



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

KOMIKINA PONO KĪWILA O HAWAI‘I

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Friday, January 30th, 2026 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To:
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

From: Alphonso Braggs, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. 2055 Relating to Civil Rights
Testimony in SUPPORT

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. HCRC enforces laws protecting the people of Hawai‘i from discrimination in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations, and in state and state-funded services.

The purpose of S.B. 2055 is to create a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State and requires the Civil Rights Commission to compile an annual report and hold an annual public hearing on data obtained through the helpline.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2055, which establishes a 24-hour civil rights helpline within the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission to receive reports of harm associated with federal troop deployments, federal law enforcement, and immigration enforcement operations in our state. This measure is timely and necessary because it provides a clear and

accessible pathway for residents to report civil rights violations and ensures that the State can track patterns, respond appropriately, and protect the rights of Hawai‘i’s people.

The HCRC is in strong support of this bill, and we offer the following recommendations which would be necessary to ensure implementation is efficient, cost-effective, and meets all statutory requirements.

In addition to the bill’s current focus, the HCRC urges that the helpline’s capability be expanded to include reports of hate crimes and civil rights violations, even those that do not rise to the level of criminal or administrative charges. This broader scope will allow the HCRC to identify trends, direct resources for outreach and education programs, and proactively address systemic issues before they escalate. It will serve as both a safety net which can connect callers with relevant information and resources, as well as an early warning tool.

As reported in our 2022 SCR 66 report to this Legislature¹ *Addressing Racism in Hawai‘i: Looking Back, During the Covid-19 Pandemic, and Moving Forward*, studies show that hate crimes are underreported and lowering barriers to crime reporting is recommended as it is estimated that less than thirty percent of hate crimes are reported to any agency.

It is critical to make clear that reports to the helpline will be handled by the HCRC and not to police or criminal law enforcement. This distinction will encourage reporting by individuals who may fear retaliation or mistrust law enforcement, while ensuring that civil rights concerns are addressed through education, outreach, community resources, and administrative enforcement.

The most practical and cost-effective way to implement this helpline is through Hawai‘i’s existing 211 system operated by MOU with Aloha United Way. The 211 hotlines already provide

¹ <https://labor.hawaii.gov/hcrc/files/2021/12/SCR-66-final-report.pdf>

24-hour live call response, toll-free access, translation and disability access services, crisis intake and resource referral, voicemail and callback systems, and experience handling sensitive, anonymous calls. Because these capabilities already exist, the State can avoid duplicating infrastructure and instead contract with 211 as the primary intake and triage partner, while the Civil Rights Commission retains responsibility for investigations, confidentiality, and reporting. This approach reduces startup time, minimizes cost, and leverages a trusted statewide resource that residents already use.

Even with 211 handling intakes, the Commission will require additional staff to meet the bill's mandates and expanded scope. The helpline will generate new investigative workload, new data management responsibilities, and new public reporting obligations. A realistic staffing plan includes two civil rights investigators to follow up on reports and conduct interviews, one data analyst to maintain the secure database and prepare the annual report, one program manager to oversee the 211 contract and ensure compliance, and an administrative support for records and scheduling. Based on comparable state contracts and staffing costs, the annual budget should include personnel costs in the range of three hundred fifty thousand to four hundred thirty thousand dollars, a 211 contract for twenty-four-hour intake estimated between three hundred thousand and five hundred thousand dollars, and website and database development costs ranging from seventy thousand to two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for initial build and maintenance.

This model works because it meets all statutory requirements, avoids duplicating infrastructure, reduces startup time, ensures twenty-four-hour multilingual access, and builds on a trusted statewide resource. It allows the Civil Rights Commission to focus on investigations

and civil rights enforcement while leveraging the strengths of the existing 211 system for intake and triage.

The HCRC could also provide data collected through 211 to the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General to be added into the annual statewide hate-crime data report which is also submitted to this Legislature and publicly available²

Some further points of clarification:

Section (b)(3)(c) should be amended to indicate to clarify that HCRC will investigate reports of civil rights over which HCRC has jurisdiction to avoid implicating the Supremacy Clause and principals of federal preemption and to avoid being construed or applied in a manner that obstructs or interferes with the performance of federal duties. In other words, HCRC will gather information and report on all reports received but only investigate allegations over which HCRC has jurisdiction.

Section (b)(3)(g)(5) should be amended to indicate that HCRC will make recommendations for policy and training improvements pertaining only to HCRC's jurisdiction such as non-discrimination policies and procedures under Hawai'i State Law.

Section (b)(3)(g)(3) should be stricken to comport with HRS §368-4³, HCRC's confidentiality mandate. These details are case-specific and could connect back to individual

² See HRS §§846-51 to 846-54.

³ **§368-4 Records; confidentiality; disclosure; reporting requirements.** (a) All records of the investigation arising from a complaint filed with the commission shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone; provided that any factual matters provided to the commission during the intake and investigation of the complaint, including complainant and respondent statements and documents, pre-complaint questionnaires, witness statements for which the witness has not requested confidentiality or for whom the commission has not approved confidentiality pursuant to subsection (c), other documents received from witnesses, and correspondence with parties and witnesses may be disclosed:

(1) As may be required by order of a court with jurisdiction in a case arising from a complaint filed with the commission; or

complaints filed with HCRC. Under HRS §368-4, disclosing investigative records or facts tied to a complaint, even if indirectly, violates confidentiality unless a statutory exception applies.

S.B. 2055 is an important step toward protecting civil rights in Hawai‘i. Expanding the helpline’s scope to include hate crimes and all civil rights violations, paired with implementation

(2) As may be requested by a party in a complaint filed with the commission, if a complainant verifies in writing that the complainant has received a notice of right to sue pursuant to section 368-12 and a civil action has been filed or the right to sue has not expired, or if a respondent verifies in writing that the complainant has filed a civil action.

(b) All records of non-factual matters relating to the investigation and arising from a complaint filed with the commission, including:

- (1) Settlement discussions;
- (2) Financial records;
- (3) Commission attorney communications and work products;
- (4) Confidential witness statements; and
- (5) Commission investigatory procedures, including but not limited to:
 - (A) Training and educational discussions between staff;
 - (B) The case analysis manual;
 - (C) Procedures and standards used in case analysis;
 - (D) Investigatory directives;
 - (E) Investigative plans, strategies, or goals;
 - (F) Case reviews; and
 - (G) Investigator notes, impressions, recommendations, and reports;

shall be considered confidential records except as otherwise provided by law.

(c) In making a determination to approve or deny a request that a witness' identity or statement be kept confidential, the commission shall consider:

- (1) The relevance, materiality, and importance of the witness' statement;
- (2) The likelihood that the witness' statement could not be obtained without approval of a request that the witness' identity or statement be kept confidential; and
- (3) A reasonable and clearly definable fear by the witness that the witness or any other clearly identified person would suffer serious bodily or economic harm, retaliation, or termination of employment, if the witness' identity or statement were not kept confidential.

(d) The disclosure of records that are not related to the investigation arising from a complaint filed with the commission shall be subject to chapter 92F.

(e) The commission shall maintain complete records of all complaints filed with the commission and shall compile annual statistical data on the number of complaints filed and the status or disposition of those complaints by types of complaints.

(f) As used in this section, a "confidential witness statement" means:

(1) A statement from a person who is not a complainant or respondent to a complaint filed with the commission;

(2) Who requests their identity or statement be kept confidential; and

(3) The commission approves the request for confidentiality pursuant to subsection (c).

(g) The commission shall provide to the governor and the legislature a report of that statistical data compiled pursuant to subsection (e) on an annual basis, not less than thirty days prior to the convening of the legislative session. [L 1988, c 219, pt of §1; am L 1989, c 386, §7; am L 1994, c 139, §1; am L 2010, c 139, §3]

through the existing 211 system and appropriate staffing, will ensure the program is effective, accessible, and sustainable. Mahalo for your consideration of these recommendations and for your commitment to civil rights in our state.



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

January 30, 2026 10:00 am CR 016 & Videoconference
SB2055 - Civil Rights Commission; Civil Rights; Helpline; Federal Deployments

TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB2055

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Hawaii. 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 also 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.

The League of Women Voters supports free exercise of our Constitutional rights, including First Amendment rights. The League also believes the diversity of our communities is a strength, and that every person is entitled to equitable treatment under the law. When members of the community are harmed by agents of the government for exercising their rights, the perpetrators should be held accountable.

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 due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports

of the government destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. It is reasonable to expect these agencies, and their paramilitary tactics, will eventually come to Hawaii.

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. This bill creates a method of securing information which can lead to consequences for the perpetrators and also provides support for those who have been victimized.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.

Stephen Munkelt



JANUARY 30, 2026

SENATE BILL 2055

CURRENT REFERRAL: JDC

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Kris Coffield,
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Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SB 2055, relating to civil rights, which requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State; and requires the Civil Rights Commission to compile an annual report and hold an annual public hearing on data obtained through the helpline.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai‘i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, and ensuring survivors—regardless of immigration status—can access safety, services, and justice. Many victims of exploitation in the islands are migrants. To ensure their path to safety from sexual and gender harm, we must defend their fundamental rights.

Research shows that aggressive immigration enforcement undermines public safety and survivors’ access to services. According to a study published in *Criminology & Public Policy* using National Crime Victimization Survey data, fear of deportation is associated with reduced reporting of violent crime among immigrant communities. Similarly, the National Institute of Justice has found that immigrants—especially in destination communities—are less likely to report crimes due to fear of immigration consequences.

This chilling effect is especially severe for survivors of sexual exploitation, gender violence, and trafficking. According to the Urban Institute and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, immigrant survivors frequently delay or avoid seeking help because abusers threaten deportation, and because survivors fear contact with law enforcement or government systems.

Quantitative data also dispels the myth that aggressive immigration enforcement is necessary for public safety. According to research by the Cato Institute and the American Immigration Council, immigrants—both documented and undocumented—are significantly less likely to commit crimes than U.S.-born citizens and are less likely to be incarcerated. Analysis of ICE data has shown that individuals accused of serious violent crimes

make up a small fraction of immigration arrests, indicating that most enforcement actions do not target dangerous individuals.

According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) annual enforcement reports, the agency conducts tens of thousands of interior arrests each year, with over 143,000 administrative arrests nationwide in FY 2023 and significant increases reported in FY 2024 and FY 2025. In Hawai‘i, ICE’s Honolulu Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) office has historically reported several hundred arrests annually, but these numbers have almost certainly increased significantly over the past year, with the Trump Administration’s mandates on enhanced immigration enforcement.

According to data compiled by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, a large share of people detained or arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have no criminal convictions or only minor offenses. TRAC reports that among ICE detainees, 48,377 out of 65,735 individuals—nearly three-quarters—had no criminal conviction, and among those with convictions, many were for minor offenses such as traffic violations or other low-level infractions. These findings illustrate that immigration enforcement frequently impacts individuals who pose no public safety threat and who are deeply embedded in families and communities.

Similarly, an analysis reported by FactCheck.org found that as ICE arrests increased in recent years, the share of people arrested with no U.S. criminal convictions or pending charges rose substantially. Approximately 43 percent of those detained by ICE in January 2026 had no criminal convictions or pending charges according to the publicly available—and often incomplete—ICE data, and that this proportion has grown over time, rising from roughly 22% early in the administration to over 40% today. Factcheck further noted that according to the Department of Homeland Security, about 29% of detainees had criminal convictions, underscoring that immigration enforcement increasingly targets people without criminal records. These data contradict the Trump administration’s claims that enforcement is focused solely on individuals who have committed serious crimes.

This enforcement climate has profound consequences for survivors of sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Survivors who are immigrants—especially those without lawful status—often fear that seeking help will expose them or their family members to detention or deportation. Service providers have documented that immigration enforcement activity deters reporting of crimes and increases vulnerability to exploitation. **SB 2055’s helpline would provide accurate information and referrals, reducing fear and misinformation while supporting survivors’ ability to access constitutionally protected services and legal protections.**

The helpline envisioned in this bill also supports constitutionally protected civil rights. Immigrants, regardless of status, are entitled to due process under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures under the Fourth Amendment. By providing

confidential, accurate information about rights and services, the helpline ensures that fear of immigration enforcement does not prevent individuals from accessing healthcare, victim services, or emergency assistance.

Recent events underscore the urgency of this legislation. Nationally, highly publicized ICE operations—including recent fatal confrontations during enforcement actions in Minneapolis—have intensified fear in immigrant communities and raised concerns about the risks of aggressive tactics. In Hawai‘i, local media have reported ICE enforcement actions over the past year that have been conducted without respect for due process protections or civil liberties for residents of our island home.

For migrant survivors of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, these dynamics are devastating. When survivors fear deportation, they are less likely to report abuse, seek medical care, or cooperate with prosecutors, allowing perpetrators to continue harming others. This proposal would help ensure that survivors can seek help without fear and that public safety systems function effectively.

Strengthening statutory protections against inappropriate immigration-enforcement actions is essential to sustaining public trust. This measure will improve community safety and affirm that Hawai‘i is a place where everyone can seek help without fear.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 10:41:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2055. Please pass this bill.

Thanks, Mike Golojuch

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 10:58:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The underlying tone of this bill is, "we don't trust our local/state/federal law enforcement PERIOD." In addition, this bill is completely one sided. There is no mentioned about identifying the actions of everyone involved in a particular "incident" (two sides to the story) nor a recognition to verify the veracity of all complaints.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 11:01:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you most strongly to pass this protective measure, and others even more protective, to oppose the military takeover of our communities by the private army of the President. Any one of us is now vulnerable to their unlawful deprivations and summary executions, as we have seen in Minnesota. This measure should be just the beginning.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Honolulu 96826

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 1:21:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rhoads 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 submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB 2055. While the bill purports to protect civil rights, it is fundamentally a mechanism to politicize and demonize federal law enforcement and military operations in Hawai'i through taxpayer-funded surveillance, anonymous complaints, and predetermined narrative-shaping—all under the guise of data collection and "trend analysis."

There is no evidence presented that existing civil rights protections are inadequate. Hawai'i already has:

- Federal courts with jurisdiction over civil rights claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983
- The Office of Inspector General (OIG) within federal agencies with authority to investigate misconduct
- Hawai'i's own civil rights commission with existing complaint mechanisms
- Internal Affairs divisions and Judge Advocate General (JAG) review for military personnel
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Civil Rights Division

SB 2055 offers no data showing that legitimate civil rights complaints are being ignored or that Hawaiian's lack accessible avenues for redress. Instead, it creates a new bureaucratic apparatus, at taxpayer expense, specifically designed to harvest anonymous complaints about federal personnel.

1. Section (a) creates a 24/7, toll-free, advertised helpline designed to collect complaints about:
 - "Federal troop deployments"
 - "Federal law enforcement"
 - "Immigration enforcement operations"

This is not neutral infrastructure. The bill's specificity, targeting only federal activities, not state/county law enforcement, reveals its true intent: to build a political record against federal agencies and military.

The term "harm" is dangerously undefined. Combined with anonymity, it invites frivolous, retaliatory, and ideologically-motivated complaints that have nothing to do with actual civil rights violations. A federal agent conducting lawful enforcement, a military servicemember on deployment, or an ICE officer performing immigration enforcement could be reported for "harm" based on policy disagreement, not legal violation.

1. Section (g) mandates annual reports with aggregated data on:
 - Number and type of reports
 - Agencies involved
 - Arrests and dispositions
 - "Patterns or trends regarding misconduct, excessive use of force, racial profiling, and other federal and state civil rights violations"
 - Policy recommendations

This structure is designed to create political leverage regardless of actual violations:

1. Even small complaint volumes become "trends." If 10 anonymous reports are filed about one federal agency over a year, the commission can frame this as evidence of systemic misconduct—without investigating merit, without corroborating evidence, without standards of proof.
2. The commission answers to the legislature, not to voters or the courts. This makes the annual report a political document, not a factual one. Expect selective presentation of data, inflammatory language, and predetermined "recommendations."
3. The report feeds a predetermined narrative. The bill requires findings on "misconduct, excessive use of force, racial profiling"—not neutral inquiry into whether violations occurred. The commission is prompted to find these things, not to discover what actually happened.
4. Anonymous complaints are inherently unreliable. Federal personnel cannot defend themselves against unidentified accusers. This violates basic due process and the principle that accusations should be verifiable and contestable.

The bill grants the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission vast new powers with minimal oversight:

- Investigative discretion: The commission "shall investigate" reports of "violations of state civil rights law"—broadly defined, with no standards for prioritization, merit-testing, or closure.
- Database authority: The commission maintains a "secure database of all reports," creating a permanent repository of unverified allegations against federal personnel.
- Public hearing mandate: Annual hearings are required to present findings, ensuring ongoing public amplification of complaints, regardless of validity.

- Funding implications: A 24/7 helpline with translation services, advertising, database maintenance, investigations, and annual reports all require substantial staff and budget—adding to Hawai'i's tax burden for a problem that has not been demonstrated to exist.

The sponsors are attempting to create state-level oversight of federal law enforcement and military operations.

The Supremacy Clause (U.S. Constitution, Article VI) establishes that federal law and federal enforcement are not subject to state second-guessing through quasi-judicial bodies. States have no authority to supervise or obstruct federal agents performing lawful federal duties.

If a federal officer violates someone's rights, the remedy is through federal courts, federal IGs, and federal disciplinary processes—not through a state civil rights commission that answers to the Hawai'i Legislature and publishes findings designed to influence federal policy.

This bill inches toward the idea that Hawai'i's government has a mandate to monitor and constrain federal military and law enforcement presence. That is a constitutional problem.

Looking at the substance, this legislation targets three categories:

1. Federal law enforcement – FBI, ATF, DEA, and others
2. Immigration enforcement – ICE operations
3. Federal troop deployments – military presence in Hawai'i

There is no corresponding language about Hawai'i National Guard deployments, state police, or county law enforcement misconduct. The selectivity is telling.

This bill is a political statement masquerading as civil rights protection. It is designed to:

- Create an official record of grievances against federal personnel
- Feed a narrative that federal presence is a threat to civil liberties
- Build political leverage to restrict federal law enforcement and military activities in Hawai'i
- Expand state bureaucratic power at the expense of federal authority

In conclusion, SB 2055 is a mechanism to politicize federal law enforcement and military operations in Hawai'i through an unaccountable state bureaucracy. It lacks a demonstrated problem, creates perverse incentives for frivolous complaints, and uses data aggregation to manufacture predetermined narratives of federal misconduct. It violates principles of federalism, due process, and fiscal responsibility.

I urge this committee to defer SB 2055 indefinitely.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 1:42:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Wakukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the state of Hawaii to establish a helpline for people to call to report harms from federal deployments in our state.

ICE is already here and all of our residents (whether a citizen or immigrant) deserve to be safe from bodily harm and verbal abuse from federal agents.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/27/2026 6:22:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Guckenheimer	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

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 10:49:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. In this authoritarian country, we need protections like these. Please pass this bill.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 12:41:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Faue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lauren Faue and I am a constituent of Nu'uano, a resident of Honolulu, a student social worker, an advocate, and a concerned citizen of the United States. I was born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I found myself on O'ahu in 2021 and have been here since. I will always be grateful to the people of O'ahu and the spirit of Aloha, deeply imbedded in the fabric of the community, for the sense of belonging I have come to feel here.

As a privileged white woman, I have never faced most of the violence, prejudice, and discrimination that has made the geopolitical sphere so hostile. This is a testament to my privilege. I have an obligation to look outside of my own needs and desires, to use the privileges that I have not earned as well as the opportunities I have earned, to advocate for progress.

Hawai'i cannot sustain a crisis on the scale of that which is occurring in Minneapolis. The unchecked power of immigration officers and federal troops have made many cities on the continent completely unsafe for people of color, immigrants (regardless of their documentation status), and anyone who stands between these folks and law enforcement. Hawai'i is home to a diverse myriad of families, human beings. These people need to know that there are resources for them. They need a place to report violence, discrimination, and concern in general. They need a platform to advocate for themselves.

Should additional federal troops and ICE agents be deployed to Hawai'i, it is absolutely imperative that there is infrastructure in place for them to be held accountable.

I am supporting this bill as I believe it will be essential in establishing that Hawai'i will not follow suit with other states and governments that overlook the needs of their constituents in favor of silence, compliance, and permission of violence. The establishment of a 24 hotline to report misconduct and harm will protect the voices of the most vulnerable. The existence of this hotline, as well as the passing of this legislation, will reassure constituents like myself that Hawai'i is safe for immigrants, safe for people of color, and will remain grounded in the best interests of those who call Hawai'i home.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo Nui,

L. Faue

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 12:44:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Weltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I believe that citizens should have an ability to get help and document abusive behavior by Federal agents. Hawai'i should be able to support it's kaiulu with aloha.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 1:15:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 1:32:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 1:39:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Gund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current federal administration is systematically killing civil rights of individuals without regard to the rule of law and the constitutional provision that all persons are subject to said rule(s). I support this Bill to establish a helpline to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 2:26:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055. 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.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 2:35:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Teare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 3:27:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB2055 creating a hotline for individuals to report any harm or potential harm caused by federal deployments within the state.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 3:32:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. ICE is out of control. Our State needs to do all it can to limit their harm to us. Aloha & Mahalo

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 4:48:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2055.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 4:50:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Kanehailua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2055 to protect citizens civil rights and to hold anyone accountable for their actions.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 5:03:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 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

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 5:49:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2055!

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 must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response to DHS current behavior to hold them accountable. 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

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 5:59:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2055.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 6:15:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055. 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.

I am deeply concerned by the recent killings in Minneapolis and the general treatment of protesters there. 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.

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

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 6:22:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Collat	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.

Aloha,

Michael

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 7:03:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support SB2055. Abuses by the Trump regime must not be tolerated.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 7:44:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	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.

Joie Yonamine

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 7:57:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2055. I believe that given the recent events on the mainland, particularly the most recent ones in Minneapolis, having a state funded helpline for people to report human rights violations at the hands of any federal deployments is very much needed at this time. Mahalo for taking the time to consider my views.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 8:18:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Collat	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

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 8:19:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Cain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to establish a helpline. Too many people have suffered harm from federal "law enforcement." Citizens' civil rights are at risk!

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain, Honolulu

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 9:59:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy M DeBernardi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/28/2026 11:06:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2055 (2026): Relating to Civil Rights

Paul Garrett Hugel
ORCID: 0000-0001-8082-7208

Introduction

I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2055 (2026), which establishes a civil rights reporting helpline and public oversight process within the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. This measure is timely and necessary given recent federal policy developments expanding domestic security enforcement authorities and surveillance mechanisms.

Federal Policy Context

On September 25, 2025, the White House issued National Security Presidential Memorandum 7 (NSPM-7), directing an all-of-government effort centered on FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) to investigate, prosecute, and disrupt individuals and organizations associated with political violence and intimidation. NSPM-7 further contemplates expanded financial surveillance and scrutiny of advocacy organizations, donors, and platforms.

Constitutional and Civil Liberties Risks

NSPM-7 raises significant constitutional concerns, including First Amendment risks from ideology-based screening, due process concerns related to non-statutory domestic designation mechanisms, and financial privacy risks arising from expanded suspicious activity reporting and Treasury advisories. These risks directly affect protest organizers, nonprofits, financial institutions, and civic actors operating in Hawaii.

Necessity and Scope of SB2055

SB2055 does not regulate federal agents or interfere with federal operations. It establishes a state-level mechanism to document civil rights impacts arising from federal law enforcement or military deployments. The bill creates a centralized reporting channel, produces an official evidentiary record through annual reports and hearings, and enables legislative oversight consistent with state police powers.

Federalism and State Authority

States have long exercised authority to document civil rights conditions through commissions and legislative oversight mechanisms. SB2055 fits within this tradition and respects Supremacy Clause and intergovernmental immunity limitations by focusing on documentation and transparency rather than regulation.

Conclusion

NSPM-7 materially expands domestic security enforcement and surveillance authorities, raising documented civil liberties risks. SB2055 provides a constitutionally sound transparency mechanism. I respectfully urge the Legislature to PASS SB2055.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Garrett Hugel
ORCID: 0000-0001-8082-7208

References

- 1 White House. National Security Presidential Memorandum-7: Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence. September 25, 2025.
- 2 Hugel, P. G. (2025). NSPM-7: Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence: Comprehensive Analysis, Legal Implications, and Compliance Playbooks.
- 3 The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE). Analysis of NSPM-7 First Amendment implications. October 2025.
- 4 U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of the Treasury advisories referenced in NSPM-7 implementation materials.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 5:40:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

require the Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State.

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 7:45:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The overreach of the federal government in MN shows us that the government has no intention of following the law. DHS has refused to follow more than 100 court orders. We must restore the rule of law. It should be our first priority to make sure every government agent understands he/she will be held accountable, either today or in the future. This bill is an important step to helping residents of Hawaii hold all federal agents accountable to law. The rule of law is the foundation of our liberties!

LATE

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 1:06:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2055 - requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State.

It is only a matter of time before the Trump regime ssends a large force to our small state.

LATE

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 2:09:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please require the Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State. Thank you!

SB-2055

Submitted on: 1/29/2026 6:06:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/30/2026 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martina Wing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you.

Sincerley,
Martina Wing
Resident of Kailua-Kona
Big Island

In Support of SB 2055 – Relating to Civil Rights

Julia Pinkerton

LATE

Aloha JDC Committee Chairs, Senators Rhoads and Gabbard, and JDC Committee Members Chang, Buenaventura, and Awa,

This bill, in creating a helpline for people experiencing harms at the hands of federal deployments, is vital for educating, supporting, and being attuned to the evolving needs of our communities in a time when the current administration tends to flout the rule of law and the wishes of the communities most directly impacted by their cruel policies.

Given Hawaii's diverse population with ties to countries across the world, our communities stand at particularly high risk in the face of recent immigrations and customs enforcement raids. This helpline, and the annual report described on page 2, lines 17-20 of SB 2055, would ensure that we know what our communities face and can respond appropriately.

Meanwhile, the immediate providing of resources to people experiencing the harms of federal deployments can help show our people that they do not stand alone and that they can find help. Based on my experience as a crisis counseling volunteer, both the sympathetic ear and the resources this helpline will provide will help people build hope, calm, and resilience when they most need it.

For all of these reasons, I enthusiastically support SB 2055 and ask you to do the same

Mahalo for your time,

Julia Pinkerton