

# TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2480

Date: Wednesday February 25, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

My name is Evan Oue and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in Opposition to HB 2480, Relating to Health. While HAJ appreciates the intent of the measure, we have **concerns with HB 2480** in its current form as it grants immunity for liability for first responders during periods of evacuations.

Hawaii law requires that all first responders, such as ambulance EMTs, police, firefighters, emergency room doctors and nurses, and others, perform their jobs with reasonable care under the circumstances. Emergency responders are already held to a standard of care and Hawaii law takes into account how a reasonable responder would act during an emergency evacuation. There is no public policy justification for condoning negligent job performance during an evacuation.

Further, under Hawaii law “any person who in good faith renders emergency care, without remuneration or expectation of remuneration, at the scene of an accident or emergency to a victim of the accident or emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from the person's acts or omissions, **except for such damages as may result from the person's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.**” HRS. § 663-1.5.

Additionally the provision that waives liability for failing to comply is concerning. The assumption of liability is inherent within tort law and failing to comply will be accounted for when considering the totality of the circumstances. In turn, this express waiver is unnecessary in it's application to evacuation periods.

HAI respectfully recommends that HB 2480 be held to rely on existing liability protections under Hawaii law. Thank you for allowing us to testify regarding this measure. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or desire additional information.

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:07:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,**

**My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr retired Navy Veteran, who took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, and that oath didn't expire when I retired. I live in Ewa Beach.**

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB-2480 HD1 and stand by my previous testimony.**

**Brett Kulbis**

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:37:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support, those who do not comply with emergency responders evacuation orders should assume the risk and waive liability.

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:40:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shane N Kekahuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support, If you chose to stay and not listen to evacuation orders then it's on you.

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:16:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair & Members:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this bill. Thank you for proposing such good legislation.

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:04:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:52:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to protect first responders.

**HB-2480-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:52:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it safeguards our first responders—such as Police, EMS, Firefighters, and the National Guard—from liability and danger in the event of a disaster. This legislation is intended to protect them if individuals choose not to evacuate despite proper warning. When people disregard evacuation advisories and put themselves in harm's way, they assume responsibility for the consequences that may follow, should it happen.