



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony of Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)
In Strong Support of SB2055 (SD1), Relating to Civil Rights**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 2, 2026, 10:31 a.m.

Location: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)** submits this testimony in **strong support of SB2055 (SD1)**. This measure would add a new section to Chapter 368, HRS, requiring the **Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission** to establish and maintain a **24-hour toll-free helpline** for witnesses and people harmed (and their family members) to report misconduct by **federal law enforcement officers or military personnel operating in the State**. The helpline would also provide assistance to those harmed, maintain records of calls (including anonymous reports), and support annual public reporting to the Legislature with data and information on federal deployments in Hawai‘i.

HCIR supports SB2055 because **accountability begins with transparency**, and communities cannot seek accountability if there is no safe, accessible way to document harms in real time—especially when people are frightened, limited-English proficient, or unsure where to turn. Immigrant, refugee, and mixed-status families are disproportionately impacted when federal agencies conduct enforcement operations using intimidation, confusion, or unclear identification, and when people fear retaliation for reporting abuse. A 24/7 helpline housed at the Civil Rights Commission creates a **clear, statewide, and relatively low-cost reporting channel**, while also connecting impacted individuals to resources and assistance.

Across the country, we continue to see credible reports—including video evidence—of federal immigration enforcement actions that raise serious civil rights concerns. Hawai‘i should be prepared to respond in an organized and effective way if similar tactics are used here. SB2055 is a practical step to ensure the State can collect consistent information, identify patterns, support those harmed, and inform policymakers through annual reporting.

For these reasons, HCIR respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS SB2055 (SD1)**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:28:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for `Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support SB2055.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:23:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Individuals should have an ability to get help and document abusive behavior by Federal agents.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:37:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Reuters' review of courts dockets shows at least 4,421 cases where federal judges have ruled, since October 2024, that ICE has held individuals illegally. These rulings stem from over 20,000 federal lawsuits filed by detainees seeking release during the recent mass deportation campaign by President Trump. This bill will assist in monitoring, identifying and reporting such illegal conduct in this state, and using the expertise of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission as a central depository for this information.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:21:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2055.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:57:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2055.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:38:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:40:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

Gail Morrison

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:53:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in support

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:42:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Hollenbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:21:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

Robert Justice, M.D., Kapolei

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:57:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 2:27:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mala Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but **we must prepare now** if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:13:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you!

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:29:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055, both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll-free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall assist those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting, and shooting members of the communities where they have targeted, allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike due process, they are masked with no identification, and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability while providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii's shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized, effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state's response to federal fascist tactics.

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary; and Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Jasmine Steiner, KahuPuna, Puna, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Strong Support for SB2055 – Establishing a 24-Hour Civil Rights Intake Helpline

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jasmine Steiner , I run KahuPuna, a community grassroots organization on the lower puna coast of Hawaii island. I am a born-and-raised Puna woman, who has lived her entire live from birth until now in the immediate radius of the states only geothermal plant, which causes alot of civil unrest. I am also a well known community advocate on social medias bringing awareness to the plights of the Puna people, as well as the daughter of the woman currently leading the 2024 Hawai'i Geothermal Injunction against the fraudulent practices of Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) . I stand in **strong support of SB2055**.

The Failure of Traditional Emergency Response

For the people living within the geothermal radius in Puna, **the standard emergency infrastructure is a failure.**

- **911 is Not an Option:** When we smell gas, when our children have respiratory distress, or when the ground shakes from induced seismicity, calling 911 or the Fire Department is often a dead end. These agencies are not equipped, trained, or—in many cases—authorized to intervene in geothermal "upsets." Paired with the fact that once they hear the word “geothermal gas” we are marked and dismissed.
- **Fox Guarding the Henhouse:** We are told to call PGV directly to report harms. Asking a private, multi-billion dollar corporation to self-report its own environmental crimes and health impacts is a violation of our basic civil rights. It is a system designed to fail the victim and protect the perpetrator.

The Need for an Independent Helpline

SB2055 is vital because it places the intake of harms within the **Civil Rights Commission**, an agency that is theoretically independent of the corporate-government "revolving door" that has stifled Puna for 40 years.

- **24/7 Monitoring:** Geothermal disasters do not keep business hours. Our community has been gassed in the middle of the night with no one to call but a corporate recording. A 24-hour helpline is a matter of life and death.
- **Data Transparency:** The requirement for monthly and annual reports is crucial. For decades, our reports of sickness and harm have been "lost" or ignored by state agencies. Publicly posted data ensures that the "concealment" we are currently fighting in court can never happen again.

Protection from Retaliation

Our community has faced immense retaliation for speaking out against geothermal injustices. When we report harms, we are labeled as "activists" and ignored. By establishing Civil Rights Investigators and Data Analysts under this bill, the State finally acknowledges that being subjected to unmonitored industrial toxins is a **Civil Rights issue.**

Relating to Geothermal Injustice

The Puna community is currently battling a **fraudulent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** in the Intermediate Court of Appeals. That fraud was allowed to persist because there was no independent, 24/7 mechanism for the people to document the actual harms occurring on the ground. **SB2055 creates the paper trail that the Puna people have been denied for decades.**

Justice in Hawai'i cannot be achieved if the marginalized are forced to rely on their oppressors for emergency help. I urge you to pass **SB2055** and provide the people of Puna—and all residents facing harms from deployments in our State—with a direct line to accountability.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

Jasmine Steiner

Kahupuna,

#WeArePuna #ItsTimeWeBreathe

wearepuna.wixsite.com/aloha-activism



SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:30:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

Jane Aquino, Oahu

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 26, 2026

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair,

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha, Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2053 SD1, "Relating to Civil Rights."

This bill proposes that the State Civil Rights Commission establish a Civil Rights Helpline to assist residents of the State who have suffered harm as a result of violation of their rights. Such violations have been committed by government officials in other states, including federal agents. People have been wrongfully arrested, detained, and beaten and denied due process of law. We don't want to see any of that behavior copied here in our islands.

Realizing, though, that it is possible that such abuses could happen here, residents of Hawai'i need a way to report violations of their rights and to get help, and a Civil Rights Helpline would meet this need.

In addition, the creation of a Civil Rights Helpline would make it possible for the State to assemble data about such violations based on what is reported on the Helpline.

Please vote in favor of **SB2055 SD1**.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i