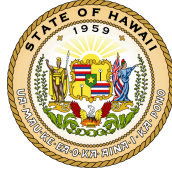


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

House Committee on Education
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309

Measure: HCR183

Purpose of Measure:

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GOVERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT OR WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED LOCATIONS AND EVENTS.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) greatly appreciates the Legislature's concern regarding the safety and well-being of our students, and supports House Concurrent Resolution 183, noting that the Hawaii Department of Education currently has procedures and guidance in place to respond to law enforcement activity, including that of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

On January 20, 2025, the current presidential administration rescinded a policy that protected certain areas, including schools, from immigration enforcement activities. Since then, ICE officials have been regularly detaining and apprehending students and parents as they arrive at or leave public school campuses throughout the country, creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety in the very public spaces within which children should feel safest. In many cases, this has resulted in children feeling too unsafe to even attend school.

Such activities are also having a devastating impact on teachers and their ability to do their jobs. In September 2025, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association joined an ongoing lawsuit challenging the rescission of the policy around protected areas. Court filing included testimony from teachers across 18 states describing the disruption, including increased absenteeism, disruption to approvals for special education services for fear that signing documents would draw ICE attention, and being unable to console the fears and anxieties students are bringing with them into the classroom.

Having recognized the ramifications early on, the Board passed a resolution at its April 10, 2025, general business meeting, declaring that Department schools “should be places where its students can learn and thrive free of fear, conflict, and stress.” The resolution also:

- Denounces “immigration and enforcement activity at Department schools unless exigent circumstances exist, such as those that relate to preservation of life or prevention of catastrophic outcomes, as has been defined by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or applicable state and federal law”; and
- Recognizes and supports the Department's existing policy of not asking families for their immigration status and not recording such information in student records, as it has no bearing on the responsibility to keep all of our students safe and to empower them to innovate, serve, and lead.

The Board wishes to note that the Department does not have jurisdiction over areas within a thousand feet of school campuses if they are outside school property. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to amend these resolutions such that the standardized emergency response plan governs immigration enforcement activity on campus grounds only.

The Board defers to the Department regarding its procedures and guidance that addresses conduct at schools by all law enforcement agencies.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/07/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: EDN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HCR183, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GOVERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT OR WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED LOCATIONS AND EVENTS.

Purpose of Bill: Requesting The Department Of Education To Develop, Adopt, And Implement A Standardized Emergency Response Plan Governing Immigration Enforcement Activity At Or Within One Thousand Feet Of Public Schools And Adopt Policies And Procedures To Address Immigration Enforcement Activity At Certain School-related Locations And Events.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments / information on HCR 183 for the committee's consideration.

The Department believes that this resolution is unnecessary because the Department currently has procedures in place that accomplish most of the requirements set forth in the resolution. In March 2025, the Department issued law enforcement guidance that addresses conduct at schools by all law enforcement agencies, including Immigrations and Custom Enforcement. The guidance designates the principal or designee as the point of contact for law enforcement and includes notification and involvement of employees in the principal or designee's chain of command as well as the Department of the Attorney General. The Department also has the necessary counseling and behavioral health resources to respond and mitigate the effects of potential traumatic incidents such as immigration enforcement activities at or near schools.

Additionally, the Department is concerned with references that the emergency response plan addresses immigration enforcement activities, "On or within one thousand feet of school campuses." A school does not have authority or control over activities outside school property.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to HCR 183.



April 6, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HCR183**, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GOVERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT OR WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED LOCATIONS AND EVENTS

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

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

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HCR183**, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GOVERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT OR WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED LOCATIONS AND EVENTS

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women **supports HCR183**, requiring the Department of Education to develop an emergency response plan for public schools in the event of immigration enforcement activities.

As a statewide feminist government body dedicated to advancing equality and well-being for women and girls, our organization recognizes that immigration enforcement actions can negatively impact students and their families, creating barriers to education, safety, and stability. Ensuring that schools are prepared to respond appropriately in such situations aligns with our mission to promote equity, inclusion, and protection from discrimination.

This measure supports a safe and inclusive learning environment by requiring proactive planning and clear protocols. Such preparation can help minimize trauma, confusion, and disruption for students, particularly those from immigrant backgrounds who may already face heightened vulnerability. Research and best practices indicate that comprehensive response plans in schools can mitigate negative impacts on student well-being and educational outcomes.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HCR183**. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
Chair
John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Vice Chair
Hawai'i Health Partners

Titimaea Ta'ase, JD
Secretary
Taase Law Office

Jonathan Ching
Kaiser Permanente

Tammy Ho
The Queen's Medical Center

Carissa Holley, MEd
Hale Makua Health Services

Joyce Lee-Ibarra, MS
JLI Consulting

Misty Pacheco, DrPH
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
Hawaiian Research Office

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, MBA
Retired, Hawai'i State Department of
Health

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: April 6, 2026

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: Support for SCR 183, Requesting The Department Of Education To Develop, Adopt, And Implement A Standardized Emergency Response Plan Governing Immigration Enforcement Activity At Or Within One Thousand Feet Of Public Schools And Adopt Policies And Procedures To Address Immigration Enforcement Activity At Certain School-related Locations And Events.

Hrg: April 7, 2026 at 2:00 PM in Conference Room 309

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ **supports HCR 183**, requesting the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or within one thousand feet of public schools and adopt policies to address immigration enforcement activity at school-related locations and events.

All students, regardless of immigration status, should be able to access education safely, without fear, and in alignment with longstanding constitutional and civil rights protections. Immigration enforcement actions, including raids and arrests in communities surrounding schools, have direct and measurable impacts on student attendance, academic performance, and mental health.

According to a 2025 study by Stanford University researcher Thomas Dee, immigration raids in California's Central Valley were associated with a 22 percent increase in student absences, with even larger increases among younger students, demonstrating the immediate educational disruption caused by enforcement actions.² Additional national research confirms that these effects are not isolated. According to a 2025 analysis published by The Journalist's Resource, immigration enforcement crackdowns in 2025 led to spikes in student absenteeism in California and measurable declines in student test scores in Florida, indicating that enforcement actions affect academic performance across multiple states.³

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2510395122>

³ <https://journalistsresource.org/education/students-absent-test-scores-immigration-enforcement-arrest-research>



These impacts extend beyond students directly targeted by ICE enforcement. Research summarized by Chalkbeat in 2025 highlighted that increases in immigration arrests caused test score declines even among U.S. citizen students in affected communities, particularly in high-poverty schools, demonstrating a broad “spillover effect” where fear and instability disrupt learning for entire classrooms.⁴

Furthermore, according to a 2025 EdWeek Research Center survey, nearly half of educators working with immigrant families reported that students expressed fear or anxiety due to immigration enforcement, and about one-quarter reported reduced attendance and student disengagement in the classroom.⁵ The effects on school communities are also visible in large-scale attendance disruptions following high-profile enforcement actions. Immigration enforcement operations in major cities have been linked to declines in school enrollment and attendance, including thousands of students missing school due to fear of arrests.

Research also shows that the psychological toll on students is significant. According to child development experts writing in Greater Good Magazine in 2026, immigration raids are inflicting “a terrible toll on children’s mental health and education,” with families creating contingency plans in case parents are detained and students experiencing sustained stress that affects their ability to learn.⁶ The proximity of enforcement to school environments, or the fear that it could occur, is sufficient to disrupt attendance, learning, and well-being. Federal policy changes in 2025 rescinded prior guidance discouraging immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” such as schools and churches, increasing anxiety among school communities.

Protecting schools from the harms of immigration enforcement is not only a matter of civil rights, but also of sound educational policy. Students cannot learn effectively when they are afraid, distracted, or absent from school. Teachers cannot teach effectively when classrooms are destabilized by trauma and uncertainty. Communities cannot thrive when children are denied consistent access to a quality education.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Coffield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Coffield
Policy and Advocacy Associate

⁴ <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2025/11/10/immigration-enforcement-could-hurt-student-test-scores-study-finds>

⁵ <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-widespread-effects-of-immigration-enforcement-on-schools-in-charts/2025/11>

⁶ https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_ice_raids_are_affecting_children_and_what_schools_can_do



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

HEARING:
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 183 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GOVERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT OR WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED LOCATIONS AND EVENTS.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, Rep. Amato of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. Roots Reborn **strongly supports HCR 183**, which requires the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or within one thousand feet of public schools and adopt policies and procedures to address immigration enforcement activity at certain school-related locations and events.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and beyond. Born out of the August 2023 wildfires, we immediately stepped in to move aid, navigate systems alongside families, and build the trusted relationships that still anchor our work today. What began as wildfire response has grown into essential infrastructure for immigrant communities facing overlapping crises—from recovery and housing instability to shifting federal policies, increased enforcement, and rising fear.

Since December 2024, we have been meeting this new man-made disaster of shifting federal policies, increased militarized enforcement and rising fear head-on. The EPA Maui rapid response network and tipline made up of allied organizations and concerned community members exists because we believe an informed, calm community is a safer community.

Through this coalition, we have:

- Distributed over 3,500 flyers on constitutional rights
- Trained more than 700 community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Delivered over 50 trainings to healthcare providers, social service organizations, business owners, faith communities, educators, and labor union leaders
- Processed more than 450 calls and texts through our tip line
- Trained over 60 volunteer observers in verification, de-escalation, and peaceful documentation

In spring 2025, EPA Maui began receiving reports of federal agents engaged in enforcement activity involving students and schools. Federal Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents conducted so-called “wellness checks” on “unaccompanied minors”— children who entered the United States without a parent or guardian and were later released to family members or sponsors. Under prior practice, these caregivers were not targeted for enforcement while children’s immigration cases were pending. With the shift to a mass-deportation approach, “wellness checks” became a pretext to locate and detain children’s family members and anyone in proximity. Within days, our tipline received reports statewide: agents at or near schools looking for children and relatives, children whose caregivers



were suddenly detained, and school staff unsure how to care for students left with no adult to pick them up or how to respond to federal agents on or near campus.

Federal enforcement has also directly impacted teachers. In May 2025, federal agents executed a judicial warrant in the pre-dawn hours at a residence housing Maui Waena Intermediate School teachers. These educators, lawfully present on J-1 visas, were taken from their homes in bedclothes or wrapped only in blankets by armed agents and held outside for questioning for nearly an hour before being allowed to retrieve documents proving lawful status. They were not permitted to call the school to report they would be late. This incident sent shockwaves through the school and wider community and was widely reported in local media.

EPA Maui responded by deploying trained peaceful observers to provide Know Your Rights information to students and families and to observe interactions with federal agents, helping to ensure the rights of vulnerable community members were not violated. We also increased Know Your Rights trainings for school leaders and school communities. Through this work, one lesson is clear: schools, educators, students, and families are safer when there is a clear, standardized readiness and response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near school grounds.

HCR 183 is a necessary, measured step to protect student safety and school stability. By requiring the Department of Education to adopt a standardized emergency response plan, this bill ensures that schools are prepared, staff know how to respond, and children are not left in crisis when federal enforcement appears at or near campus. Our communities' safety should never come at the expense of students' sense of safety at school.

For the sake of Hawai'i's students, families, and educators, we **urge you to support HCR 183** and to vote to pass it out of this committee. The need is urgent and the time is now.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*
El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



Committee: House Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 309 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HCR183**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HCR183**, which requests the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or within one thousand feet of public schools and adopt policies and procedures to address immigration enforcement activity at certain school-related locations and events.

Our communities are stronger together—and instead, immigration enforcement is preventing our keiki from learning and growing into the next generation of leaders. The ACLU of Hawai'i consistently provides Know Your Rights trainings and hosted one specifically for educators. But without clear direction from the Department of Education, teachers, students, and staff are vulnerable to disruptive enforcement actions with no plan to respond or keep everyone involved safe.

HCR183 takes an important stance to ensure that schools must remain safe and stable learning environments where students can focus on learning and families can engage without fear or confusion. A clear, statewide emergency response plan ensures consistent, lawful, and student-centered responses that prioritize safety and minimize disruption to instruction and school activities. No child, parent, or teacher should fear for their individual and family's safety.

We urge you to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Donavan Kamakani Albano
Donavan Kamakani Albano
Policy Fellow
ACLU of Hawai'i
dalbano@acluhawaii.org

With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving our communities in Hawai'i for over 60 years.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522.5900
F: 808.522.5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

HCR-183

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:16:44 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasman Kekai Mattox	50501 Hawaii and General Strike Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HCR183. I believe it is important the legislature make clear its position on immigration enforcement officers in our schools considering the incident at Koawaena Elementary School in Kona where a student was removed from campus and ultimately deported. It is critical that the Department of Education establish clear procedures for administrators and staff regarding immigration enforcement activities to ensure that our keiki have a safe educational environment at all times. I hope that the Department of Education will welcome this resolution and move forward implementing it.

HCR-183

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 2:48:58 PM

Testimony for EDN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HCR 183.

CHERYL BURGHARDT

NUUANU OAHU

HCR-183

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:53:14 AM

Testimony for EDN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HCR183. I believe it is important for the legislature make clear its position on immigration enforcement officers in our schools considering the incident at Konawaena Elementary School in Kona. A student was removed from campus and ultimately deported. It is critical that the DOE establish clear procedures for administrators and staff regarding immigration enforcement activities. This will ensure that our keiki have a safe educational environment at all times.

It is important that rules are implemented for the protection of our keiki and I hope that the Department of Education will welcome this resolution.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 183 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, AND IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN GOVERNING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT OR WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AT CERTAIN SCHOOL-RELATED LOCATIONS AND EVENTS.

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, Rep. Amato of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HCR 183**, which requires the Department of Education to develop, adopt, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or within one thousand feet of public schools and adopt policies and procedures to address immigration enforcement activity at certain school-related locations and events.

I am a volunteer Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide. I have helped train teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, parents and senior citizens on what their constitutional rights are, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and how to ensure these rights are not violated. I have also trained them how to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work, their schools and community service locations for interactions with federal agents.

I begin my training presentations with an overview of why knowing our rights is important:

- **AWARENESS:** Many people in our communities simply do not know their rights, so they also do not know when their rights are being violated. Federal agents can take advantage of our ignorance about our constitutional protections as a mechanism to deprive us of them.
- **EMPOWERMENT TO EXERCISE RIGHTS:** Know Your Rights education, in the school context for example, empowers people to be able to exercise their rights to protect themselves, their school, and their employees, students, and communities.
- **BUILD COLLECTIVE POWER:** The more people know their rights and how to exercise them, the more power they have when faced with immigration agents. Knowing your rights is the first step to collective safety.

I then move on to a slide of “Myth and Truth.” The myth is that immigration enforcement and mass deportation focuses on criminals, rapists, and people here “illegally.” What I have witnessed in

person and what I have seen reported by credible sources (such as judicial orders), is that federal agents are:

- Detaining the spouses and parents of U.S. citizens, including respected Hawaii business owners, community leaders, and veterans.
- Arresting people at immigration court or check ins (if you are at immigration court or doing an immigration check in, you are going through the “legal” process).
- Ending “Temporary Protected Status” (DHS is trying to strip people here legally of their legal status. Fortunately the courts continue to block this as unlawful).
- Attempts to deport “unaccompanied minors” (children in the U.S. under the protection of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Fortunately the courts have been able to block this as unlawful as well).

As a lawyer, when I witness federal agents repeatedly attempting to violate the constitutional rights of citizens and noncitizens alike, I find the rhetoric of our federal government describing immigrants as “illegals” ironic. Being in the United States in violation of immigration law is a civil infraction, it is not a crime. Violating the constitutional rights of people within the United States and defying court orders as our federal agents are doing is unlawful. The focus is on the wrong “illegals” these days.

My Know Your Rights trainings have expanded over the course of the last year to include a Prevention and Protection Plan, a process by which we take our understanding of our constitutional rights and engage with them practically in the real world to integrate them in our role as community leaders (school administrators, health care facilities, faith leaders) and into the spaces we lead so we can protect our students, patients, congregants, our friends and neighbors. Preparation for interactions with federal agents is a crucial skill so that communities are protected and rights are upheld. Our students, staff, friends and neighbors deserve our protection.

I **strongly support HCR 183** because I have real world experience as a responder in the aftermath of federal agents engaging in enforcement activity impacting schools. I have conducted rapidly convened training for staff at schools where federal agents have appeared looking for children and their families. I have heard the stories of teachers traumatized by federal agents coming to their home in the pre-dawn hours and subjecting them to questioning in their night clothes and blankets. At the request of school administrators I have facilitated virtual Know Your Rights training in Spanish for Spanish-speaking families of school children in communities traumatized by federal agents.

HCR 183 represents a necessary and positive step forward in enhancing school safety and preparing school administrators and staff to protect their communities from federal agents that are, unfortunately, often engaged in unconstitutional or unlawful activity. I am available to provide volunteer consultation and education resources to the Department of Education to facilitate any training needs under this measure and ask for your **support of HCR 183**.

Warmest aloha,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui