

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:28:08 PM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Agree that the Hawaiian flag remains a historic and beloved symbol of Hawaii, it also ties many to a cultural identity deeply rooted in these islands.

It is not disparaging, exclusive, or demeaning to anyone and thus should be allowed to be displayed or flown on all properties in Hawaii, with no entity, corporation or otherwise, able to prohibit the display of this symbol of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:49:16 PM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Palehua Townhouse Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Our association supports the display of the Hawaiian flag within an owner's property.

Mike Golojuch, Sr, President

Palehua Townhouse Association

## HB2532 Relating to the Hawaiian Flag

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**Description:** Requires cooperative housing corporations, planned community associations, and condominium associations to allow owners to display the Hawaiian flag within the owner's property. Allows reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on Hawaiian flag displays to protect a substantial interest of the association or corporation.

I support this bill, which affirms the right of unit owners to proudly display the Hawaiian Flag. However, I believe the bill should be amended to address issues that will arise in relation to existing governing document language as it relates to Condominium Buildings.

I offer the following comments:

**1. If the Hawaiian flag is displayed in the Window.**

Most governing documents specify the allowable color of window coverings visible from the exterior—typically white or off-white. While the interior-facing side (or inside of the unit) of the window covering may have any color, print, or pattern, the outward-facing side must remain white or off-white.

For properties governed under HRS 514B, 421J, and 421I, associations should retain the authority to establish reasonable size limitations for Hawaiian Flags displayed from the interior of a unit's window.

**2. Installation of a Flagpole Within a Unit's Property (or hung from within the building unit Lanai)**

If a unit owner chooses to install a flagpole within the boundaries of their property (townhomes, single family), including on building lanais, to display the Hawaiian Flag, the Association should determine a reasonable maximum flag size to ensure it does not obstruct or interfere with the views of neighboring units.

Additionally, any flagpole must be installed so that, if it were to fall in any direction, it would remain entirely within the owner's property boundaries.

The term 'reasonable size limitations' should not be used in a way that undermines or skirts the intent of this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support with comments.

Raelene Tenno

Condominium unit owner since 1990

Education Chair for Hawaii Council of Community Associations, providing testimony as an individual.

Dated: 2/2/2026

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:51:47 PM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

I support HB2532 with an amendment.

Under the Section: 412J- Display of Hawaiian flag add:

(d) The provisions of U.S Code Title 4 Chapter 1 - 7 Position and manner of display which give precedence to the flag of the United States of America when it is displayed with other flags.

# TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2532, WITH AMENDMENTS

## Relating to the Display of the Hawaiian Flag

Submitted by: Leimomi Khan, Community Advocate for Sound Laws

Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Chair

Rep. San Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts

Hearing: Feb 4, 2026, 9:45 a.m.

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

Leimomi Khan, ko'u inoa, testifying in **support of HB2532, with amendments**, relating to the right to display the Hawaiian flag in condominium and planned community developments.

I really like the **intent and purpose** of this measure—to affirm the right of residents to display the Hawaiian flag, a symbol of identity, history, and cultural continuity for the people of Hawai'i. This bill appropriately recognizes that such expression should not be unreasonably prohibited by private residential associations.

At the same time, I believe the bill would benefit from **clarifying language** to ensure that homeowners' associations, condominium associations, and cooperative housing corporations adopt **reasonable rules governing common elements and community standards**, particularly where issues of **safety, aesthetics, and structural integrity** are implicated.

## Need for Clarification

While the bill allows for “reasonable restrictions,” ambiguity may arise regarding the scope of an association’s authority over:

- **Common elements and limited common elements,**
- **Exterior structures**, balconies, railings, and shared building surfaces, and
- **Community-wide standards** designed to protect safety, building integrity, and visual harmony.

Without explicit clarification, associations may be uncertain about their ability to:

- Regulate **methods of attachment** that could damage buildings or railings,
- Address **wind-load or fall hazards**,
- Establish **size, mounting, or placement standards**, or
- Maintain consistent **aesthetic and architectural guidelines** for shared residential environments.

Clarifying this balance will reduce disputes, protect property interests, and ensure that the right to display the Hawaiian flag is exercised **responsibly and sustainably**.

## **Proposed Amendment (Conceptual Language)**

I respectfully suggest an amendment to clarify legislative intent, such as:

*Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an association from adopting or enforcing reasonable rules governing the display of the Hawaiian flag on common elements or limited common elements, or from establishing community standards addressing safety, aesthetics, and structural integrity, provided that such rules do not unreasonably prohibit the display of the Hawaiian flag.*

This language would:

- Align the bill with existing principles found in federal and state law,
- Preserve the right to display the Hawaiian flag, and
- Acknowledge the legitimate role of associations in managing shared property

## **Conclusion**

HB2532 advances an important policy by affirming the cultural and expressive significance of the Hawaiian flag. With the suggested amendment, the bill can strike a clear and workable balance between **individual expression** and **responsible community governance**.

For these reasons, please support **HB2532 with amendments** in a form that provides clarity, fairness, and practical guidance for residents and associations alike.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Leimomi Khan

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:59:00 AM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

I support this bill.

Thank you for voting to protect the rights of the people of Hawai'i to display the Hawaiian flag.

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

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:48:33 AM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorene Godfrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

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

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:39:06 PM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-2532**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:24:03 AM  
Testimony for CAA on 2/4/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

\*\*Aloha Chair and Honorable Members of the Committees,\*\*

As Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party and a lifelong advocate for transparency, accountability, humane treatment of incarcerated individuals, and the restoration of trust in our justice system, I submit this written testimony in the strongest possible support of \*\*House Bill 2532\*\*. This critical legislation establishes an independent statewide Office of the Ombudsman for Corrections—an impartial, external watchdog dedicated to investigating complaints, monitoring facility conditions, and ensuring that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) upholds the rights, dignity, and safety of every person in its custody. HB2532 creates an autonomous Office of the Ombudsman for Corrections, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with broad authority to: - Receive and investigate confidential complaints from incarcerated persons, families, staff, and the public concerning abuse, neglect, medical care, safety, retaliation, conditions of confinement, and administrative decisions; - Conduct unannounced inspections of all correctional facilities (state-run, private, and out-of-state contracts); - Access all relevant records, conduct private interviews, and issue public reports with findings, recommendations, and timelines for corrective action; - Recommend policy changes, disciplinary measures, or legislative reforms; - Submit annual reports to the Legislature, Governor, and public, highlighting trends, systemic issues, and progress on prior recommendations. This office is not duplicative—it addresses a glaring gap in independent oversight, especially in a state that continues to rely on out-of-state private prisons, faces persistent medical neglect complaints, and lacks transparent mechanisms for resolving serious allegations.

\*\*Why I Stand Strongly in Support of HB2532\*\*

1. **\*\*Restoring Trust Through Genuine Independence\*\*** The current internal Corrections Ombudsman lacks true independence—complaints are processed within the same department that may be the subject of the grievance, often resulting in delayed, incomplete, or biased resolutions. An external, independent Ombudsman will provide credible, fearless oversight, free from departmental influence or retaliation. This is essential in a system where public confidence has been eroded by repeated reports of medical neglect, retaliation against whistleblowers, inadequate mental health care, and the isolation of individuals sent thousands of miles away to private facilities.

2. **\*\*Humanitarian and Constitutional Duty\*\*** The Dalai Lama teaches: "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion." Mahatma Gandhi reminds us: "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." Incarcerated individuals remain human beings entitled to dignity, safety, and humane treatment under the U.S. Constitution (8th Amendment) and the Hawaii State Constitution (Article I, Section 12 – prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment). HB2532 upholds these sacred principles by giving incarcerated persons and their families a trusted, confidential avenue to report abuse, neglect, or rights violations without fear of reprisal.

3. **\*\*Fiscal and Public Safety Benefits\*\*** Independent correctional ombudsman offices in other states (e.g., Washington, Alaska, New York) have proven highly effective: they reduce costly litigation, identify systemic problems early, prevent crises, improve facility conditions, and contribute to lower recidivism rates through better rehabilitation environments. In Hawaii—where corrections spending exceeds \$250 million annually and out-of-state placements add millions more—an effective Ombudsman can uncover waste, expose poor practices, and recommend cost-saving reforms such as expanded in-state reentry programs and community corrections, ultimately making our communities safer.

4. **\*\*Real-World Example: The Urgent Need for External Accountability\*\*** Persistent concerns include preventable deaths from medical neglect, retaliation against those who report misconduct, inadequate mental health and substance abuse treatment, and the cultural and familial isolation caused by out-of-state placements. Families are often left without answers, and systemic issues continue unchecked. HB2532 changes this dynamic: It establishes a dedicated, independent advocate who can investigate patterns, demand corrective action, and hold leadership accountable—ensuring corrections serves justice and rehabilitation, not merely punishment or profit.

5. **\*\*Support for Native Hawaiian and Marginalized Populations\*\*** Native Hawaiians are disproportionately incarcerated (up to 39% of the prison population) and face unique cultural, spiritual, and familial needs that are frequently unmet in distant or institutional settings. An independent Ombudsman can investigate cultural insensitivity, barriers to culturally appropriate programming, restricted family visitation, and repatriation issues—advocating for solutions that honor our values of aloha, pono, and kuleana. This bill complements other vital reforms (e.g., compassionate release in HB1628/SB2688, human trafficking prevention in HB1913) by ensuring meaningful oversight throughout the corrections system.

**\*\*Conclusion and Urgent Call to Action\*\*** HB2532 is a moral, practical, and urgently needed reform. It will protect human dignity, reduce unnecessary suffering, prevent crises, lower long-term costs, and rebuild public trust in our correctional system. Guided by the profound wisdom of the Dalai Lama and Mahatma Gandhi, let us choose compassion, accountability, and justice—establish this independent Office of the Ombudsman for Corrections and demonstrate that Hawaii treats every individual with the respect and fairness they deserve.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and service to our islands. I am available for questions or oral testimony if needed. In solidarity for justice, dignity, transparency, and ohana,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Ohana Unity Party, Chairman [www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com) Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com