



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okolokolo, Moku'āina 'o Hawai'i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

By

Brandon M. Kimura
Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2369, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary.

Purpose: Beginning 1/1/2027, requires contracts for services awarded to community-based organizations by the Judiciary in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State to include certain protections against inflation. Appropriates funds to the Judiciary to increase the contract price in existing contracts for certain services provided by community-based organizations in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary provides the following comments.

The Judiciary acknowledges and supports the intent of this measure, which includes the provision of additional resources and inflationary protections for community-based organizations and service providers. These partners are essential to the delivery of justice, and we share the Legislature's commitment to their stability.



House Bill No. 2369, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary
House Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
Page 2

However, the Judiciary is unable to commit to funding contracts with ongoing “protections against inflation” or “adjust[ment] on an annual basis based on increases in the Consumer Price Index ...” without corresponding increases in legislative appropriations to the Judiciary. While the Judiciary appreciates the potential in Section 3 of this measure for an appropriation necessary to implement this measure for fiscal year 2026–2027, the Judiciary is concerned with the ongoing funding necessary to continue increases in future years without corresponding increased appropriations.

In light of the measure’s proposed additional appropriation to the Judiciary for this purpose for FY26-27, the Judiciary supports an increase in the maximum for contracts according to the level of additional legislative appropriations.

We respectfully request that any appropriation provided for this purpose not supplant the Judiciary’s existing funding or budget requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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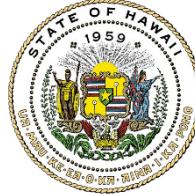
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STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

February 3, 2026

SB2369: RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports SB2369**. This measure seeks to protect service contracts awarded by the Judiciary against inflation and appropriates funds to increase the contract price in existing contracts for service provided by community-based organizations.

The efficiency of the Judicial system depends on the Judiciary being able to fulfill its statutory mandate of providing services to individuals, families and communities in the State. Community-based organizations provide resources and services to defendants, victims and other parties in the judicial system. A lack of resources or the inability to obtain resources in a timely and efficient manner will cause delays and backlogs in the judicial system which will delay the resolution and disposition of cases. As one of the integral cogs in the circuit, district and family courts, the OPD is well aware of the need for resources and services in the system, not only for our clients but for their families, victims and families of victims. The Judiciary needs funding to maintain its ability to obtain services and the flexibility to adjust its contracts to account for inflation and increased costs.

The OPD supports SB2369. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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a partner agency of the



Ku'ikahi Mediation Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax-deductible. We welcome your support!

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, January 4, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: Support of HB 2369, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Ku'ikahi Mediation is submitting testimony to strongly support HB 2369, which requires contracts for services awarded to community-based organizations by the Judiciary in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State to include certain protections against inflation beginning 7/1/2027. This bill appropriates funds to the Judiciary to increase the contract price in existing contracts for certain services provided by community-based organizations in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State.

Hawai'i's families depend on a network of community-based nonprofit organizations that serve as a critical safety net. Unfortunately, this safety net is fraying due to insufficient government funding.

The Judiciary relies on its non-profit partners to provide legal aid, case management, and mediation services. Local court self-help centers receive more inquiries than they can process. Mediation is integral to Hawai'i's "Access to Justice" framework, which strives to ensure that all people have access to civil processes.

Approximately 50% of Ku'ikahi Mediation Center's clients have annual incomes under \$20,000. Census data shows that the Ka'u and Puna districts, which are among those we serve, house some of the poorest populations in the state. Sample opportunities include: 1) domestic mediations to help parents put kids first after separations and divorces, 2) debt mediations for credit cards or medical bills to negotiate debt reduction, payment plans, or forgiveness due to hardship, and 3) landlord/tenant mediations to prevent eviction and homelessness.

Our agency provides a vital service to the community, especially in domestic (divorce, paternity, family), consumer/merchant, landlord/tenant, and restraining order cases. Our mediation services are provided either free of charge or on an affordable sliding scale, and no one is turned away for lack of funds.

According to the report "The Social Economic Impact and Return on Investment: Mediation services delivered by the Mediation Centers of Hawaii during Fiscal Year 2023-2024," for every \$1 spent in providing mediation services, they delivered \$15.92 in immediate and long-term consequential financial benefits. (This analysis was conducted by the accredited Community Services Analysis LLC in Arizona.)



Ku'ikahi Mediation Center

Finding Solutions, Growing Peace

We empower people to come together—to talk and to listen, to explore options, and to find their own best solutions.

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Government contract rates remain below actual service costs and haven't kept up with inflation. For example, The Mediation Centers of Hawaii—of which Ku'ikahi is a member—had its Judiciary contract restored in December 2023 to funding rates from FY 2009-2010. While the nominal increase was appreciated, these rates are now a decade-and-a-half old and do not reflect the cost of doing business in a post-COVID island economy.

Community-based nonprofit organizations like ours fill funding gaps through private fundraising, staff reductions, loans and lines of credit, and non-government grants. However, these methods are no longer viable, and organizations may soon face hard decisions to decline contracts, reduce services, or even shut down entirely.

Without adequate funding, Hawai'i's safety net for vulnerable families will unravel. Urgent legislative action is needed to ensure the sustainability of community-based nonprofit organizations and the services we provide.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for reading this testimony.

Mahalo,

Julie Mitchell
Executive Director

a partner agency of the



Ku'ikahi Mediation Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax-deductible. We welcome your support!



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2369
RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY**

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

My name is **Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros**, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of HB2369**.

I serve as the President and CEO of **Hale Kipa**, a community-based organization that for more than 55 years has partnered with the State to serve youth, families, and individuals who are deeply impacted by trauma, court involvement, and system involvement. Our work and the work of many community-based organizations across Hawai'i is essential to helping the Judiciary fulfill its statutory mandate to promote access to justice, accountability, and healing for our communities.

Community-based organizations are not ancillary to the justice system, we are a core part of it. We provide services that courts rely on every day: supervision, intervention, treatment, family support, stabilization, and prevention. Yet for far too long, the contracts that fund this work have failed to keep pace with the rising cost of doing business in Hawai'i.

Inflation has significantly increased the cost of labor, insurance, rent, utilities, and transportation. At the same time, many Judiciary purchase-of-service contracts have remained flat for years. This disconnect places community-based organizations in an unsustainable position, forcing us to absorb rising costs, struggle to retain qualified staff, and stretch already-limited resources to meet court-ordered and court-referred obligations.

HB2369 is an important and long-overdue step toward addressing this structural imbalance. By requiring inflationary protections in future contracts and appropriating funds to adjust existing contracts, this measure recognizes a fundamental truth: **the Judiciary's ability to deliver justice is directly tied to the stability of the community-based organizations that carry out this work.**

Without these protections, organizations face staff turnover, program instability, and the real risk of reducing or discontinuing services. When that happens, the impact ripples outward, cases are delayed, families lose support, and individuals who need intervention and guidance are left without meaningful options. This ultimately undermines the very outcomes the Judiciary seeks to achieve.

HB2369 reflects sound policy, fiscal responsibility, and respect for partnership. It acknowledges that contracts must be responsive to economic realities if we expect consistent, high-quality services and accountability. Most importantly, it helps ensure that justice in Hawai'i remains accessible, humane, and effective.

I respectfully urge you to pass **HB2369** and affirm the State's commitment to sustaining the community-based organizations that are critical to our justice system and the well-being of our communities.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your thoughtful consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros".

Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros
President & CEO, Hale Kipa

HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:42:36 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellie Tsuchiya	True Cost Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I urge you to support HB2369. CBO's provide essential services to our community's most vulnerable people, especially those in the justice system. The state cannot always cover every need or reach every person but CBO's can act quickly and fill the gap.

As someone who works in non-profit fundraising, I understand the harsh reality that not every organization has the capacity to fundraise to cover their costs. Winning contracts with terms of multiple years can be a huge relief to an organization because it allows them to have some flexibility and stability for the duration of the contract. Our CBO's deserve to be justly compensated for the essential services they provide to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ellie Tsuchiya, Ewa Beach



House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
February 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Room 325

Testimony in SUPPORT for HB2369

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), we respectfully submit comments in **support of HB2369**, which seeks to increase funding for the Judiciary to strengthen and expand its partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

HANO is a statewide, sector-wide professional association representing Hawai'i's nonprofit community. Since 2006, HANO has worked to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life across the state by leveraging resources, educating leaders, and advocating for policies that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

Hawai'i relies heavily on nonprofit and community-based organizations to deliver essential services such as legal aid, case management, mediation, and behavioral and family support. These organizations assist community members—including low-income families, immigrants, individuals in crisis, and others navigating complex legal challenges—in accessing justice and understanding judicial processes. Their ability to deliver these services effectively depends on stable funding and strong, collaborative partnerships with the Judiciary.

The need to invest in these partnerships has become increasingly urgent due to reductions in federal funding for critical social services and broader uncertainty affecting access to constitutional and civil rights protections. As federal resources become less reliable, nonprofit organizations that work in and alongside the judicial system are experiencing increased demand while facing growing capacity constraints. Strengthening state funding for Judiciary–nonprofit partnerships is therefore critical to maintaining continuity of services and ensuring that community-based supports remain available to those who rely on them.

HANO supports this bill as a crucial step in securing state funding and ensuring continued access to vital legal services for our most vulnerable residents. Given the ongoing uncertainty and shifts in federal policy, it is critical for our legislature to act swiftly and protect the stability of community-based organizations providing essential legal services in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

SUPPORT FOR HB 2369: RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY

TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Thursday, 2/4/26, 2025, 2:00 PM; CR 325 or Videoconference**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2369** which seeks additional funding for the Judiciary to increase contract prices in existing contracts with community-based organizations and to include essential protections against inflation. My name is Tina Andrade, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax-exempt Community-Based Organization that has provided social services in Hawai'i for more than **78 years**, now serving **over 40,000 individuals statewide each year**. We offer a broad range of programs supporting children, families, older adults, immigrants, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to provide compassionate services and strong advocacy for Hawai'i's most vulnerable people, and we have a long-standing history of leadership in affordable housing, homelessness solutions, and child welfare.

We are also a proud member of the **Hawai'i True Cost Coalition**, a network of Community-Based Organizations collectively serving more than **500,000 people across the state**. Our organizations work directly with Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations and partner closely with the Judiciary to deliver life-changing and often life-stabilizing services. However, organizations providing contracted services for the Judiciary have experienced dramatically rising operating costs, while contract funding has remained stagnant for years. The added pressures of recent crises—including the Maui wildfires—have pushed many organizations to the brink, threatening the continuity of critical community services.

With ongoing uncertainty surrounding federal funding streams, it is more important than ever that Hawai'i act decisively to sustain these essential programs. We strongly support the bill's proposed **inflation protections**, including contract price adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index and multi-year contracts. These measures would provide the stability necessary for organizations to plan, retain staff, and continue offering high-quality services through challenging economic conditions.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i respectfully urges your **strong support for this bill** as an urgently needed investment in the long-term health and resilience of our judicial system and the community organizations that support it.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. If you have any questions, please contact our Vice President of Mission, **Shellie Niles**, at **(808) 527-4813**.



HB2369 Judiciary Adjust for Inflation

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Feb 4, 2026: 2:00: Room 325 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2369:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services.

Community-based organizations are essential partners in delivering critical human services across our state. They provide food assistance, housing stability, behavioral health services, disability support, family services, and culturally responsive care that government alone cannot provide.

Over the past several years, **nonprofit providers have experienced sharp and sustained cost increases** in:

- Labor, driven by workforce shortages and rising wages, needed to retain qualified staff
- Insurance, including liability and workers' compensation
- Utilities and fuel, which directly affect service delivery and transportation
- Rent and facility costs, particularly for organizations serving high-need communities

Non-profits operate on thin margins and are often contractually obligated to deliver services at fixed reimbursement rates that have not kept pace with current economic conditions.

Non-profits have limited ability to absorb cost increases unlike all other sectors because they cannot raise prices, reduce demand, or quickly restructure services without harming vulnerable populations.

**PROVIDERS ARE NOW FACING DIFFICULT DECISIONS –
REDUCE SERVICES, FREEZING PROGRAMS, DECREASE
OUTCOMES FROM STAFF BURNOUT, OR CLOSE ENTIRELY.**

This would shift costs back to the state through increased emergency services, institutional care, homelessness, and unmet behavioral health needs.

This bill provides a practical and responsible solution. By allowing the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts, the legislature ensures:

- Continuity of essential services
- Stability in the human services workforce
- Protection of prior state investments
- Stronger community-based infrastructure statewide

Importantly, **these funds do not expand programs unnecessarily**—they simply allow existing services to continue operating as intended under current economic realities.

Investing in non-profits is a corner stone of American policies. It is a more cost-effective way to serve residents and ensure that families receive help earlier, crises are prevented, and long-term public interests are met.

For these reasons, we respectfully **urge your support for this bill and thank you** for recognizing the vital role community-based organizations play in the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.



**Parents And
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2369 RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY

TO: Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, & Members,
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President and CEO
Trisha Kajimura, Vice-President of Strategy and External Affairs

DATE: February 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) strongly supports HB 2369, which appropriates funds for the Judiciary to increase allocation for contracts with community-based organizations providing critical services in Hawaii and provide these contracts with protection from inflation.

PACT is contracted by the Judiciary to provide services related to domestic violence in three counties – Honolulu, Maui and Kaua’i. Through these contracts we help survivors and child witnesses cope through their trauma, heal from abuse, and rebuild safe and self-sufficient households. We also work with individuals who have committed crimes of domestic violence through classes and counseling. These services and the staff dedicated to providing them are specialized and essential to the safety and well-being of our community.

We submit this testimony as a member of the Hawai’i True Cost Coalition – over 70 community-based non-profit organizations fighting to sustain essential services for our communities. The people of our community are strong, resilient and capable yet challenged by systems of scarcity that are difficult to overcome without targeted support. They must be supported by high-quality organizations that are sustainable. When state contract amounts do not increase over time as operating costs do, this important service for the community becomes unsustainable.

Founded by residents of Kuhio Park Terrace in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact Trisha Kajimura at (808) 847-3285 or tkajimura@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



HB2369 Judiciary Adjustment for Inflation

Committee on Judiciary

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Feb 4, 2026: 2:00pm: Room 325 Videoconference

Hina Mauka Supports HB2369:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.

Community-based organizations are essential partners in delivering critical human services across our state. They provide food assistance, housing stability, behavioral health services, disability support, family services, and culturally responsive care that government alone cannot provide. **Non-profits** are part of the overall government support plan for our most vulnerable citizens, but are funded well below sustainability.

Over the past several years, **nonprofit providers have experienced sharp and sustained cost increases** in:

- **Labor**, driven by workforce shortages and rising wages, needed to retain qualified staff
- **Insurance**, including liability and workers' compensation
- **Utilities and fuel**, which directly affect service delivery and transportation
- **Rent and facility costs**, particularly for organizations serving high-need communities



Non-profits have limited ability to absorb cost increases unlike all other sectors because they cannot raise prices, reduce demand, or quickly restructure services without harming vulnerable populations



Failing to support this bill will shift costs back to the state through increased emergency services, institutional care, homelessness, and unmet behavioral health needs.

This bill provides a practical and responsible solution. By allowing the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts, the legislature ensures:

- Continuity of essential services
- Stability in the human services workforce
- Protection of prior state investments
- Stronger community-based infrastructure statewide

Importantly, **these funds do not expand programs unnecessarily**—they simply allow existing services to continue operating as intended under current economic realities.

Investing in non-profits is a corner stone of American policies. It is a more cost-effective way to serve residents and ensure that families receive help earlier, crises are prevented, and long-term public interests are met.

For these reasons, we respectfully **urge your support for this bill and thank you** for recognizing the vital role community-based organizations play in the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

Despite years of inflation, labor, insurance, and other rising costs, many of our most vulnerable providers are making decisions about potentially shutting down or cutting programs, due to rates that have not been updated in more than a decade.



February 3, 2026

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.,
Via VideoConference, Conference Room #325

Regarding HB No. 2369, “Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary”

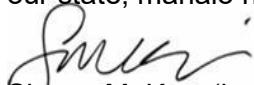
Dear Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

We ask that you **strongly support HB 2369** to appropriate funds to community-based organizations by the Judiciary in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State to include certain protections against inflation.

Partners in Development Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that inspires and equips families and communities for success and service, using timeless Native Hawaiian values and traditions. Since 1997, PIDF has served more than 171,000 people in over 75 communities across the state (www.pidf.org). PIDF has a strong record of managing complex, multi-year federal and state grants with measurable results in early childhood education, family engagement, and youth justice. PIDF continues to step to the frontline to meet the ever-changing needs of our low-income, remote, and rural families and communities, including operating a COVID quarantine hotel to keep families safe and healthy during the pandemic, to supporting families displaced by the Maui wildfires to heal and rebuild, to continuing to support and strengthen our most vulnerable children, youth and families as they navigate increasing living costs, unemployment, and loss of federal resources.

It is vital that this critical work provided by not only Partners in Development Foundation but the many other nonprofit organizations in our state continue to be supported through sufficient resources to sustainably operate and HB 2369 will accomplish this by increasing the level of funding available to these nonprofit organizations who are stepping in the gap to meet the needs that government entities cannot fully address. **We ask that you support HB 2369 to equip nonprofit organizations to meet our rising expenses to enable us to continue serving the people of Hawai'i.**

On behalf of Partners in Development Foundation and our many nonprofit partners serving tirelessly in our state, mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this request.


Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Phone 808.681.3500
Fax 808.681.5280
www.childandfamilyservice.org

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Child & Family
SERVICE

A Hawai'i-born nonprofit since 1899



Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

On behalf of Child and Family Service (CFS), I am writing to express our strong support for **HB2369**. This legislation is critical to ensuring that contracts and funding for community-based programs under the Judiciary reflect the true costs of providing services, allowing organizations to continue delivering high-quality, timely, and effective interventions to children and families across the state.

Child and Family Service is a statewide, community-based organization dedicated to supporting children and families through prevention, intervention, and treatment services. Each year, CFS **directly serves approximately 625 individuals** and impacts **3,000 families statewide**.

Rising operational and provisional costs, including workforce expenses, administrative requirements, compliance obligations, and professional liability insurance, which has **tripled since last year** are creating significant sustainability and ethical challenges.

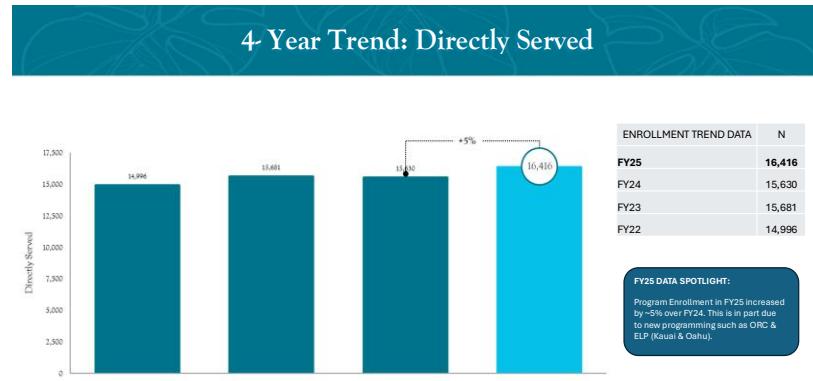
Contract funding that does not keep pace with these realities threatens service quality, workforce stability, and the well-being of the children and families we serve.

In FY 2025–2026, CFS experienced a **1% increase in individuals directly served**, and over the past four years, our service volume has grown by **30%**. Additionally, in the last year alone, CFS impacted

117,000 families,

representing a **5% increase** compared to prior years.

HB2369 is a critical step toward aligning Judiciary contract rates with the true costs of providing services amid rising demand and escalating operational expenses. By addressing these cost realities, the bill helps protect service quality, support workforce stability, and ensure that children and families continue to receive the effective care and interventions they need.



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A Hawai'i-born nonprofit since 1899

Investing in these services enhances public safety and delivers a strong return on investment for the state. Our Developing Options to Violence (DOV) program provides court-mandated domestic violence interventions, serving over 250 individuals annually. It has achieved a recidivism rate of approximately 12.7%, compared to 53.8% statewide for the FY 2016 offender cohort tracked by the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS), and roughly 60% nationally (Legal Clarity Criminal Law Team, 2025). By preventing repeat offenses, DOV reduces costs for the criminal justice system, law enforcement, and healthcare. Research shows that every dollar invested in effective violence intervention programs generates multiple dollars in savings (giffords.org), and DOV alone is estimated to save the State of Hawaii approximately \$1.5 million annually. SB 2442 represents a vital step toward aligning Judiciary contract funding with the actual costs of service delivery, ensuring that organizations like CFS can continue providing essential support to children and families while maintaining a stable, capable workforce. Here is one story of many in action:

We first met this family shortly after both parents were released from prison. Living with relatives and caring for a six-month-old baby, they quickly became homeless due to felony records and ineligibility for low-income housing. With weekly visits from a CFS Home Visitor, the family set goals for themselves and their child. Over the course of a year, both parents gained full-time employment, secured a three-bedroom home, were reunified with their other children, and enrolled their children in quality educational programs. This transformation demonstrates how targeted support, consistent home visiting, and community resources can create lasting change from homelessness and unemployment to stability, reunification, and opportunity.

Child and Family Service strongly urges the committee to support HB2369, recognizing that these investments protect children, support families, enhance public safety, and deliver meaningful cost savings for the state.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to children and families across our state.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pump

Amanda Pump

President and CEO

“We’re all about FAMILY”

Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children



HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:53:15 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Tjapkes	Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2369, which protects access to justice by ensuring community-based organizations that serve the Judiciary can keep pace with rising costs and continue delivering essential services statewide. By requiring multi-year contracts with inflation adjustments and funding existing agreements, this bill strengthens service stability for victims, families, and court-involved individuals across Hawai‘i.

Mahalo,

Greg Tjapkes

Executive Director

The Hawai‘i True Cost Coalition



February 4, 2026

Hawai‘i State Legislature
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2369, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and esteemed members of the committee,

The Hawai‘i True Cost Coalition is writing in strong support of HB 2369, relating to purchase of service contracts by the Judiciary. This bill requires contracts for services awarded by the Judiciary to community-based organizations to include protections against inflation and appropriates funds to increase the prices of certain existing contracts. It is intended to ensure that organizations providing services to individuals, families, and communities across the State can continue operating sustainably while fulfilling the Judiciary’s statutory mandate.

Hawai‘i’s safety net often goes unnoticed—until it begins to fray. It is built on community-based organizations that deliver essential services state agencies cannot provide alone, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and crisis response for families in need. Yet decades of chronic underfunding have forced many organizations to reduce services, underpay staff, and rely heavily on private fundraising simply to remain operational. Members of the True Cost Coalition report working under contracts that have not received meaningful budget increases for more than ten years, despite rising costs for labor, facilities, and compliance. Without swift action, these pressures will continue to erode programs and leave Hawai‘i’s most vulnerable residents without the support systems they depend on.

The Hawai‘i True Cost Coalition is an alliance of more than 70 community-based nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 residents statewide. Since its formation in 2020, the coalition has worked to strengthen partnerships between nonprofits and the State of Hawai‘i to ensure public funds are allocated equitably, efficiently, and sustainably. By advocating for fair and realistic funding, the coalition helps safeguard critical programs for children,

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | AUW | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na‘au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children’s Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho‘ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po‘e o Kaka‘ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai ‘Eha | Kui‘kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

kupuna, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence—ensuring that nonprofits can continue providing the vital care and support on which so many residents rely.

HB 2369 would further these goals by strengthening the Judiciary’s partnerships with the organizations that support access to justice and assist individuals navigating court-connected services. Requiring multi-year contracts with annual inflation adjustments and increasing current contract rates would allow providers to better manage rising operational costs—such as wages, utilities, and administrative expenses—while maintaining essential services for victims of domestic violence, court-involved youth, and families in crisis. This targeted investment would promote stability, expand access to justice, and sustain the community-based infrastructure that underpins effective court-connected services across Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

¹ **Hawai‘i Human Services Nonprofits - Ten Year Comparison of Operating Expenses**

Category	Years compared	Absolute Change	Average Annual Change
Electricity (cents/kWh)	2015-2024	41.8%	4.5%
Insurance (annual total of relevant premiums)	2014-2023	46.3%	4.5%
Payroll (annual average/employee)	2013-2022	44.1%	4.2%
Inflation (CPI All Items)	2015-2024	30.8%	3.0%

**Estimated office rent increased 7.8 percent over ten years, variable based on island/location.*

Source: Hawaii Data Collaborative in cooperation with the True Cost Coalition January, 2026

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | AUW | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na‘au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children’s Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho‘ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po‘e o Kaka‘ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai ‘Eha | Kui‘kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:44:30 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brad Ishimaru	Child and Family Service	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitted previously by Amanda Pump, CEO of Child and Family Servicem



February 2, 2026

Testimony in Support of H.B.2369

Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

Aloha Chair Tarna, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

Aloha United Way stands in support of **H.B.2369**,

Community-based organizations are critical partners to the Judiciary, providing essential services to survivors of domestic violence, justice-involved youth, and families navigating complex legal systems. These nonprofits help ensure safety, stability, and access to justice for Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents.

However, contract rates have remained largely flat while wages, rent, utilities, and operating costs continue to rise. Without inflation protections, organizations are forced to cut services or operate at a loss, putting critical programs and community safety at risk.

H.B. 2369 provides a smart, sustainable solution by offering multi-year contracts and annual cost-of-living adjustments. This stability allows nonprofits to retain staff, plan effectively, and deliver consistent, high-quality services.

When we invest in the organizations that support our courts, we strengthen the entire system and achieve better outcomes for families and communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge passage of H.B. 2369.

Mahalo,

Michelle Bartell
President & CEO
Aloha United Way

HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:16:21 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

Judith F. Clark
48-218 Kamehameha Highway
808-499-9966
Judithforceclark@gmail.com
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

February 2, 2026

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair,
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony in Support of HB 2369 Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

As a community advocate and the former Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network who worked for non-profit organizations for 50 years, I strongly support HB 2359 which aims to increase funding for the Judiciary to enhance its partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

Hawaii's most vulnerable populations including children, youth, and young adults, need mental health, domestic violence, family strengthening, and other services provided by CBOs. It takes a network of trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and accessible services to children, youth, families, and seniors.

CBOs struggle to attract and retain qualified staff. When contracts and grants do not pay the full cost of providing services, CBOs are not able to pay competitive wages. Workers choose higher paying jobs or places with a lower cost of living. It is shameful that too many of our CBO staff qualify for public assistance benefits. Staff working with homeless persons are often concerned about becoming homeless themselves. One outreach worker shared with me, "If my landlord raises my rent, I won't be able to afford my housing."

Non-profits cannot take on state contracts and provide high quality services when the amount of funding is insufficient to provide the mandated services. Some contracts run for as long as 6 years with no increases. This is exacerbated by recent cuts in and restrictions on federal funding to non-profits.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:58:09 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Darcy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

Please support HB 2369. As someone who has chosen to work in the social service field for decades and suffered financial and physical consequences, not only have I accepted low wages but also unreasonable working conditions because this work has been not been afforded the dignity it needs to flourish.

HB 2369 is long overdue and these are exciting times to remedy needed changes. This bill actually brings much needed hope and inspiration to the current community climate.

Mahalo plenty,

Lisa Darcy, Kula, Maui, HI

HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:18:01 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Hughey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and Committee on Finance Hearing Date: February 2026 Measure: HB 2369 – Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

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

My name is Justin Hughey, and I am a second-grade teacher. I am writing today in strong support of HB 2369, which ensures that our community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving Judiciary contracts are protected against inflation.

In my classroom, I see the "mess" created when our social safety net begins to fray. We are currently grappling with a massive reduction in federal funding to Hawaii—a direct result of the federal "Big Beautiful Bill" that prioritized tax cuts for the wealthy over the basic needs of states. As federal support for programs like Medicaid and SNAP is slashed, the burden on our local community-based organizations has skyrocketed.

These organizations are the ones who support the families of my students when they are in crisis. They provide domestic violence advocacy, support for court-involved youth, and civil legal aid. However, while the cost of everything from utilities to wages has soared, the contract rates for these essential providers have remained stagnant for a decade.

If we do not pass HB 2369, we are essentially asking these nonprofits to do more with less until they break. When a local organization has to cut staff or close a program because they can't keep up with inflation, my students are the ones who suffer. I see the anxiety in a seven-year-old's eyes when their family lacks the legal or social support they were counting on.

The federal government has chosen to prioritize the wealthy, leaving us to bridge the gap. It is only right that we protect our local infrastructure by ensuring these contracts include an annual inflation adjustment. This bill isn't just about administrative math; it is about ensuring that when a family in my community reaches out for help, there is actually someone there to answer the door.

We must raise the revenue necessary—including by asking the wealthy to pay their fair share—to ensure our community partners remain solvent and effective. I urge you to pass HB 2369 to stabilize the essential services that keep our families safe and our students ready to learn.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Justin Hughey
Democratic Party of Hawaii, State Central Committee
Education Caucus Rep.

HB-2369

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:08:03 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB 2369, which directs the Judiciary to include labor, wage, and workplace protections in service contracts awarded to community-based organizations.

Aligning Public Contracting with Fair Labor Standards

This bill creates an opportunity to ensure that when the state invests in community services, those investments also support the workers who deliver them. By including fair wage and workplace protection standards in Judiciary contracts, HB 2369 helps ensure that public dollars support quality jobs that allow workers to meet their basic needs.

Supporting Workers Who Serve Our Communities

The people who work for community-based organizations provide essential services—helping families navigate legal systems, connecting individuals to resources, and supporting our most vulnerable community members. These workers often face the same high cost-of-living challenges as the families they serve. HB 2369 helps create a foundation where these important jobs can provide stable, dignified employment.

Strengthening Our Social Service Infrastructure

When workers in social services have fair wages and workplace protections, they can focus on providing quality care and support. Job stability in these roles means more experienced staff, better continuity of services, and stronger outcomes for the individuals and families who depend on these programs. This benefits our entire community.

Building Economic Security Through Public Investment

HB 2369 recognizes that public contracting is an opportunity to advance economic security for working families. By setting clear standards for labor protections in publicly funded contracts, this bill helps ensure that our state investments create good jobs that contribute to thriving communities.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 2369 and appreciate your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,
Ezgi Green
Waialua, O'ahu