



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500**

**MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS**

February 11, 2026

Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Honorable Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Safety

Hawai'i House of Representatives
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Bill 2264 (Relating to Protective Orders.)

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense and military families stationed in the State of Hawai'i, I would like to provide comments **in strong support** of the provisions reflected within House Bill (HB) 2264, which aims to protect victims of interpersonal violence by strengthening information-sharing and collaboration between military and civilian law enforcement.

Addressing this important policy in Hawai'i is of great significance to the Department and Military Services with nearly 58,000 active-duty, National Guard and reserve military members and over 21,000 spouses of military members stationed and living in the State. Our service members hold a crucial role in protecting the interests of the United States both at home and abroad and ensuring our overall national security. Through development of interpersonal violence policies at the state level that facilitate enhanced implementation at local levels, states can help empower victims, deter offenders, and create an environment for military families that ensures their well-being and enhances their resilience and readiness.

Interpersonal violence, which includes a continuum of harm from harassment to domestic abuse, directly impacts military readiness. When these harmful behaviors involve military personnel, they often cross between military and civilian jurisdictions. Interpersonal violence extends well beyond an individual victim, as the effects of violence directly impact all our service members, their families, the units to which they are assigned, and our greater national security. Without coordinated communication between civilian and military authorities, offenses can go unaddressed, leaving victims at risk and undermining

a commander's ability to ensure the welfare of their unit. HB 2264 provides two essential solutions to bridge this jurisdictional gap:

- **Enhances Information-Sharing:** The bill facilitates reciprocal information-sharing between appropriate civilian and military authorities to protect victims. While commanders are required¹ to notify civilian authorities of MPOs, no reciprocal requirement exists for local agencies to notify the military of incidents or protective orders involving service members. SB 3083 closes this critical communication gap, ensuring military commanders can take appropriate action to stop abuse, support victims, and maintain unit accountability and cohesion.
- **Strengthens Collaboration and Coordination Efforts:** This measure strengthens collaboration by mandating that Hawaii's judiciary, county police, and state law enforcement partner directly with military law enforcement and commands. This required collaboration focuses on jointly developing the official policies, procedures, and training necessary to implement the law, ensuring a unified and effective response to protect victims.

These provisions directly complement federal law² and the Department's own efforts³, including our Family Advocacy Program⁴, to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence. By strengthening the partnership between state and local agencies and military authorities, this legislation will improve the well-being of our service members and their families, thereby enhancing the readiness of our force and ensuring our national security.

We thank the Committee for considering this important legislation and are especially grateful for the tremendous efforts Hawaii continues to make in support of our service members and their families.

Sincerely,

Kelli May Douglas
Defense-State Liaison Office
Pacific Southwest Region

¹ U.S. Code Title 10 Section 1567a. *Mandatory notification of issuance of military protective order to civilian law enforcement*, <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title10-section1567a&num=0&edition=prelim>

² 32 CFR part 61, *Family Advocacy Program (FAP)*, March 2015, <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-32 subtitle-A/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-61>

³ DoD Instruction 6400.06 *DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel*, Dec 2021: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/640006p.pdf>

⁴ DoD Instruction 6400.01 *Family Advocacy Program (FAP)*, May 2019: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/640001p.pdf>

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 12, 2026, 11:47 am



LATE

The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

House Committee on Public Safety

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, February 13, 2026 at 10:00a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

By:

Dyan M. Medeiros
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Luna Kānāwai 'Ohana Nui
Family Court of the First Circuit
'Aha Ho'okolokolo 'Ohana o ke Ka'apuni 'Ekahi

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2264, Relating to Protective Orders.

Purpose: Requires notification to the security forces of each branch of the military when a protective order is issued in a case involving a military-affiliated individual.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary appreciates the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that this matter be **deferred** for the reasons set forth below.

While the stated purpose of this bill limits the notification requirement to Orders for Protection involving "military-affiliated" individuals, this bill, as currently written, would actually require the Judiciary to transmit notice of every Order for Protection to each of the security forces of the various branches of service in addition to the appropriate county police department, and the Department of Law Enforcement.

In pertinent part, HRS § 586-10 (a) of this bill specifically states, "Any order for protection granted pursuant to this chapter shall be transmitted by the clerk of the court within twenty-four hours to the ... security forces of each branch of the military." (Emphasis added.) On its face, therefore, the bill requires every Order for Protection to be transmitted to every branch of the military. Even if the bill is, in fact, intended to limit the transmittal of Orders for Protection to those cases involving a "military-affiliated individual," it will be impossible for the



House Bill No. 2264, Relating to Protective Orders

House Committee on Public Safety

Friday, February 13, 2026 at 10:00a.m.

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Judiciary to verify who is a “military-affiliated individual.” Since the Judiciary does not have access to the military’s personnel records, the courts would still have to send every Order for Protection to each and every branch of service to ensure that no individual who may be a “military-affiliated individual” is missed. Presently, pursuant to HRS § 586-10 the Court provides notice to the appropriate county police department. This bill would increase the agency notifications by 600%, leading to a significant increase in the workload for court staff, which may require additional positions and funding. The various military branches, on their end, would also be receiving a lot of paperwork that might not even apply to any of their servicemembers. The Judiciary also notes that the various military branches would not (and could not) actually be required to do anything with the Orders for Protection that they receive.

In 2025, Family Courts statewide granted approximately 1,529 Orders for Protection, of which approximately 832 were granted in the First Circuit which is currently the only circuit with a unit dedicated to receiving and processing Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO unit). Even with a dedicated TRO unit, the challenges presented by this bill would be enormous. For the neighbor islands, who do not have a dedicated TRO unit, the challenge would be even greater.

Historically, the courts have been able to work successfully in concert with our military stakeholders. For example, the First Circuit has utilized the attached form, in conjunction with a fax transmission, to notify the Hawai‘i Armed Services Police (“HASP”) liaison of an Order for Protection. (See attachment). This worked very well until (apparently) some point in or around 2024 when there was no longer an assigned HASP Liaison Officer. The First Circuit TRO Unit’s fax transmissions continued to go through successfully until approximately July 2025. The Court was, therefore, unaware that notifications were not reaching a HASP Officer, let alone that there was no assigned HASP Liaison Officer. Since learning of this, the First Circuit has been able to re-establish contact with a newly assigned HASP Liaison Officer.

In addition, each quarter the lead judge of the First Circuit’s TRO division convenes a focus group of stakeholders that work in the areas of domestic and intimate partner violence. This is an open group with attendees from various community organizations (i.e., the Hawai‘i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Domestic Violence Action Center, Parents and Children Together, etc.), court personnel, and law enforcement. This focus group has recently expanded to include representation from the central and rural patrol divisions of the Honolulu Police Department, in addition to the Records Division, who had been longtime regular attendees. Although an invitation was also extended to HASP, a representative was unable to attend the last meeting, held in January 2026.

It is the Judiciary’s belief that the intent of this bill can be accomplished within the TRO focus group, or a similar arena, without amending the existing statutes and potentially increasing governmental operating expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2264.



First Circuit Court – Adult Client Services Branch – THE JUDICIARY · STATE OF HAWAII

SUPERVISION II SECTION · KA'AHUMANU HALE · 777 PUNCHBOWL STREET, 2ND FL. · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5093
TELEPHONE (808) 538-5950 · FAX (808) 538-5905 · www.courts.state.hi.us

Temporary Restraining Order Unit:

4675 KAPOLEI PARKWAY, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707 · Telephone (808)954-8090 · Fax (808)954-8102

SAIFOLOI V. AGANON
PROBATION ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: _____

TO: HAWAII ARMED SERVICES POLICE (HASP) Central Receiving Desk
FAX: 808-723-3968

FROM: TRO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT FAX: 954-8102
First Circuit Court – State of Hawaii Judiciary
Court Officer: Phone: _____

CASE NAME: _____

1FDA Number: _____

According to the Petitioner, Respondent is a service member of the following:

- US Army / Reserve
- US Marine Corp / Reserve
- US Navy / Reserve
- US Air Force / Air Guard
- US Coast Guard / Auxilliary

COURT ORDER ATTACHED:

- Petition for an Order for Protection; TRO; Notice of Hearing
- Order for Protection
- Order Regarding Order for Protection
- Amended / Extended Order for Protection
- Order Regarding / Amending TRO
- Order Continuing Hearing and Amending TRO
- Order Dissolving TRO
- Other: _____

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIAĀINA



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MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

PHILLIP L. MALLORY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKUĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUĀ
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2264
RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
DIRECTOR
JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

February 11, 2026

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawai'i National Guard, State of Hawai'i, Department of Defense.

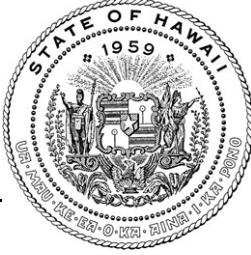
I am presenting this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB2264.

This legislation aims to enhance the enforcement of protective orders and improve victim safety. It requires coordination and information sharing among the Judiciary, county police departments, the Department of Law Enforcement, and military security forces in cases involving military-affiliated individuals. By promoting collaboration among these agencies, the legislation seeks to ensure timely sharing of information and stronger protection for victims.

This bill is designed to facilitate timely intervention in potentially dangerous situations, thereby decreasing the risk of repeated instances of violence. By ensuring that military security forces are immediately informed of protective orders, the legislation aims to enhance collaboration among various agencies and organizations involved in maintaining safety and security. Additionally, this measure emphasizes the importance of protecting the confidentiality of the individuals involved and safeguarding their rights through due process protections, ensuring that the enforcement of these measures does not infringe upon personal liberties. Ultimately, the legislation seeks to foster a safer community by proactively addressing and mitigating risks associated with domestic violence and other threats.

The Hawai'i National Guard, Department of Defense, supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Friday, February 13, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2264
RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

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

On behalf of the Military and Community Relations Office (MACRO) within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of this measure.

Hawai'i is home to one of the largest per-capita military populations in the nation. Active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, veterans, and their families are integral members of our communities. When domestic violence occurs within these households, victims often navigate both civilian and military systems that have not had an established arrangement for communicating with one another. This information gap places victims at increased risk and can delay critical intervention.

This bill addresses that gap in a balanced and practical manner by requiring timely information sharing between the Judiciary, county police departments, the Department of Law Enforcement, and military security forces when a protective order is issued.

Ensuring that military security forces are notified within twenty-four hours allows commands to take appropriate action, reinforce compliance, and provide additional oversight where necessary. Earlier awareness supports accountability, helps prevent escalation, and strengthens coordination among agencies responsible for safety and enforcement.

Furthermore, HB 2264 requires the Judiciary, county police departments, and the Department of Law Enforcement to work in consultation with military security forces to establish interagency policies and procedures, while safeguarding victim confidentiality, protecting due process, and ensuring compliance with applicable federal and state laws. By building these procedures collaboratively, this measure enhances both public safety and trust across systems that serve military and civilian populations alike.

HB 2264 would meaningfully improve coordination, strengthen protections, and support victims across systems rather than leaving them to navigate those systems alone.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Friday, February 13, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

HB2264
RELATING TO PROTECTIVE ORDERS.

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports HB2264.

Service members and their families are valued members of our communities who contribute economically, socially, and culturally. When domestic violence occurs within military households, victims often navigate both civilian and military systems which do not currently have a connected notification arrangement in place.

In requiring timely information notification between the local police, the Judiciary, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the military, individuals under protective orders have a greater chance for safety.

Notifying military security forces allows military commands to remain aware and ensure compliance. This system will deter escalation and reduce the risk of repeated violence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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Date & Time
Feb 13, 2026, 7:52 am



LATE

February 13, 2026

Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto
Rep. Mark J. Hashem
Rep. Linda Ichiyama
Rep. Dee Morikawa
Rep. Mahina Poepoe
Rep. Justin H. Woodson
Rep. Garner M. Shimizu
Rep. Kanani Souza

Re: HB2264 Relating to Protective Orders

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) mission is to unite Hawai'i to end all forms of domestic violence. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 20 member programs, I respectfully submit testimony in support of HB2264 and offer an amendment to address the Judiciary's concerns.

Given Hawaii's large military population, ensuring appropriate notification when a respondent is military-affiliated may enhance victim safety and support compliance with court orders. We appreciate the operational concerns raised by the Judiciary, particularly that the bill's current language appears to require transmission of all Orders for Protection to all military branches and that the Judiciary lacks independent access to military personnel records to verify military status. However, a solution already exists.

The Family Court Petition for an Order for Protection, used statewide, includes fields that allow petitioners to identify whether the respondent is a member of the armed services or otherwise military-affiliated. Rather than requiring universal transmission, the statute could be amended to require notification only when military affiliation is indicated on the petition. See the [First Circuit Petition](#) as an example.

This would:

- eliminate the need for the Judiciary to independently verify military status;
- address concerns regarding administrative burden and unnecessary notifications; and
- preserve the bill's core safety objective by ensuring notification when military involvement is relevant.

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

Sincerely,
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director

HB-2264

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:40:12 PM
Testimony for PBS on 2/13/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is important requiring notification to all military branches when a civil protective order is issued.