhū and LGBTQIA+ individuals already experience barriers to health care access and are overrepresented in frontline health care roles. When interference targets facilities that provide reproductive, sexual, or gender-affirming care, it compounds discrimination and creates a chilling effect that discourages both patients from seeking care and workers from remaining in these critical roles.

House Bill 1961 takes a reasonable and necessary approach. It preserves the right to lawful expression while clearly prohibiting conduct that interferes with access to care or disrupts the normal functioning of health care facilities. By establishing a private right of action and empowering the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief, the bill ensures that affected

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Re: HB 1961 HD 2

individuals, workers, and facilities have real tools to prevent harm and respond when violations occur.

A strong health care system depends on safe workplaces and unfettered access to care. Pride at Work – Hawai'i believes this bill is essential to protecting both.

For these reasons, Pride at Work – Hawai'i urges the Committee to pass House Bill 1961 HD 2.

Mahalo for your consideration and your commitment to the health and safety of Hawai'i's workers and communities.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)

# Hawaii Women's Coalition

March 17, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1961 HD2**, Relating to Health Care

**To:** Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**From:** Llasmin Chaine, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

**Re:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii Women's Coalition, a catalyst coalition for progressive, social, economic, and political change regarding critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important bill. The Women's Coalition **supports HB1961 HD2** as it **addresses the growing need to protect patients, providers, and staff from interference and disruption at health care facilities, barriers that disproportionately impact women seeking timely health care.**

By establishing clear prohibitions against obstructing access or disrupting operations at health care facilities, this **bill provides vital safeguards** for those who may already face social, economic, or logistical obstacles to receiving care. The measure **creates a comprehensive framework to deter harmful conduct and ensure accountability.** These measures align with best practices observed in other jurisdictions that have sought to protect patients' rights and promote public health.

HB1961 HD2 also recognizes the importance of empowering individuals and facilities to seek redress when harmed by interference and offers multiple avenues for enforcement. **Additional protections enabling individuals to access health care are needed and essential for wellbeing.** The bill's approach is balanced, focusing on preventing unlawful conduct without impinging on lawful protest or free expression.

The Coalition appreciates the Legislature's commitment to protecting access to health care and **urges passage of HB1961 HD2.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



**HA‘AHEO, ‘OHANA, KAULIKE, UI**  
Pride Family Justice Activate  
**WHERE PRIDE BECOMES POLITICAL POWER**

Website: [www.hokupac.org](http://www.hokupac.org) ♦ Email: [info@hokupac.org](mailto:info@hokupac.org)

March 15, 2026

Senate’s Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hawai‘i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1961 – Relating to RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey and fellow committee members,

This testimony on behalf of **HOKU PAC**, Hawai‘i’s LGBTQ+ political action committee dedicated to building queer political power and advancing policies that protect our communities. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1961 HD 2**.

HOKU PAC offers strong support for House Bill 1961, which protects individuals’ access to health care facilities, safeguards the uninterrupted delivery of medical services, and establishes clear legal remedies when interference causes harm.

At its core, House Bill 1961 is a civil rights and public safety measure. No person should be obstructed, harassed, or intimidated when seeking medical care, and no health care provider or facility should be prevented from carrying out its lawful purpose. Interference with access to health care undermines personal autonomy, erodes public trust, and places vulnerable individuals at heightened risk.

For the māhū and LGBTQIA+ community, the consequences of interference are especially severe. LGBTQIA+ people—particularly māhū, transgender, and gender non-conforming individuals—already face systemic barriers to care. Efforts to block access to health care facilities, disrupt services, or intimidate patients and providers compound these inequities and send a dangerous message about who is deemed worthy of care and protection.

House Bill 1961 strikes an appropriate and constitutional balance. It does not restrict peaceful assembly or free expression. Instead, it draws a clear line against conduct that interferes with access to health care or disrupts the functioning of medical facilities. By establishing violations as a petty misdemeanor, creating a private right of action, and authorizing the Attorney General to seek injunctive and equitable relief, the bill ensures accountability while prioritizing prevention and safety.

HOKU PAC believes Hawai‘i must remain a place where health care decisions are made between patients and providers—not dictated by harassment, obstruction, or fear. Protecting access to health care is essential to bodily autonomy, community well-being, and the values of dignity and equality that our state strives to uphold.

For these reasons, HOKU PAC respectfully urges your strong support for House Bill 1961 HD 2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

*Paid for by HOKU PAC – Not Authorized by any Candidate or Candidate Committee*



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026; 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1961, HOUSE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1961, House Draft 2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Prohibit persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility;
- (2) Make violations a petty misdemeanor;
- (3) Establish a private right of action; and
- (4) Authorize the Attorney General to bring an action for injunctive or other equitable relief.

This measure would take effect on July 1, 3000.

As employers, FQHCs have an obligation to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of their employees, contractors, volunteers, patients, and patients' friends and family who accompany or visit patients at FQHC facilities. To the extent that this measure serves as a deterrent to violence perpetrated against health care workers, HPCA wholeheartedly supports this effort.

Yet, it should also be noted that when violence is committed against a health care professional, especially when it occurs at a health care facility, a crime is committed not only against the individual, but against all of society. When persons go to a health care professional, it is when that person is most vulnerable -- he or she is sick, or injured, or stressed from concern over a loved one. These places have long been held as sanctuary. During war, hospitals were marked on their rooftops with red crosses so that they would not be bombed.

Violence committed against a health care professional or at a health care facility causes sick or injured persons to hesitate before seeking help, which might exacerbate their condition. It also dissuades persons from entering the field of health care. At a time when Hawaii is facing unprecedented shortages in physicians, nurses, specialists, and other health care professionals, especially in rural areas, incidents of violence against health care professionals or at health care facilities may likely cause youths to consider other fields for future employment.

**For this reason, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.

*American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam &  
American Samoa) Section*



TO: Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 18th, 2026

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG  
Dr. Tiffinie R. Mercado, MD, FACOG, Chair  
Dr. Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD, FACOG, Legislative Chair

**Re: HB1961 HD2 Relating to Healthcare: Health Care Facilities; Interference; Disruption; Petty Misdemeanor; Private Right of Action; Civil Remedies; Criminal Penalties; Attorney General**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai'i Section (ACOG Hawai'i), which represents physicians dedicated to providing safe, accessible, and evidence-based reproductive health care across our state, respectfully expresses our strong support for HB1961 HD2.

Abortion care is a routine and essential component of full-spectrum obstetric and gynecologic practice. It is grounded in the same evidence-based principles that guide prenatal care, miscarriage management, and treatment of pregnancy-related complications. Yet despite its medical legitimacy, abortion care remains uniquely stigmatized. For decades, patients seeking care have encountered protestors outside of health care facilities who use aggressive language, graphic signage, and targeted confrontation intended to shame or dissuade them. These encounters do not occur in a vacuum — they can heighten emotional distress, delay time-sensitive medical care, and create confusion through the dissemination of medically inaccurate or misleading information.

Importantly, the impact of these demonstrations is not limited to patients alone. Health care workers — physicians, nurses, medical assistants, social workers, and administrative staff — are also routinely subjected to intimidation, verbal harassment, filming without consent, and threats as they enter and exit their workplaces. This contributes to a climate of fear and burnout within a workforce already experiencing critical shortages. History has demonstrated that rhetoric and intimidation around reproductive health can escalate into violence. The 2009 assassination of Dr. George Tiller, an obstetrician-gynecologist who provided abortion care in Kansas, remains a sobering reminder that threats directed at clinicians are not theoretical concerns but real risks with devastating consequences. While Hawai'i has long been a place that values compassion and mutual respect, we cannot assume immunity from the broader national climate of hostility directed at reproductive health providers.

Legislation such as HB1961 HD2 is not about restricting speech or limiting peaceful expression. Rather, it is about establishing reasonable boundaries that protect the safety, privacy, and dignity of patients and the health care professionals who serve them. No individual seeking medical care — whether for prenatal services, miscarriage management, contraception, or abortion — should have to navigate harassment, misinformation, or intimidation at the doors of a health facility. Likewise, no clinician or staff member should fear for their personal safety simply for providing lawful, evidence-based medical care.

Health care decisions, particularly those involving pregnancy and bodily autonomy, are deeply personal and often time sensitive. They deserve to be made in consultation with qualified medical professionals in environments that

are calm, confidential, and free from coercion. We trust our patients to make the decisions that are right for their lives and families, and we have an ethical obligation to ensure that when they entrust us with their care, they can do so in settings that are safe, supportive, and respectful.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to advancing equitable, evidence-based health care for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Hawai'i Section (ACOG Hawai'i)



March 17, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1961 HD2**, Relating to Health Care

**To:** Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**From:** Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to advancing gender equity and ensuring that all individuals have safe and uninterrupted access to essential health care services. The Commission **supports HB1961 HD2 as it seeks to protect individuals' rights to access health care facilities without fear of obstruction, harassment, or disruption.**

Ensuring unobstructed access to health care facilities is fundamental to upholding reproductive rights, privacy, and bodily autonomy. HB1961 HD2's provisions prohibiting interference and disruption **directly address longstanding concerns regarding the safety and accessibility of health care**, including reproductive health services.

HB1961 HD2 also recognizes the importance of **empowering individuals and facilities to seek redress** when harmed by interference, and offers multiple avenues for enforcement, which are consistent with best practices for safeguarding patient and provider safety. **Additional protections enabling individuals to access health care are needed and essential for well-being.** The bill's approach is balanced, focusing on preventing unlawful conduct without impinging on lawful protest or free expression.

The Commission appreciates the Legislature's commitment to protecting access to health care and **urges passage of HB1961 HD2.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1 pm  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 225 and videoconference  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of HB 1961HD2

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1961 HD2, a bill that will prevent protesters and harassers from disrupting access to health facilities, including by physically obstructing entrances or exits or threatening to inflict injury on the patients, providers, administrators, or property.

Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services. Yet, incidents of vandalism, assault and battery, threats of harm or death threats, stalking, and harassment targeting abortion and gender affirming health centers, providers, and patients have continuously increased over the past several decades, including the targeted murder of individual abortion providers.

Medical care should be a personal decision determined by a patient and their provider, not dictated by violent actors and harassment. Yet at the Honolulu Planned Parenthood, protesters consistently block the entrance and exit of the health center – protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of vehicles to prevent access to the clinic.

Unfortunately, examples like this are all too common for abortion and gender affirming care providers nationwide, and Planned Parenthood understands firsthand how protester harassment can escalate into violence. Between 2023 and 2024 alone, the National Abortion Federation recorded 3,582 instances of harassments, 169 acts of vandalism, 621 instances of trespassing, 269 death threats, and 12 bomb threats at abortion health centers. Hawai'i needs a bill to allow the police to interfere and stop this type of violence from occurring here.

As more clinics have been forced to close across the country due to harmful state abortion bans post-Dobbs and gender affirming care bans, much of the violence and disruption is now targeted towards health centers in "protective states" like Hawai'i. Under the Trump Administration, political attacks on abortion and gender affirming care nationwide are only growing, which is spurring on even more violence. Anti-abortion and anti-trans activists and politicians are not stopping at banning abortion or gender affirming care at the state level - they are coming after Hawai'i patients and providers too.

Thankfully, this bill is more protective than federal standards and applies to all health facilities in Hawai'i, not just abortion and gender affirming care providers. In the last decade, we have seen protesters going after COVID and other vaccines, PrEP & PEP medications, substance abuse services, or any number hot-button health services. One straightforward way to protect providers and patients for all types of health care is by prohibiting interference with health care facilities, which allows law enforcement to ensure patients can access care without facing violence and allows providers to do their jobs without facing constant threats.

Lawmakers should continue to lead on sexual and reproductive health by taking steps here in Hawai'i to protect our patients and our providers. Hawai'i needs these civil and criminal penalties as a tool for enforcement, protecting access to critical health care services. PPAA urges you to vote yes on HB 1961 HD2 and pass this important bill out of committee.



## Protect Democracy Move Forward

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

[info@indivisiblehawaii.org](mailto:info@indivisiblehawaii.org)

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1961, HD2**

Dear Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Members of Indivisible Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1961, HD2.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Given the extreme and growing polarization of our times, we cannot assume this kind of behavior will remain limited to Planned Parenthood only. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services. We strongly support this bill.

Sincerely,  
Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team

*The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.*

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:51:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Mejia	Testifying for Hawai'i Christian Coalition	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Aloha Chair San Buenaventura,**

**Vice Chair McKelvey,**

**and members of the HHS Committee,**

**Hawai'i Christian Coalition is OPPOSED to HB1961 HD2. Freedom of Speech and the Right to Peaceably Assemble are both Hawai'i Constitutional Rights and U.S. Constitutional Rights. This bill is too broadly worded and does not protect our constitutional rights. Please Vote NO to HB1961HD2.**

**Sincerely,**

**Margaret Mejia, Vice President Hawai'i Christian Coalition**





To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2 Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committee,

The members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for hearing this measure. We strongly support HB1961 HD2 which would prohibit persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

Please pass this measure so the patients can get the health care they need and the providers can provide the health care their patients need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Younghee Overly  
AAUW of Hawai'i Public Policy Committee

*The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawai'i is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization with close to 4000 members and supporters across all four counties - Hawai'i, Honolulu, Kaua'i, and Maui. AAUW has state chapters in all 50 states and our mission is to advance gender equity through education and advocacy. Economic security for women is our goal.*

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:12:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Testifying for Leeward Republican Women's Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I most strongly oppose HB1961 HD2 as abusive government overreach.

The Bill states “This Act is not intended to affect any rights under federal or state law on peaceful expressive conduct, including labor demonstrations or exercising the right to strike” but omits the constitutional right of any citizen to assemble and protest grievances. This omission clearly discriminates against of a subset of Americans by establishing a two-tiered justice system.

Many citizens object to the intentional killing of a living in his or her mother’s womb. Planned Parenthood has admitted that a baby dies in an abortion. It may be legal in Hawaii but many state’s laws acknowledge the humanity of pre-born babies and ban abortions. The people of Hawaii have a “grievance” that this state legalized the intentional termination of pre-born babies lives.

HB1961 HD2 is unnecessary since there is already legislation in place to protect abortion clinic patients from any injury or intimidation. The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act has been in place since May 1994 which contains provisions to protect healthcare facilities and places of worship:

" (1) the use of physical force, threat of physical force, or physical obstruction to intentionally [injure](#), intimidate, interfere with or attempt to injure, intimidate or interfere with any person who is obtaining an [abortion](#)

(2) the use of physical force, threat of physical force, or physical obstruction to intentionally injure, intimidate, interfere with or attempt to injure, intimidate or interfere with any person who

is exercising or trying to exercise their [First Amendment](#) right of religious freedom at a [place of religious worship](#)

(3) the intentional damage or destruction of a reproductive health care facility or a place of worship”

Forty Days for Life reports that in the United States alone that its prayer volunteers near abortion facilities have saved 26,214 lives based on decisions made by parents who encountered volunteers assembled near abortion facilities praying and offering alternatives to abortion. If the desire is to offer women a “choice,” these prayer warriors should be commended for their efforts, not threatened with arrest, incarceration, and/or fines.

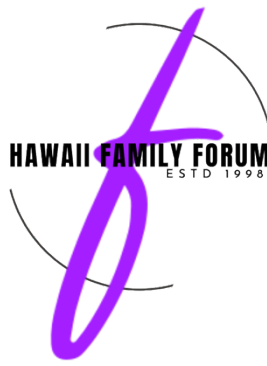
This bill is harassment of a small segment of our community who are exercising their rights. Even the FACE Act has been accused of being weaponized against pro-life advocates. In a Liberty Counsel article titled “Praying Grandmother Sentenced to Life” dated July 1, 2024 the following quotes appear:

“Sen. Lee said the Biden DOJ is using FACE to “harass peaceful pro-life activists while simultaneously stonewalling good faith efforts by members of Congress to conduct even elementary oversight of the law.”

“Free Americans should never live in fear of their government targeting them because of their beliefs,” Rep. Roy says.

“Biden learned the art of weaponizing the government against pro-lifers under Barack Obama. On August 18, 2020, the Obama DOJ, under Attorney General Eric Holder, sued our client, Susan Pine. The DOJ sought to hold this peaceful woman liable for up to 10,000 dollars. After two years of litigation, the federal judge dismissed the case, ruling there were no facts supporting a violation of FACE and ordered the DOJ to pay over 100,000 dollars!”

Do not pass HB1961 HD2.



Submitted Online: March 17, 2026

**TO:** Senate Committee on Health & Human Services  
Senator Joy San Buenaventura Chair  
Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**POSITION:** Opposition to HB 1961 HD2 Relating to Healthcare

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai'i. We respectfully oppose HB1961 HD2.

We agree that individuals seeking medical care should be able to access health care facilities safely and without obstruction or intimidation. Violence, threats, and blocking access to a facility are wrong and should never occur. Those actions are already prohibited under existing Hawai'i law.

HB1961 HD2 creates a new criminal offense that makes it unlawful to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly interfere with access to a health care facility or disrupt its normal functioning, with violations treated as a petty misdemeanor, subject to mandatory jail time and escalating penalties for repeat offenses.

Our concern is that the bill uses the word "reckless," which may be interpreted broadly and could unintentionally impact peaceful individuals engaging in lawful public expression. In Hawai'i, many people of faith feel called to pray, offer compassionate support, or share information with individuals facing difficult life decisions. These acts are typically quiet and peaceful expressions of deeply held beliefs—not attempts to intimidate or obstruct anyone.

The bill also allows different people connected to a situation to file lawsuits and recover attorney's fees. While intended to address harmful conduct, the possibility of costly legal action could unintentionally discourage peaceful citizens from expressing their beliefs in public spaces.

Public policy should carefully balance two important goals: protecting access to health care and protecting the freedoms of speech, religion, and peaceful assembly that are fundamental to our society. Laws that are overly broad may unintentionally discourage peaceful community engagement.

For these reasons, Hawaii Family Forum respectfully asks the Committee to defer HB1961 HD2 or significantly narrow its scope to ensure that peaceful and constitutionally protected expression is clearly protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:50:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abram Moreno	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I Oppose HB 1961 because it is Unconstitutional and Violates Our Right To Free Speech.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:42:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I fully appose HB1961 HD2.First and foremost it is unconstitutional and it is our right as We The People exercise the Freedom of Speech and the Right to assemble.It is useless and a waste of our time and tax payers money for it will be struck down by the Supreme Court because this is not a connunist country as the leftist want it to be.The real Supreme Court not the woke Hawaii one.I oppose HB1961,no communist bill should pass.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:31:27 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a registered nurse I strongly support this bill included in the Women’s Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients.

Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Thank you.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:56:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:21:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 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-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:05:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

I strongly support this bill. People should not be impeded or intimidated when accessing legal health care.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, working with Indivisible

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:15:45 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aliza Gebin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support HB 1961 (SB2845)

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:25:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering my written testimony. I am 60 years old, and I live in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island. I have a pivitol experience with abortion that happened when I was 19 years old, and lived in Honolulu. That was many years ago, it seems like time keep speeding up and it also feels like my abortion was yesterday.

I have an often repeated story of a young woman who became pregnant and did not want to have a child. for various important reasons. I knew abortion was the right choice for me at that time, due to the circumstances I wa in. I remember the kindness and support of the doctors offices, the clinics and finally at the hospital, where they performed my abortion. From beginning to end, I felt the professionalism of the staff doing their best complete my care.

If you are reading this and against abortion already, my story will be fuel for your fire to impede abortion access.

But if you feel that abortion is a right, then you you might appreciate that I was treated kindly, with respect, and had no additional or undue trauma inflicted by opposotionists. My experience could have been an ugly stain on my life forever. Instead, Hawaii held me.

Back then, there were and still are many groups who offered help with alternatives to abortion. I declined their help as I was knew my choice was right for me. After making that choice, clashing with agitators would not have change my mind- it would only have made this difficult time turn into an ugly nightmare.

The goups who oppose abortion, at that time, did not impede services.And yes, I am postive they were able to help as many women who wanted alternatives to abortion back then as they do today-without aggressive and imtimidating tactics to providers.

Please continue the Hawaii I know that allows women to access care and health providers to do their jobs without fear and anxiety.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:07:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for allowing me to express my voice on this bill.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Protect our Planned Parenthood against people who want to tell everyone else how to live their lives. No one is requiring these folks to use Planned Parenthood in any way, if they don't want too. Tell these folks to leave Planned Parenthood alone, or face the legal consequences.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:14:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Lowrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill to help ensure access to reproductive healthcare.  
Mahalo, Emma

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:15:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kathleen "kate" Dickson

Waikiki

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:26:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 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 testifying in **strong support** of HB1961, a critical measure to protect the fundamental right of every individual in Hawai‘i to access healthcare safely, freely, and without fear of intimidation or obstruction.

Healthcare facilities are sacred spaces of healing, privacy, and critical service. They must remain safe havens for patients, providers, and staff. This bill directly addresses dangerous disruptions by:

- **Safeguarding Access to Care:** By prohibiting interference with a person’s access to or from a health care facility, HB1961 protects the most vulnerable among us. Patients seeking time-sensitive, private, and often emotionally difficult care—including reproductive services, gender-affirming treatments, cancer therapy, or end-of-life care—should never have to run a gauntlet of harassment or obstruction. This bill ensures their safe passage is a matter of law.
- **Protecting Facility Function:** Disrupting the normal functioning of a healthcare facility is not a protest; it is an attack on public health and safety. It endangers patients by delaying emergency services, diverting critical staff resources, and creating an environment of chaos. Making such disruptions a petty misdemeanor provides law enforcement and prosecutors with a necessary and proportionate tool to uphold order and safety for all.
- **Creating Meaningful Recourse:** The establishment of a private right of action for harmed individuals and facilities, along with the authorization for the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief, creates a robust enforcement framework. It empowers those directly victimized by this conduct to seek justice and provides a powerful deterrent against organized efforts to shut down healthcare access.

In an era where healthcare providers and patients are increasingly targeted, Hawai‘i must take a clear stand. No one should be blocked, filmed, harassed, or intimidated when seeking lawful medical care. No nurse or doctor should fear for their safety while entering their workplace.

HB1961 strikes the appropriate balance, protecting constitutionally protected expression in public spaces while drawing a firm line at conduct that actively blocks, harasses, or disrupts healthcare delivery. It affirms that the right to access healthcare is paramount.

I urge you to pass HB1961. Protect our patients, protect our providers, and protect the sanctity of healthcare in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 12:27:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 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 HB1961 HD2...

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:26:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Buenaventura, Chair, Senator McKelvey, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

I am a retired physician, a resident of Kapolei, and a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. I am writing to testify in strong support of HB1961 HD2. When I practiced medicine my specialty was not gynecology and I have never performed an abortion. However, I did have to observe one many years ago as a third-year medical student. I strongly believe that ultimately it is the patient's decision about whether or not to have a procedure done. It is no one else's business, except that one would hope that, if appropriate and possible, a pregnant women would discuss whether or not to have an abortion with the embro's father. However, it is her body and it should still be her decision.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 4:00:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve.

Larry Smith

HD 27

808 286 2958

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:24:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**I strongly support HB 1961 (SB2845)**

Thank you!

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:29:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kiana Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:18:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am a full time Obstetrician–Gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i, and I write in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

As physicians who provide comprehensive reproductive health care—including contraception, miscarriage management, abortion care, prenatal care, and treatment of high-risk pregnancies—we see firsthand how essential it is for patients to have timely access to evidence-based medical services. Reproductive health care is a fundamental component of overall health care and well being.

Abortion care is a safe and medically appropriate part of comprehensive reproductive health services. It is also frequently indistinguishable from miscarriage management and other urgent pregnancy-related care.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the importance of protecting access to reproductive health services. HB1961 HD2 helps ensure that patients can continue to access safe, confidential, and medically appropriate reproductive care in our state. In a healthcare system already facing workforce shortages and geographic barriers—particularly for patients on neighbor islands—it is critical that we maintain policies that support providers in delivering care according to established medical standards.

Every patient deserves the ability to make personal medical decisions in consultation with their healthcare provider, free from unnecessary interference. Protecting access to abortion and other reproductive health services protects patient autonomy, supports maternal health, and promotes equitable healthcare outcomes across our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB1961 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jessica Johns, MD



**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:32:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Manglallan-Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an Obstetrician–Gynecologist practicing in Maui, Hawai‘i, and I write in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

As physicians who provide comprehensive reproductive health care—including contraception, miscarriage management, abortion care, prenatal care, and treatment of high-risk pregnancies—we see firsthand how essential it is for patients to have timely access to evidence-based medical services. Reproductive health care is a fundamental component of overall health care.

Abortion care is a safe and medically appropriate part of comprehensive reproductive health services. It is also frequently indistinguishable from miscarriage management and other urgent pregnancy-related care.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the importance of protecting access to reproductive health services. HB1961 HD2 helps ensure that patients can continue to access safe, confidential, and medically appropriate reproductive care in our state. In a healthcare system already facing workforce shortages and geographic barriers—particularly for patients on neighbor islands—it is critical that we maintain policies that support providers in delivering care according to established medical standards.

Every patient deserves the ability to make personal medical decisions in consultation with their healthcare provider, free from unnecessary interference. Protecting access to abortion and other reproductive health services protects patient autonomy, supports maternal health, and promotes equitable healthcare outcomes across our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB1961 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:58:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tanyalbaker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Representatives,

My name is Tanya Baker and I urge you to vote no on this bill. According to the constitution we as citizens have the right to free speech and the freedom to practice our religious beliefs. This includes prayer in the public square including in front of healthcare facilities such as planned parenthood. It is your responsibility as elected officials to protect our liberties not limit them because someone else may disagree.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:28:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Peacefully praying in front of Planned Parenthood is not a crime.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:48:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am an Obstetrician–Gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i, and I write in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

As physicians who provide comprehensive reproductive health care—including contraception, miscarriage management, abortion care, prenatal care, and treatment of high-risk pregnancies—we see firsthand how essential it is for patients to have timely access to evidence-based medical services. Reproductive health care is a fundamental component of overall health care.

Abortion care is a safe and medically appropriate part of comprehensive reproductive health services. It is also frequently indistinguishable from miscarriage management and other urgent pregnancy-related care.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the importance of protecting access to reproductive health services. HB1961 HD2 helps ensure that patients can continue to access safe, confidential, and medically appropriate reproductive care in our state. In a healthcare system already facing workforce shortages and geographic barriers—particularly for patients on neighbor islands—it is critical that we maintain policies that support providers in delivering care according to established medical standards.

Every patient deserves the ability to make personal medical decisions in consultation with their healthcare provider, free from unnecessary interference. Protecting access to abortion and other reproductive health services protects patient autonomy, supports maternal health, and promotes equitable healthcare outcomes across our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB1961HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Sara C Harris MD



**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:54:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony of Elaine Chan, MD

In SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2

Committee on Health and Human Services Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

I am an Obstetrician–Gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i, and I write in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

As physicians who provide comprehensive reproductive health care—including contraception, miscarriage management, abortion care, prenatal care, and treatment of high-risk pregnancies—we see firsthand how essential it is for patients to have timely access to evidence-based medical services. Reproductive health care is a fundamental component of overall health care.

Abortion care is a safe and medically appropriate part of comprehensive reproductive health services. It is also frequently indistinguishable from miscarriage management and other urgent pregnancy-related care.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the importance of protecting access to reproductive health services. HB1961 HD2 helps ensure that patients can continue to access safe, confidential, and medically appropriate reproductive care in our state. In a healthcare system already facing workforce shortages and geographic barriers—particularly for patients on neighbor islands—it is critical that we maintain policies that support providers in delivering care according to established medical standards.

Every patient deserves the ability to make personal medical decisions in consultation with their healthcare provider, free from unnecessary interference. Protecting access to abortion and other reproductive health services protects patient autonomy, supports maternal health, and promotes equitable healthcare outcomes across our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB1961 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Elaine Chan, MD

Queens Medical Center, member of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
echan99@hawaii.edu

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:30:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Manayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Olivia Manayan. I am a board-certified OB/GYN who provides abortion care across the state, including at Planned Parenthood Hawai'i. I write to you today in **strong support** of HB1961 HD2.

Despite being a key component of the practice of evidence-based, full-scope OB/GYN care, abortion care is often stigmatized. For many years, protestors against abortion have stood outside of clinics, often using aggressive language and signage to intimidate patients, in an attempt to dissuade them from seeking care. The presence of anti-choice protestors outside of clinics which provide this vital care does not only exacerbate the stigma that patients who seek abortion care face, but it also threatens patient safety. Aside from spewing verbally violent rhetoric, protestors provide information to patients that is objectively false and clinically misleading.

Ultimately, the decisions that a pregnant person makes regarding her health and her bodily autonomy are private and need not be privy to the scrutiny of others; no person should be harassed for seeking healthcare. We trust our patients to make decisions that are best for their life and their family, and we want to ensure that when our patients entrust us with their care, that they may do so in a setting where they feel safe, supported, and empowered.

In addition to the safety of our patients, the aggressive nature of anti-abortion protestors threatens the safety of abortion care providers. As you may be familiar, our country has a history of showing violence, sometimes towards fatal ends, to abortion providers. I would be lying if I said that every time I enter the Planned Parenthood clinic and am harassed by the antagonistic rhetoric of protestors, who are often filming on their phones, that I do not fear for the safety of myself, my family, and my patients. Only a few weeks ago, our staff called the police to remove protestors who were physically blocking the clinic entrance, refusing to let patients in to seek care. By removing these threats to safety, you can improve the safety of healthcare workers who work at clinics like ours, ensuring that patients are able to get the care they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am always available to answer questions for clarification.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Olivia Manayan, MD MPH  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Honolulu, HI

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:56:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Bilyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Senator San Buenaventura, Chair, Senator McKelvey Vic Chair and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Patricia Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN

RE: HB1961 HD2 Protecting access to Health Care Facilities. Wednesday 3-18-26 1pm

I strongly SUPPORT HB1961 HD2.

After driving by Hawaii Planned Parenthood earlier this month on a Saturday, I noted a huge group of people with signs, and pictures of dead fetuses obstructing the way for individuals to access the Clinic. It is beyond belief that in our society we allow this to happen to women seeking legal health care after making a gut and Heart wrenching, extremely emotional decision to terminate their pregnancy and to further suffer at the hands of these heartless individuals.

Please pass this measure for these women who seek care and wish to do it unobstructed at our Island Health Care Institutions around the State. Law enforcement agents need this additional law to help them.

Mahalo for your attention on this serious matter.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:22:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna-Marie Musico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961** and ask that you please vote **NO**.

Reasons:

- Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai'i law.
- As written, poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.
- Would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.
- Broad wording is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.
- Targeting abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated to against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:01:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:**

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961 and ask that you please vote NO. I am a former health care provider & understand the issues from both sides.**

**Reasons to vote no or significantly amend to protect & support both sides AND most importantly, the patients/families:**

- **Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai‘i law. Health care facilities already have policies & procedures to address this.**
- **As written, poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.**
- **Would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.**
- **Broad wording is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.**
- **Targets abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved by their efforts.**

Thank you for your considering & researching the voices of people who have survived various non-mandatory health care treatments & now are advocates for prevention, information, & resource support. [See this link](#) for information.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:10:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Yasuhara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pls Vote No on HB1961 HD2

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:25:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paige Harakuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am a third-year medical student currently studying and planning on practicing in Hawai‘i, and I write in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

Training with physicians who provide comprehensive reproductive health care—including contraception, miscarriage management, abortion care, prenatal care, and treatment of high-risk pregnancies—we see firsthand how essential it is for patients to have timely access to evidence-based medical services. Reproductive health care is a fundamental component of overall health care.

Abortion care is a safe and medically appropriate part of comprehensive reproductive health services. It is also frequently indistinguishable from miscarriage management and other urgent pregnancy-related care.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the importance of protecting access to reproductive health services. HB1961 HD2 helps ensure that patients can continue to access safe, confidential, and medically appropriate reproductive care in our state. In a healthcare system already facing workforce shortages and geographic barriers—particularly for patients on neighbor islands—it is critical that we maintain policies that support providers in delivering care according to established medical standards.

Every patient deserves the ability to make personal medical decisions in consultation with their healthcare provider, free from unnecessary interference. Protecting access to abortion and other reproductive health services protects patient autonomy, supports maternal health, and promotes equitable healthcare outcomes across our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB1961 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Paige Harakuni

## **HB1961 (SB2845) Prohibit Interference with Health Care Facilities**

I strongly support HB 1961 (SB2845)

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

I am a resident of Waialae-Kahala and a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:32:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Praying for the people is the most ethical and powerful think you can do for someone who is confused. It is not a criminal act and should not be treated that way!

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:17:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Collado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961** and ask that you please vote **NO**.

Reasons:

- Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai'i law.
- As written, poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.
- Would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.
- Broad wording is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.
- Targeting abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated to against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved.

Thank you for your considering & researching the voices of people who have survived various non-mandatory health care treatments & now are advocates for prevention, information, & resource support.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:38:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is absolutely no reason why someone who is voluntarily going to a medical facility should have to put up with abrasive and abusive behaviours from people who have no right to have any inf=put into the propriety of her deciusion or her behavior. It is her body and her bodily autonomy is a first amendment right.

Sincerely,

Bo Breda

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:38:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hannalore Aiwohi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961.

Patients and health care providers deserve to be safe when accessing and delivering medical care.

HB 1961 provides common-sense protections by preventing people from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities. These protections ensure safe access to care while still respecting free speech.

Importantly, this bill protects all health care facilities in Hawai‘i, not just Planned Parenthood. Everyone deserves to seek medical care without fear.

I urge the committee to pass HB 1961 to protect patients and providers across our state. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:41:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rita Takizawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961 and ask that you please vote NO. I feel this law will interfere with a persons right to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.

In addition, there are currently laws on the books and penalties for people blocking entrances and threatening people visiting health care facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:41:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**There is absolutly no reason why someone entering a medical facilty needs to be abused and threatened by individuals who have no right to control her bodily autonomy. What someone does with their body is a decision between that person and their doctor and there is no one who has the right to abuse, vilify or threaten someone for his or her decisions as to medical procedures.**

**Sincerely**

**Peter Wilson**

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:41:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madison Masek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect an individuals right to access healthcare! Others should not be able to interfere with a person's personal choice

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:49:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katelyn Steele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1961 will protect patients, families, and healthcare providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities.

At the Honolulu Planned Parenthood health center, protestors have blocked driveways, encroach vehicles, and verbally harass patients and staff. No one should face harassment while they are trying to receive medical care. This bill will protect ALL health care facilities – not just Planned Parenthood ones.

Thank you for your support of HB 1961.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Steele, MD

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:02:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai.

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1961 which would protect patients and providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities.

At the Honolulu Planned Parenthood health center, protesters have blocked driveways, leaned on vehicles, and shouted slurs at patients and staff. No one should face harassment while they are trying to receive medical care. This bill will protect ALL health care facilities – not just Planned Parenthood ones.

Do the right thing.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:15:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Coppings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

Trying to access health care should never be prohibited by those who think someone should not get the kind of care they need. Nor should healthcare workers, staff, or patients be subject to harassment or be impeded in their movements when trying to provide or access care. I support this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:16:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 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 a bill included in the Women’s Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility such as Planned Parenthood health centers, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:19:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariah Boughton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protecting patients and their friends and family from harassment when they receive important medical care is so important to me. In particular, I drive past the Planned Parenthood on Beretania street on my way to work every day and often see people protesting out front, trying to block, intimidate, or harass patients who are there to receive medical care.

Though I've never received services at this location, I remember wanting to have the morning after pill on hand in case I or a friend ever needed it, and being scared on my way in (at a different location in a different state) because of all the people outside trying to pressure me into a medical decision that wasn't even relevant to my circumstances. I imagined all the women who had come there before me or who would come after me, already dealing with heavy emotional decisions, and feeling judged by strangers outside a doctor's office. It broke my heart, and I want to do anything I can to protect those women here in Hawai'i.

Just like we should protect people from violence, harassment, or pressure when making other decisions about their family or healthcare or finances, we should protect people during each vulnerable time in their life when they seek medical care.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:27:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Holck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this or even you can be arrested for walking by a health clinic and someone thinks you're praying. Whose to say you aren't?

This makes no sense, right?

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:29:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret Murchie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Planned Parenthood is a great organization and does a lot for women's health. We need to support it

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:33:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mimi Beams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB 1961. Please give it your thoughtful consideration and protect our citizens.

thank you,

Mimi Beams

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:34:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe that all patients should be able to access the health care that they need and not be fearful or worried about their own safety. I feel that violence and intimidation have no place at health care facilities and strongly support this bill.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:51:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill since it will prevent protesters from harassing and stopping patients, medical staff and personnel from they're right to get and give medical care. Everyone should have the opportunity to determine self care for themselves and to be able to access any medical facility, be it as a patient or worker providing said care, without threats of any kind. The law allows peaceful protests but not abusive protests. Those types that threaten people are not peaceful protesters.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:57:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Grose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Blocking access to a women's choice is not pono! We should protect each other not harm or shame.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:11:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shanda Brack, and I am testifying in strong support of HB1961 as both a nurse practitioner and as someone who has personally relied on Hawai'i's health care system as a patient.

I know what it feels like to be in a vulnerable position seeking medical care, and I know how important it is to be able to walk into a clinic or hospital focused on your health — not on whether you will be confronted, delayed, or made to feel unsafe. That sense of safety is not abstract; it directly affects whether people seek care at all. People outside a clinic have literally NO IDEA what health problems someone might have walking in the door. I picture accompanying mpregnant niece to an appointment because she has noticed pain or bleeding. She's frightened for her baby. If she encounters a crowd blocking the door, scolding or yelling at her, or attempting to prevent her from entering the clinic, this will lead to more stress on her and the baby. She may choose to delay care and come back another time. Could that be a reason she loses her baby?

As a nurse practitioner, I have seen how even small disruptions can have serious consequences for patients and health care teams. I can think of a patient who told me she used to be afraid to come into the clinic because she was worried about who would see her come in and feared being judged. She has a complicated list of medical conditions and there is a very real possibility that delay of care could lead to hospitalization or death for her.

HB1961 provides important protections by prohibiting interference with health care facilities and by creating meaningful enforcement mechanisms. These protections are essential to ensuring continuity of care, protecting health care workers, and safeguarding patients' rights to access medically necessary services without obstruction.

Healthcare workers are more likely to be victims of violence at work because we care for people who are sick, hurt and afraid. This bill will send a message that it's not ok to threaten, harass or intimidate people who are just taking care of our most vulnerable.

This bill strikes an appropriate balance by protecting access to care while respecting lawful activities, and it sends a clear message that patient safety and uninterrupted health care delivery are priorities for our state.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support HB1961.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to protecting access to health care in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Shanda Brack, APRN

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1:00 pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1961, HD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I live in Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today **in support of HB 1961, HD2**, relating to health care, which prohibits persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility, makes violations a petty misdemeanor, establishes a private right of action for individuals and health care facilities harmed as a result of interference with a health care facility, and authorizes the Attorney General to bring an action for injunctive or other equitable relief.

I have a friend who went through the heartbreak of a late-term abortion. This was not a decision she or her husband made lightly. It was done in consultation with her doctor, and after hurried personal research and getting second opinions. Everything they learned was that their loved and anticipated child had congenital defects that would cause him untreatable and intractable pain and suffering if he made it to term, while possibly endangering his mother's life if he did not. She and her husband made the difficult choice to terminate a much-wanted pregnancy because they felt that was the best and only option to avoid pain and suffering for their unborn child. It was a choice that came from love and caring, held in compassion and heartbreak.

The suffering of my friend and her husband during this extremely difficult time while faced with a heartbreaking choice, was only made more difficult by having to navigate protesters at the healthcare facility where they had the procedure done. They were already suffering, but had done their research, and in consultation with doctors, made their decision. Protesters trying to interfere with their access to healthcare were not going to change their mind. The protesters just made a difficult time even more challenging.

In Hawaii, people's personal medical choices and access to health care is interrupted regularly by protesters who harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support HB 1961, HD1 included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package, because it will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

**I strongly support HB 1961, HD2** as a needed source of protection for people like my friend. I request that you support women's access to healthcare by voting in support of HB 1961, HD2.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews

Wailuku, Maui

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:25:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keana Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1961 would protect patients and providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities.

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Over the past several decades, and especially since the overturn of Roe, incidents of violence have continuously increased. This includes vandalism, assault and battery, threats of harm or death threats, stalking, harassment, and in the most extreme cases, murder of individual abortion providers.

Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

At the Honolulu Planned Parenthood health center, protestors regularly block the driveway, lean on patients' and staff members' cars, shout slurs, and stand in front of vehicles to prevent people from entering or leaving.

No one should face intimidation or obstruction just to get medical care. Hawai'i needs clear legal protections so law enforcement can step in when access to health care is blocked or patients are being harassed.

We are asking the state legislature to enhance protections for health care facilities — including patients and providers — from protestors by giving law enforcement the tools they need to intervene. Please protect us and make a real difference for patients and providers.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:55:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leanne Hachey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Violence and intimidation have no place at health care facilities (or anywhere really) and this bill would help to ensure that the people of Hawaii have access to health care without threats and intimidation. Please protect those people that are seeking medical care and should have the right to do so without harassment or harm. Thank you!

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:05:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chris Caoagdan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961** and ask that you please vote **NO**.

Reasons:

- Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai'i law.
- As written, this bill poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.
- This bill would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.
- The broad wording in this bill is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.
- Targeting abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated to against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved.

Mahalo for your considering & researching the voices of people who have survived various non-mandatory health care treatments & now are advocates for prevention, information, & resource support.

Sincerely,

Chris Caoagdan

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
HB1961 HD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Good Afternoon, Committee Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to House Bill 1961.

We already have multiple laws which permit fines or arrests the instances that this Bill describes; when one's attempt to exercise first amendment rights interferes with those of another.

Yet the text of the US Constitution is clear: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances"

Peaceful protests that make access to healthcare "inconvenient" or "uncomfortable" due to the mere presence of a protest that is taking place are protected under the first Amendment. We cannot legislate this inalienable right away.

There is too much dangerous "grey" under this proposed Bill. In ambiguity, a first offense will require AT LEAST 24 consecutive hours in jail. It also allows facilities, employees, property owners, or patients to file civil lawsuits and recover damages and attorney's fees — EVEN IF NO FINANCIAL DAMAGES ARE PROVEN. These will expose ordinary citizens to costly legal battles for conduct that falls gray.

Government must undoubtedly ensure that its citizens are protected from physical harm (or in this case, access to care); but government should not endeavor to try and protect us from being offended or uncomfortable by those whose opinions differ from our own.

Please do the right thing and vote "Nay" on this Bill. Thank you.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:12:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Claire Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose HB 1961 because:

- Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai'i law.
- As written, poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.
- Would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.
- Broad wording is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.
- Targeting abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated to against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:55:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961** and ask that you please vote **NO**.

Reasons:

- Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai'i law.
- As written, poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.
- Would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.
- Broad wording is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.
- Targeting abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated to against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved.

Thank you for your considering & researching the voices of people who have survived various non-mandatory health care treatments & now are advocates for prevention, information, & resource support. [See this link](#) for information.

[Click here](#) for real-life stories:

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:33:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose this bill.

please vote NO.

should this bill be implemented it poses a serious threat to our USA constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly aka 1st amendment right.

please vote NO

Mahalo, Lois Young

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:15:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Huynh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in strong support of HB 1961, HD2, which establishes clear protections against interference with health care facilities and their patients. This bill is a crucial measure to ensure equitable access to health care for all Hawai'i residents, regardless of what medical services they seek or provide.

At its heart, this legislation addresses a fundamental issue of fairness and equality: the right of every person to access health care without fear, intimidation, or harassment. The bill creates a necessary legal framework that protects patients, providers, and facilities from those who would obstruct access through physical barriers, disruptive communications, or threats of violence.

The equity implications of this bill are significant:

- 1. Protection for Vulnerable Populations:** This legislation provides essential protection for patients who may already be in vulnerable positions—whether they are seeking reproductive health care, gender-affirming treatment, end-of-life care, or any other medical services. By ensuring safe passage to and from health care facilities, the bill helps reduce healthcare disparities that arise when certain groups face targeted intimidation.
- 2. Equal Protection Under Law:** The bill establishes clear, consistent penalties for interfering with health care access, creating a more equitable legal framework where all patients and providers receive the same protection regardless of the type of care being provided. This standardization ensures that no particular medical service becomes de facto less accessible due to targeted interference.
- 3. Preservation of Healthcare Functionality:** By prohibiting disruptions to the normal functioning of health care facilities, the bill helps ensure that all communities receive consistent healthcare services. When facilities can operate without interference, they can better serve all patients equitably, including those in underserved communities who may have limited healthcare options.

I commend the thoughtful balance struck in this legislation, which specifically preserves rights to peaceful expressive conduct, including labor demonstrations and strikes, while targeting harmful interference with healthcare access. The graduated penalty structure—increasing fines and mandatory jail time for repeat offenses—appropriately addresses the seriousness of violations while allowing for proportional responses.

The inclusion of both criminal and civil remedies provides comprehensive protection, with the private right of action empowering individuals and facilities to seek relief directly. The provisions for privacy protection during legal proceedings are particularly important, as they prevent secondary victimization through public exposure.

For the sake of healthcare equity, for the principle of fair access, and for the safety of all Hawai'i residents seeking medical care, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1961, HD2.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:10:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is a complete violation of and assault on the 1st Amendment! Stop this tyrannical government overreach.I urge you to oppose this bill.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:15:45 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Thank you, Jane Aquino, Indivisible

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:29:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doreen Morimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairman, Vice Chairman and members,

Please vote No for this bill.

A current law is already protecting these health care facilities and therefore is not necessary to add additional penalties. Eg. Jail time

Thank you,

Doreen Morimoto

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:39:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I am an Obstetrician–Gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i, and I write in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

This bill helps ensure that patients, staff, and emergency repononders can safely and unobstructedly enter healthcare faciliites. It's about safety, dignity, and access.

This bill does not restrict speech or peaceful protest. It's about access and safety, not expression.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for HB1961 HD2.

Mahalo for the oppportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:15:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mandy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have great concern over HB1961 HD2.

Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai‘i law. Everyone agrees patients should be safe — No one supports threats, or harassment. Those actions are already illegal under Hawai‘i law through statutes covering assault, harassment, disorderly conduct, and trespass.

HB1961 HD2, adds new layers of criminal and civil liability, including for conduct deemed “reckless,” which raises concerns about how broadly it could be applied.

The bill still creates mandatory jail penalties. Under the current version, a person convicted of violating the law must serve at least 24 consecutive hours in jail for a first offense, with longer jail terms for repeat offenses. Mandatory jail time should be reserved for clearly defined criminal behavior. When the law includes broad language like “reckless” conduct, attaching mandatory incarceration raises concerns about unintended consequences.

\*Hawai‘i can protect safe access to health care facilities while also protecting constitutional freedoms. Any law in this area should be clear, narrowly tailored, and avoid duplicating existing criminal statutes.

\*HB1961 HD2 raises concerns because it expands criminal liability, creates new civil litigation exposure, and removes earlier limiting language that could have helped protect peaceful public expression.

I kindly request that you vote NO on HB1961 HD2.

Thank you,

Amanda: Kapolei

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:27:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Ziadie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote NO. This bill is an insult and affront to the constitutional rights of free assembly and freedom of speech.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:08:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have no idea why this bill relates to "health care".

I vote NO on bill HB1961.

This bill is vague in that it is written that proof of guilt is by "witnessing" the infractions of harrassment, blocking entry, etc. Unless, there is more tangible proof that an infraction occurred, the case could very well devolve into a finger pointing exercise. Or, who has the most witnesses. One of the best proofs will be video and we know that at most health care facilitites there are exerior, outside video cameras in place. And, then there is the video evidence captured by the witnesses during the event. Video evidence will protect the accused from those who see even the presence of a peaceble, non threatening person as an agressor.

This bill I suspect can be challenged on constitutional grounds. The First Amendment provides for that no law shall prohibit "...the freedom of speech...or the right of the people peaceably to assemble..." Unless the area or sidewalk in front of a health care facility or any facility for that matter is private propey, the burden of proof of harrassment, blocking entry, etc, will be on the accuser, not the person or persons being accused.

Mahalo,

Alfred Hagen

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:11:33 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB61. I prayed for all of you today. I prayed for all of us in this society today because of this bill. I prayed that those who have voted for this bill and who plan on voting for this bill change their mind in supporting this bill. I understand it is difficult for individuals who have no moral compass to align with those who do. Simply what drives a moral compass is the belief in Jesus Christ. Without him we are a godless society. Without him we can kill babies. Without him we can convince ourselves that virtue is based on feminism, social justice and civil rights when in fact virtue is knowing God exists. Tada your moral compass comes from Him. Your probably wondering why I would even need to mention His name. For this simple reason.... because if Hawaii's Legislative body believed in God this bill would have died straight out of the gate. Maybe never even been written. Instead you as lawmakers have found the way to support those who kill the most vulnerable people in our world. Everyday these people who you want to protect, wake up with the single sole intention and purpose of killing a baby. They make a conscious choice everyday to kill. Whether it is with knives, prongs, suction, hammer, perscriptions, pamphlets, conversations. Everyday they do this. Everyday two weeks or so they cash their paychecks knowing they participated in a murder of a helpless baby. Thise who support this bill are a reflection of this heinous industry as well as this broken society.

The only thing that should be killed today is this bill. Do not Here you are again support the "Planned Parenthoods" in our country. They are vile in what they do. Here is a thought...put it to a vote and you will learn that our culture, our people of Hawaii value life. Trying again to hide behind a business that makes a fortune off dead babies is beyond wrong. How sad that all of this effort is driven by money and not the want of your constituents who you fail to represent.

Nonetheless so you can wrap your head around what you might think is a valid talking point in this testimony, know that this bill is a violation of our Freedom of Speech. Freedom of Speech is protected and is our right as a citizen of the United States. If you act simply on that and not on your absence of morals and a Christian foundation you must vote NO/Oppose this bill. I oppose this bill HB1961.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:38:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

I oppose HB1961 HD2.

We already have laws in place that make it illegal to block access, threaten, or harass anyone at a health care facility. This bill is unnecessary and goes too far.

The language is broad and unclear, which opens the door to misuse and unnecessary lawsuits. It also takes away discretion from judges by requiring mandatory penalties, including jail time, even in situations that may not warrant it.

What concerns me most is that this bill could end up criminalizing peaceful activity—like standing, praying, or offering support—which are protected rights.

We should not be passing laws that expand government control when existing laws already address real safety concerns.

Please vote NO on HB1961 HD2.

Mahalo,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea  
Wai‘anae resident

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:11:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jessica dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. It is unconstitutional, violating the First Amendment rights of those who desire to save babies lives. The laws already in place protect patients and abortionists. I do suggest that if you want a new baby-killing law, that it be to ban abortions and to arrest and severely prosecute those that perpetrate violence against people who want babies to be born. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:13:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee:

I oppose HD1961, HD2 because there are already laws in place that prohibit harmful or threatening actions when entering a health care facility.

Most importantly, preventing any person from praying in front of an abortion facility in the hopes of saving an unborn child is unconstitutional:

- \* You are prohibiting free speech
- \* You are prohibiting the right of peaceful assembly

For the reasons I have noted above, I wholeheartedly oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:41:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

At the Honolulu Planned Parenthood health center, protesters have blocked driveways, leaned on vehicles, and shouted slurs at patients and staff.

No one should face harassment while they are trying to receive medical care. This bill will protect ALL health care facilities – not just Planned Parenthood ones.

March 17, 2026

Dear Representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I respectfully submit this personal testimony in opposition to “HB 1961 HD1 Relating to Health Care.”

While everyone agrees that violence, threats, and physical obstruction are wrong and already illegal under current Hawaii law, this bill goes further by creating additional criminal penalties.

As written, this measure adds new layers of criminal and civil liability, including for conduct deemed “reckless,” which raises concerns about how broadly it could be applied. The inclusion of “reckless” lowers the threshold for criminal liability and may create uncertainty for peaceful citizens engaged in public expression or advocacy.

As written, the measure allows any “aggrieved party” to file a civil lawsuit and does not require proof of actual damages to prevail. Courts may award damages and require the losing party to pay attorney’s fees. For ordinary citizens and volunteer ministries, the risk of costly litigation can be enough to discourage lawful activity even when no harm occurred. The broad definition of “aggrieved party” could significantly increase the number of potential lawsuits arising from a single incident.

Mandatory jail time should be reserved for clearly defined criminal behavior. Would it apply to acceptable behavior under US Constitutional law, where free speech and peaceful demonstrations, are not only lawful, but acceptable, as demonstrated by labor unions, for example? Peaceful and respectful demonstrations, to include prayer, must continue to be protected.

HB 1961 HD2 raises concerns because it expands criminal liability, creates new civil litigation exposure, and removes earlier limiting language that could have helped protect peaceful public expression. Please ensure any legislation in this area is clear, narrowly tailored, protects constitutional rights, and does not duplicate existing criminal laws.

Please vote NO to HB 1961 HD2.

Sincerely,

Agnes T. Tauyan

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:23:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairman and committee members,

I strongly speak in opposition to the bill so urge you to vote no.

The bill is in clear violation of the people of Hawaii federal constitutional rights to assemble and speak freely. The threat by legal language seems intended by the authors to intimidate citizens from exercising our precious rights to speak out against barbaric practices.

The bill sets a dangerous precedent that could be used in other areas of our daily lives to undermine our precious freedom. I urge the committee to be wary of such precedent.

People, such as this writer, should not be intimidated from speaking out while on the public street or sidewalk offering alternatives to taking the life of an unprotected, unborn infant. Many people entering an abortion clinic are unaware of other choices. They and their unborn should not be deprived of these life alternatives by this bill.

Moreover, existing laws already protect the facility from threats and any violence, making such a law, if it were to pass, be redundant.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:35:44 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paula Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairs and Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to HB 1961 and ask that you vote No. The bill is rather broadly written and the part that states, "Any aggrieved party may bring a civil suit against a person..." & "... shall not be required to allege or prove actual damages to prevail." is concerning and seems to violate the rights of the other party. I can see the potential for an "aggrieved party" to accuse an innocent person who just happened to be at the premises at that time, of doing harm without having to prove that any damage was done. Please vote No to HB 1961. Thank you.

<b>Testifier:</b>	<b>Position:</b>	<b>Testifying:</b>	<b>How:</b>
<b>Carl Nagasako</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Written Only</b>

## **HB 1961 Relating to Health Care**

I write in opposition to HB 1961 because its ambiguity in the term “reckless”. This will significantly broaden the definition of what constitutes disruptive behavior. What really is peaceful, non-violent, and non-interfering presence at such locations could be construed as “reckless and disruptive” behavior.

Patients should never be threatened or physically blocked from receiving medical care. However, the issue is the ambiguity of this bill that would essentially hinder the basic rights of freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. In other words, the bill should be specific in defining “reckless” behavior as non-peaceful, violent, and interfering behavior.

Otherwise it would be unconstitutional over citizen’s basic rights, creating a chilling effect on such gatherings.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:09:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arielle Adenew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

**I strongly oppose and have great concern with HB 1961 and ask that you please vote NO.**

Of course, I do not endorse - in any capacity - harming or threatening another individual. However, blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawaii law.

The verbiage in this proposed legislation is vague and especially concerning is this excerpt: *The aggrieved party shall not be required to allege or prove actual damages to prevail.*

Again, I am not at all a proponent of harrassing or bullying another individual or business. However, at the same time, sometimes what constitutes as "harrassment" can be subjective. The broad wording in this proposed legislation is far too open for interpretation.

For instance, to one individual, hearing the words "I'm praying for you," can be a great encouragement and might be received as a thoughtful gesture. To another individual, hearing the words "I'm praying for you," might trigger a negative response, even though that was not the intention.

Also, having mandatory jail time for a first offender in this subjective offense that "*the aggrieved party shall not be required to allege or prove actual damages to prevail,*" seems quite extreme and ridiculous.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:25:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 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 HB1961. I believe people should be able to access healthcare without harassment. Mahalo for taking my views into consideration.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:38:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Hashimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1961 HD2.

This bill is unnecessary, poorly written, and excessive.

Normally bills are created to solve a current problem; none was stated.

Terms must be better defined.

There is not an issue with access; medical care or otherwise.

No one supports threats, harassment, or blocking people from entering a medical facility. Those actions are already illegal under Hawai'i law through statutes covering assault, harassment, disorderly conduct, and trespass.

Would these penalties apply to aggressive panhandlers outside businesses or in local parks?  
Certainly potential customers are deterred from entering in this case.

Citizens peacefully praying outside facilities, offering free options and support for moms, babies, and families should not be penalized nor restricted in their freedom or speech.

Thank you,

Kathleen Hashimoto

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:38:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maydeen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO. This is unjust.

Mahalo

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:52:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vlad Sosa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1961 and ask that you please vote NO.**

Reasons:

- Blocking entrances and threatening people are already illegal under current Hawai'i law.
- As written, poses serious risks to core Constitutional rights, to free speech and peaceful assembly under the First Amendment.
- Would prevent the provision of support, information, & resources for the vulnerable & people in need.
- Broad wording is subject to interpretation and lawsuits.
- Targeting abortion facilities without considering other health care facility needs. Most groups who provide abortion support are mandated to against violence or threats. Across the world, more than 26,000 lives have been saved.

Thank you for your considering & researching the voices of people who have survived various non-mandatory health care treatments & now are advocates for prevention, information, & resource support. [Voices Abortion Survivors](#)

**LATE**

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:33:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Micaela, and I am writing in strong support of HB1961 HD2.

Every person in Hawai‘i deserves to access health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. This bill is a necessary step toward ensuring that patients and providers are protected from harassment, intimidation, and obstruction when seeking or delivering care.

As an employee of Planned Parenthood, I personally experience the consistent harassment, aggressive behavior, and harm caused by protestors outside of our clinic. On a regular basis, protestors engage in behavior that goes beyond peaceful demonstration, yelling at patients, approaching vehicles, and creating an environment that is deeply distressing for those seeking care.

I have seen firsthand the impact this has on patients who are simply trying to access health services. Many arrive already navigating complex or vulnerable situations, and the added intimidation can heighten fear, delay care, or deter individuals from seeking care altogether. This is unacceptable in a place where people should feel safe and supported.

I have also witnessed the effect this behavior has on the volunteers I oversee, who come to provide free community services. These individuals show up to support their community, yet are met with hostility and intimidation. No one should have to endure harassment in order to provide or receive care.

HB1961 HD2 provides clear, reasonable protections that allow law enforcement to respond effectively to interference with health care facilities. It does not restrict free speech. It ensures that expression does not escalate into harassment or obstruction that puts others at risk. There is a critical distinction between peaceful protest and behavior that threatens public safety and access to care.

Protecting access to health care is a matter of public safety, equity, and basic human dignity. I respectfully urge you to pass HB1961 HD2 and stand in support of safe, accessible health care for all in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Micaela Hines

**LATE**

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:46:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

OPPOSE HB1961 for several reasons: This Bill violates individual's Constitutional Rights of Freedom of Assembly, Speech & Religion.

This Bill proposes to impose criminal & civil penalties based solely on allegations, w/o evidence or proof, that a person's access to a healthcare facility was actually blocked, that a facility's operations was specifically disrupted, that a person entering/exiting a facility was actually harmed...The words intentionally, knowingly & recklessly must be more clearly defined, & this Bill must give specific actions that a person actually commits that would justify such excessively harsh criminal & civil penalties, not just mere allegations.

Vote NO to HB1961

Urge legislators to introduce a Right to Life Bill to protect the real victims of violence & harm-- innocent babies who are murdered everyday by surgical & chemical abortions!!!

Mahalo for opportunity to testify

**LATE**



**Chair Buenaventura  
Vice Chair McKelvey  
Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Wednesday, March 18th, 2026  
1:00 PM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1961 HD2  
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Public Health legislative committee is in **strong support** of **HB1961**.

For young people in Hawai‘i, stigma-free access to health care is critical to well-being. Many youth rely on health clinics for education and preventive care, and any intimidation or harassment at these facilities can discourage them from seeking support when they need it most. Youth can face additional barriers, like school and work scheduling and fear of being judged, which means that a single negative or unsafe experience can have a long-term effect on whether they seek necessary care in the future.

HB1961 addresses this by clearly prohibiting behavior that blocks entrances or exits or threatens patients or providers, while preserving the ability to engage in lawful demonstrations. These protections help ensure that health care facilities remain places where youth and their families

can focus on their health decisions instead of having to face hostile conditions at the door. This measure sends a clear message that obstructing or disrupting access to healthcare facilities is not acceptable, and that the State has a responsibility to protect people across all communities.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission is in strong support of HB1961 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission

[hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com)

**LATE**

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:38:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Ziadie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote NO! This bill is in violation of our First Amendment rights of free speech and peaceable assembly.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:52:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and HHS Members:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1961, HD 2, which prohibits persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility.

This measure represents a reasonable time, place, and manner restriction on expressive conduct to better ensure that women and others seeking needed medical care not be obstructed or otherwise harassed.

During this Lenten season of renewal, those select Christians who are seeking to force their ideological beliefs upon others should endeavor to reflect more deeply upon their own capacities to advance peace in a temporal world driven by greed, hatred, and ignorance. See, e.g., Mt 5:9; Lk 6:27; Jn 14:27.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1961-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:10:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Shorba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully testify in strong opposition to HB1961 HD2 as this measure violates our fundamental and Constitutional right to religious freedom and freedom of speech. Praying in public and being a visible witness to anyone who might be in need of support is an act of love and mercy. Prayer is what we need in times of stress and difficult circumstances.

Please defer this bill indefinitely and Vote No on HB1961 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.