



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2057 SD1
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo
(Senate Committee on Judiciary)
Hawai‘i State Capitol

Pepeluali 26, 2026

10:00 AM

Lumi 016

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Chang, a me Members of Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2057 SD1** which limits the use of state and county law enforcement resources to assist in operations that suppress First Amendment protected activity or conduct immigration enforcement at or near schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses. OHA appreciates recent amendments which clarified that law enforcement officers are prohibited from using personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their law enforcement duties or authority, and specified that law enforcement officers are prohibited from using personnel or funds or cooperating with federal immigration agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment or immigration enforcement operations.

OHA supports measures that preserve free expression, protect public access to essential services, and maintain community trust in public institutions. SB2057 establishes clear guardrails to help ensure that residents can safely seek education, medical care, spiritual support, and court services without fear that these essential spaces will become sites of unrelated enforcement activity. Hawai‘i has a long and proud history of civic engagement, peaceful protest, and free expression across diverse communities, and protecting First Amendment activity from undue enforcement entanglement is consistent with these values and with a healthy democratic society.

For Kānaka Maoli, enforcement actions in civic and community spaces must also be viewed in historical context, as Hawai‘i’s past shows that government power exercised without clear limits can profoundly affect civil liberties and community well-being, underscoring the importance of placing human dignity and constitutional protections first. This bill does not prohibit cooperation where required by federal or state law; rather, it clarifies that discretionary use of local resources should not undermine protected expression or deter people from accessing essential community institutions. For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS SB2057 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2057 SD1, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY

February 26, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB2057 SD1**. This bill aligns squarely with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform's core commitments to civil liberties, accountable government, and public safety that is just, equitable, and free from discrimination. The Platform affirms that government must be transparent, restrained by checks and balances, and accountable to the people. This measure reflects those principles by ensuring that state resources are not used to facilitate federal actions that exceed lawful authority or undermine constitutional protections.

The Platform further recognizes that true public safety cannot be achieved through policing alone and that laws must be enforced fairly, without discrimination or disproportionate harm to communities of color. By limiting state participation in civil immigration enforcement—particularly at sensitive locations such as schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses—this bill protects access to essential services and promotes community trust, which is foundational to public safety.

Additionally, the Platform strongly supports the protection of First Amendment rights, religious freedom, and freedom from oppression or retaliatory government action. This bill is consistent with those values by prohibiting the use of state personnel or resources to assist in operations that target constitutionally protected activity.

Importantly, this measure does not prevent federal authorities from carrying out their duties, nor does it interfere with lawful criminal enforcement. It simply affirms Hawai'i's right—and responsibility—to decide how its own resources are used, in a manner consistent with constitutional values and ethical governance.

For these reasons, this bill is fully consistent with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform, and we respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2057 SD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING:
Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2057, SD1**, which prohibits law enforcement agencies from using any personnel or funds originating in the state to assist or facilitate conduct by federal agents that exceeds their statutory duty or authority, and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or immigration enforcement operations.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots immigrant justice and disaster-response organization formed in the aftermath of the 2023 Maui wildfires. Since then, we have become essential infrastructure for immigrant residents navigating recovery, housing instability, and federal policy shifts. Trust is the foundation of safety in our communities — and today, that trust is eroding under the fear of federal overreach. Families skip work and school; patients decline medical care; congregants stay home from church. We hear from survivors of violence, including women and children, who are now afraid to seek help from local police.

SB 2057, SD1 is critical to restore confidence that Hawai'i's law enforcement serves and protects our communities — not federal operations that violate constitutional rights.

Our coalition's volunteer observers, trained to lawfully and peacefully document enforcement activity in public spaces, do so to promote transparency and accountability, values central to democracy. The tragic deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, volunteer observers killed by federal agents in Minneapolis, underscore the stakes. Their story was told only because other observers were present to record the incident — a right protected under the First Amendment.

We are increasingly concerned about data-sharing between local law enforcement and federal agencies that could expose observers or community members to intimidation. Reports from the continent describe the use of facial recognition and license plate data to track and target individuals engaged in constitutionally protected activity. SB 2057, SD1 offers needed guardrails to prevent such misuse of local resources and protect both residents and those who defend their rights.

We urge your support for SB 2057, SD1. Protecting local autonomy, civil rights, and community trust strengthens public safety for all.

Sinceramente and in memory of Renee Good and Alex Pretti,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza', 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: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00am
Place: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2057 SD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) writes in **support of SB2057 SD1**, which would prevent our local authorities from being commandeered to serve federal operations that run counter to the safety and interests of Hawai'i's communities or that violate constitutional rights.

Throughout the continent, we have witnessed President Trump deploy troops and militarized federal agents into cities to scare our communities.¹ This blending of law enforcement agencies with military units in a single deportation force is a recipe for the abuse of civil rights – including excessive use of force, racial profiling, and illegal detention.

In Hawai'i, we have seen federal agents taking our immigrant neighbors.² Immigration enforcement has spiked in Hawai'i as compared to previous years: between January 20, 2025 and October 15, 2025, detainers nearly doubled, administrative arrests more than tripled, and detention stays nearly tripled, as compared to the same period in 2024.³ We know that throughout the country, most people being held in detention have not been convicted of a crime.⁴

We must prevent our local authorities from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and

¹ Planas R and Witherspoon A. (2026, January 28). The federal agents deployed in Trump's immigration crackdown – visualized. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/19/donald-trump-immigration-crackdown>

² Leonard, M. (2026, January 6). Hawai'i ICE arrests and detentions in 2025 spiked from year before. Honolulu Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2026/01/hawaii-ice-arrests-detentions-2025-far-exceed-2024/>

³ Hausman, D. (2025). "U.S. immigration enforcement data." California Law Review Online, 16 (13).

⁴ Hausman, D. (2025).

hurting our communities. Our state and local policies should ensure our law enforcement agencies do not support this gross federal overreach.

It is our kuleana to protect our neighbors' rights to live without fear. For the above reasons, we respectfully request that you pass SB2057.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

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.

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara Tom, and I am the Director of the Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB2057SD1.

Waipahu Safe Haven serves immigrant and migrant families in Waipahu, including Compact of Free Association (COFA) residents, limited English proficient households, and mixed-status families. Our center provides health enrollment, SNAP access, housing navigation, after-school educational support, and domestic violence education. Trust between our community and local institutions is essential for this work to succeed.

This measure appropriately prohibits law enforcement officers from using state-originating personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their lawful authority. It also prohibits assisting or cooperating in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected under the First Amendment.

These protections are critically important for several reasons:

- They ensure that state and county resources are used for local public safety priorities, not civil immigration enforcement beyond lawful authority.
- They protect residents' constitutional rights, including freedom of speech, assembly, and religious practice.
- They prevent the chilling effect that occurs when community members fear that participation in protests, church gatherings, community meetings, or advocacy efforts could expose them to immigration enforcement.
- They reinforce clear boundaries between criminal law enforcement and civil immigration enforcement.

In Waipahu, when families fear that routine interaction with local officers could lead to immigration questioning or detention, they avoid reporting crimes, cooperating with investigations, or seeking protection from domestic violence. This undermines safety for the entire community.

This measure does not prevent lawful criminal investigations. Rather, it reinforces constitutional safeguards, clarifies limits on state resource use, and strengthens trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Public safety in Hawai'i depends on transparency, accountability, and respect for constitutional protections.

Waipahu Safe Haven respectfully urges you to PASS SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Barbara Tom, Director



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 24, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2054 and SB 2057

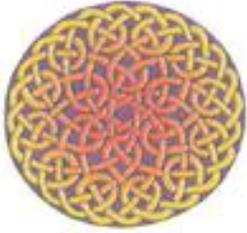
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. The experiences of our sister locals elsewhere in the U.S., including Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, make clear to us that it is necessary to take action to rein in ICE and DHS across the country.

We do not want our union members, their families, or anyone else in our community to be targeted, terrorized, assaulted, kidnapped, or killed by government agents or anyone else. We do not want their rights to be violated. All people should be treated with respect and dignity.

We urge your support of SB 2054 and SB 2057. These measures are important steps toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.



Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C.

*Alahea Corporate Tower
1100 Alahea St., Fl. 20, Suite B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10:00 AM, CR 016

Re: Fujiwara & Rosenbaum¹ Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **S.B. 2057, S.D. 1 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum submits this testimony in **strong support** of **S.B. 2057, S.D. 1.**

The Bill Protects Hawaii's Constitutional Values

This measure establishes common-sense boundaries that protect Hawaii's constitutional order. Section 1 of the bill provides that "no law enforcement shall use any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal agents that exceeds their statutory duty or authority." This is not obstruction of lawful federal activity; it is a commitment to the rule of law itself. When federal agents act beyond their statutory authority, they act unlawfully, and Hawaii should not be complicit in such conduct.

The bill further prohibits state law enforcement officers from assisting federal agents in operations that seek to identify, arrest, or impose penalties on persons for "activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution." This provision mirrors Hawaii's own constitutional commitment to freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition, enshrined in **Article I, Section 4** of our state Constitution, which provides that "no law shall be enacted... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." When residents fear that exercising these fundamental rights may trigger federal enforcement action, the chilling effect on democratic participation is severe and immediate.

The bill's protections regarding immigration enforcement are equally grounded in constitutional principle. Hawaii's Constitution provides stronger privacy protections than federal law, stating that "the right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest." **Article I, Section 5** guarantees that no person shall "be denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry." S.B. No. 2057, S.D. 1 implements these constitutional values by ensuring state resources are not deployed in ways that disproportionately burden immigrant communities based on ancestry or national origin.

Community Safety Depends on Community Trust

The committee report accompanying this bill correctly identifies that "fear of collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement operations not only harms individuals and families, but also undermines public safety and the effective

¹ The law firm Fujiwara & Rosenbaum has worked for almost forty (40) years to defend civil rights and civil liberties in Hawai'i.

administration of justice." This is not speculation. When immigrant community members fear that any interaction with police may result in deportation, they do not report crimes, do not serve as witnesses, and do not cooperate with investigations. Victims of domestic violence remain silent. Workers subjected to wage theft or unsafe conditions do not come forward. The criminals who prey on these communities operate with impunity.

The bill wisely specifies that its protections apply to immigration enforcement "that occurs at or near a school, health facility, place of worship, or courthouse." These sensitive locations must remain accessible to all residents. When parents fear taking their children to school, when sick individuals avoid medical care, when congregants cannot worship freely, and when crime victims cannot seek justice in our courts, the entire fabric of civil society is weakened. Hawaii's diverse communities, including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and residents with family ties throughout Asia and the Pacific, have particular reason to ensure that these protections remain strong.

The Rule of Law Requires Limits on State Complicity

Article I, Section 1 of Hawaii's Constitution declares that "all political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people." The Legislature, as the people's representatives, has both the authority and the responsibility to determine how state resources are deployed. Nothing in federal law requires Hawaii to volunteer its personnel, funds, or facilities for federal enforcement operations, particularly those that exceed statutory authority or target constitutionally protected activities.

This bill does not prevent federal agents from carrying out their lawful duties. It simply provides that they must do so with federal resources, not Hawaii's. The measure includes appropriate exceptions for conduct "required by federal or state law," ensuring that genuine legal obligations are honored while discretionary collaboration with unlawful or constitutionally suspect operations is curtailed.

Conclusion

S.B. No. 2057, S.D. 1 reflects Hawaii's commitment to constitutional governance, community safety, and human dignity. It protects First Amendment freedoms, upholds due process and equal protection, and ensures that state resources serve the people of Hawaii rather than federal overreach. As a civil rights law firm that has dedicated their careers to protecting workers and vulnerable communities, we urge this Committee to pass this measure.

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 26, 2026

LATE

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of SB2057 SD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority, and prohibits assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations that target activities protected by the First Amendment or immigration enforcement operations.

We are partners in life and in community work, and co-founders of Mercado de la Raza, a space created to uplift and support Hawai'i's Latino community. Beyond operating a small business, we have worked together to connect families with critical resources during times of crisis — including helping Latino residents navigate aid and support during the Lahaina fires and assisting community members affected by the recent government shutdown. Mercado de la Raza also serves as a gathering place for Latino families and a platform for local Latino entrepreneurs to showcase and grow their businesses. Through this work, we are deeply connected to and invested in the well-being, safety, and dignity of our community.

SB2057 SD1 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. It draws clear lines so Hawai'i resources are not used to facilitate federal actions that exceed lawful authority or target constitutionally protected activity. These guardrails help protect the integrity of local institutions and ensure cooperation does not undermine civil liberties.

Community trust is essential for safety. When people fear that local resources are being used to support immigration enforcement operations or actions targeting protected speech or assembly, they are less likely to report crime, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. SB2057 SD1 strengthens public safety by reinforcing constitutional boundaries and preventing misuse of state resources.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
Mercado de La Raza
808.593.2226

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:07:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2057 SD1 that prohibits law enforcement agencies from using any personnel or funds originating in the state to assist or facilitate conduct by federal agents that exceeds their statutory duty or authority, and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or immigration enforcement operations.

The misuse of federal partnerships to conduct raids, broaden surveillance, and intimidate communities is a threat to democratic governance and local safety. When state and local police take part in ICE’s abusive practices and play the role of federal immigration agents, it makes communities less safe by eroding trust in local law enforcement and deterring immigrant families from coming forward when they are the victims of crime or even asking for basic assistance.

It is in the interest of our communities to make sure that no public employee volunteers state and local resources, including data and equipment, to federal personnel who would use it to violate our rights.

I urge the committee to pass this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:18:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2057.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:52:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I retired after serving as a police officer for 34 years. Immigration is a federal crime, so a state-certified police officer has no jurisdiction enforcing a federal law. State-certified police officers have their own crimes to respond to.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:58:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057. This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:09:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement actions — often through 287(g) agreements — is dangerous, because it erodes community trust, discourages crime reporting, and fuels racist profiling. Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement ultimately makes us all less safe.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:54:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryl Nordstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Darryl Nordstrom

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:46:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Local law enforcement and local resources should be used for local purposes, not to advance a federal administration's unconstitutional agenda. Please pass this bill.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:49:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in overwhelming support of SB2057.

The federal government, led by a mad man crazy with his legacy, full of revenge, who lies, repeatedly, is using troops to take away liberties enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. This is an important bill which will push back on actions when suddenly ICE appears in high numbers in the islands. Unfortunately it has come to this. And, he is now thinking of having ICE acting in our elections.

Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:31:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Goren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of SB2057 both personally, as a Lahaina resident, and as a member of Indivisible Hawai'i.

SB2057 would add a section to Chapter 139 of Hawai'i Revised Statues prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

In September of 2025, as part of President Trump's pattern of abusing his power to target critics through unconstitutional invocations of law enforcement, national security, and financial sanctions authorities, he issued a presidential memorandum authorizing government-wide investigations into non-profits, activists, and their donors and funders, using vague and overbroad labels of "terrorism" and "conspiracy against rights." This National Security Presidential Memorandum, NSPM-7, called "Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence," essentially allows the Trump administration to go after *anyone* who disagrees with him and is not devoutly MAGA.

Who are these citizens the Trump administration has categorized as domestic terrorist threats? Anyone with a view that is "anti-Americanism," "anti-Christianity," "extremism on migration," "extremism on race," "extremism on gender," or opposition to the good old "traditional American views on family, religion, and morality." But as we all should know, having an opinion that differs from the Trump administration is not domestic terror; it is civic duty, and it is protected by the First Amendment. This NSPM-7 flies in the face of our First Amendment rights and the use of local law enforcement to effect this aggressive attack on liberty must be rejected.

National security policies and practices are most effective when they respect constitutional values and the rule of law and are subjected to stringent oversight as well as public accountability. Yet, NSPM-7 actively rejects the rule of law and we have seen that there has been absolutely no accountability, much less public accountability.

Hima Shamsi, Director of the ACLU's National Security Project, issued the following statement in response to Trump's memorandum:

Working from a fever dream of conspiracies, President Trump has launched yet another effort to investigate and intimidate his critics.

After one of the most harrowing weeks for our First Amendment rights, the President is invoking political violence, which we all condemn, as an excuse to target non-profits and activists with the false and stigmatizing label of ‘domestic terrorism.’ This is a shameful and dangerous move. But the President cannot rewrite the Constitution by memo.

Intimidation tactics against those standing up for human rights and civil liberties are sadly not new in the history of this country. In an earlier era, civil rights movement leaders were also labeled security threats and investigated, monitored, threatened, and even arrested. True strength in this country comes not from political leaders engaged in fearmongering and political vendettas, but from our vibrant civil society, activists, and communities steadfastly pursuing the goals of equality, fairness, and democracy for all.[\[1\]](#)

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

It is the duty of city and state governments to protect their residents from this aggressive and illegal federal overreach. One extremely effective way for city and state governments to satisfy their obligations to their residents is through implementing policies that limit cooperation with immigrant authorities. SB2057 does just that, giving Hawaii’s a vital tool to protect our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the un-American, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing from federal agents. SB2057 is the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

[1] ACLU Statement on the Trump Administration's Memorandum Targeting Political Opponents, Sep. 25, 2025, ret. <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-statement-on-the-trump-administrations-memorandum-targeting-political-opponents>

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:35:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 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-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:22:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Gail Morrison

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:20:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muftiah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii's toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing from federal agents. It's the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

Mahalo for receiving my testimony.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:28:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for continuing to support the First Amendment rights of all US residents. Please prohibit law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with federal agents (ICE, and others) trying to target individuals. Please require all law enforcement agents to follow the rule of law.

Mahalo

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:29:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

in support

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:30:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my support for SB2057.

Our law enforcement officers should not be allowed to assist or cooperate with federal immigration agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or immigration enforcement operations.

Mahalo for your service.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:19:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 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 SB2057 SD1, and think it is a very important bill.

I believe a bill like this is necessary to codify in state law to protect the independence of our state and local law enforcement.

I also think it is wise to codify that the local police of Hawai'i are there to protect those engaged in nonviolent First Amendment rights practices (i.e., filming, protesting, yelling), regardless of their point of view.

I do not believe that assisting with federal officers who want to target those who are expressing their First Amendment rights by arresting or otherwise detaining them is in our state's best interest when they are in essence, acting as agents for the federal officers. Having a law like this on the side of our local officers gives them clear guidance and bona fide authority to not be compelled to do so.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:10:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry McDonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE strongly support this measure. We can not let our HPD be dragged into these non-criminal proceedings, where the only thing certain is huge reputational harm working with ICE on their illegal attempts to control protesters would be.

thank you for your dedication. Lets pass this bill

Terry McDonald

East hawai'i Indivisible

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:20:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill reinforces that public safety is built on trust, not fear, and that immigration enforcement should not be entangled with routine policing. By drawing clear boundaries, SB2057 SD1 safeguards civil liberties, prevents racial profiling, and ensures Hawaii's diverse communities - including its 258,000 immigrants - can access essential services without fear of detention or deportation. As an individual and as a member of Indivisible, I support this bill and urge its passage.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 24, 2026

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha, Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2057 SD1, "Relating to Law Enforcement."

This Bill will protect the Constitutional First Amendment rights of all of us. People must never be targeted by law enforcement activities that seek to prevent them from expressing their views or punish them for doing so. No one, no matter how important or powerful they aspire to be, can be permitted to come between the people of this land and their First Amendment rights to practice their religion or other belief system. Also, people need to know that they can say what they need to say without retaliation from law enforcement. Children need to be safe at their schools. People who are ill and hospitalized need to be protected, too.

Due Process is also guaranteed under the Constitution for everyone. If anyone is denied due process, then everyone could lose their right to due process. We would all be at risk. Everyone has a right to legal counsel and **a chance to plead their case if ever taken into custody**, just as Donald Trump himself had when he was charged with crimes. He always had due process.

I am haole (caucasian) and have lived in Hawai'i for nearly 50 years; I embrace diversity and oppose the white-supremacist agenda that is playing out in the US.

I urge you to protect us all by voting for **SB2057 SD1**.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:22:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill limiting collaboration with the Fed's!

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:34:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057. This bill would prohibit state and local law enforcement from collaborating with federal operations that target the exercise of First Amendment rights or involve civil immigration enforcement.

We are witnessing federal immigration actions across the country that raise serious concerns about due process, civil rights, and basic standards of decency. SB2057 ensures that Hawai'i's law enforcement personnel and resources are not drawn into actions that undermine constitutional protections.

This is a safeguard we hope never to need, but one that could protect families, communities, and officers from lasting harm. I urge you to pass SB2057. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:24:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 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 SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Aloha, Michael

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:39:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2057 PROHIBITS ASSISTING FEDS AGAINST FIRST AMENDMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Mary Leigh Knittle

SB-2057-SD-1

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

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of SB2057, which establishes a critical and principled boundary to prohibit the use of state resources and personnel from facilitating specific forms of federal overreach. This bill is a necessary safeguard for the constitutional rights of all Hawai‘i residents, a pillar of true public safety, and a declaration that our state’s assets will not be commandeered for operations that undermine our laws and values.

At its core, SB2057 is about the responsible stewardship of public resources and the protection of fundamental freedoms. It explicitly prevents state and county agencies from using their funds, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to assist in federal operations that unlawfully target individuals based on their exercise of First Amendment rights—such as their speech, religion, or political activism—or in certain immigration enforcement actions that fall outside of congressionally authorized purposes. This is not about non-cooperation with legitimate federal law; it is about non-participation in unlawful or retaliatory federal missions that would violate the rights of people in our state.

The policy justifications for this bill are clear and compelling:

1. **It Protects Constitutional Rights:** By drawing a bright line against facilitating operations that target First Amendment activities, this bill ensures that Hawai‘i’s resources are never used to enable the suppression of free speech, assembly, or religious practice. It protects our residents from being subject to surveillance or investigation simply for exercising their most basic American liberties.
2. **It Strengthens Community Trust and Public Safety:** Public safety depends on the trust between community members and local institutions. When immigrant families or individuals engaged in lawful protest fear that interacting with a state agency—whether to report a crime, seek healthcare, or enroll a child in school—could lead to their targeting by federal authorities, they retreat into the shadows. This bill reduces that fear, ensuring that all residents feel safe accessing essential services and cooperating with local law enforcement, which makes **everyone** safer.
3. **It Ensures Accountability and Clarity:** SB2057 provides unambiguous guidance for state and county employees, preventing them from being placed in an ethical and legal bind. It creates a clear standard for interagency cooperation, ensuring that collaboration is conducted within a framework that respects civil rights and state sovereignty.

4. **It Upholds State Sovereignty:** This legislation affirms that Hawai'i's resources are dedicated to serving the people of Hawai'i according to our laws and priorities. It prevents the diversion of our limited public funds and personnel to carry out federal agendas that may be politically motivated, unconstitutional, or destructive to community cohesion.

SB2057 is a measured, targeted, and profoundly important piece of legislation. It wisely chooses to invest our state's resources in building trust, protecting rights, and serving the common good, rather than in facilitating operations that would fracture our community and violate our shared principles.

For the protection of our Constitution, the strength of our public safety, and the well-being of all who call Hawai'i home, I urge you to pass SB2057.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:36:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Rivers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of this bill to limit the Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with the National Guard from another state or federal troops/law enforcement if the Governor of HI has objected to the deployment. We have seen the overreach occurring in other democratic cities like Chicago and Minneapolis... this has to stop. Hawaii citizens at large, appreciate our diversity. We need to support the HI NG as they are Hawaii citizens and we should not be asking them to rise up against their family members, friends or neighbors. This is wrong and authoritarian. We must stand together against the slippery slope of fascism. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:01:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. Thank you.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:32:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Please pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Robert Justice, M.D.

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 25, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2057 SD1
Measure Title: RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.
Report Title: State Agencies; Law Enforcement; Federal Immigration Agents;
Assistance; Prohibition; First Amendment; Immigration Enforcement

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 2057 SD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:53:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:00:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Mura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Judith Mura Strongly Support SB 2057 SD1

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:30:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI. I support SB2057, which Prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority. Prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or immigration enforcement operations. I do not support the Trump regime's use of these unconstitutional tactics.

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:55:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Caringer, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD1

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 26, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ellen Caringer, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2057 SD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority, and prohibits assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations that target activities protected by the First Amendment or immigration enforcement operations.

I am a clinical psychologist, and I am testifying as an individual. SB2057 SD1 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. It draws clear lines so Hawai'i resources are not used to facilitate federal actions that exceed lawful authority or target constitutionally protected activity. These guardrails help protect the integrity of local institutions and ensure cooperation does not undermine civil liberties.

Community trust is essential for safety. When people fear that local resources are being used to support immigration enforcement operations or actions targeting protected speech or assembly, they are less likely to report crime, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. SB2057 SD1 strengthens public safety by reinforcing constitutional boundaries and preventing misuse of state resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

(808) 281-7463

dr caringer@gmail.com

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:35:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2057 PROHIBITS ASSISTING FEDS AGAINST FIRST AMENDMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Jason Lewis

Lahaina Resident

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:52:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Mosher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Janelle Mosher, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2057 SD1, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their lawful duty or authority. The bill also prohibits assisting, cooperating with, or allowing state resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration operations that target activities protected by the First Amendment.

I am a citizen of Hawai'i and an immigration attorney. I testify as an individual concerned with public safety and the protection of civil rights for all individuals living in our state.

I support this bill because it is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. It establishes clear boundaries to ensure that Hawai'i's resources are not used to facilitate federal actions that exceed lawful authority or target constitutionally protected activity. These guardrails help preserve the integrity of local institutions and ensure that cooperation does not undermine civil liberties.

Community trust is essential to public safety. When people fear that local resources may be used to support immigration enforcement operations or actions targeting protected speech or assembly, they are less likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. SB2057 SD1 strengthens public safety by reinforcing constitutional boundaries and preventing misuse of state resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2057 SD1.

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani
In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 26, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2057 SD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority, and prohibits assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations that target activities protected by the First Amendment or immigration enforcement operations.

I am testifying as an individual born and raised in Hawai'i and an active member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN). I recently retired from a community health center in Kalihi caring for vulnerable underserved populations, primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant families.

SB2057 SD1 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. It draws clear lines so that limited Hawai'i resources are allocated to meet urgent priority community needs, and not used to facilitate and enable federal actions that exceed lawful authority or target constitutionally protected activity. These guardrails help protect the integrity of local institutions and ensure cooperation does not undermine civil liberties.

Community trust is essential for safety. When people fear that local resources are being used to support immigration enforcement operations or actions targeting protected speech or assembly, they are less likely to report crime, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. SB2057 SD1 strengthens public safety by reinforcing constitutional boundaries and preventing misuse of state resources.

This measure complements and supports SB2054 SD1 that "Prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawaii when the governor has objected..."

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wendy Naomi Sodetani
Member of Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN)
naomisodetani@gmail.com
(808) 741-0555

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:37:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2057, SD1 - RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 today in **strong support of SB 2057, SD1**, relating to law enforcement, which prohibits law enforcement agencies from using any personnel or funds originating in the state to assist or facilitate conduct by federal agents that exceeds their statutory duty or authority, and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or immigration enforcement operations.

I am a Know Your Rights volunteer educator and constitutional protector. I have trained teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, as well as parents and senior citizens on their constitutional rights, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and ways to ensure these rights are protected. I have taught them to prepare themselves, their staffs, and their places of work and community service for interactions with federal agents. I am also a constitutional observer, through which I engage in First Amendment–protected documentation of federal agent activity to ensure that they do not violate people’s rights.

The images we see on the news and social media of aggressive, untrained, and violent unmasked, unbadged persons attacking citizens and noncitizens alike is eroding trust in law enforcement and our government. There are concerns that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call local law enforcement for assistance because of fear that our local law enforcement is collaborating with federal agents. People now worry that calls to our local police for help by crime victims may result in the victim being detained by federal agents as the result of racial profiling.

People are afraid to go to school and work due to fear of getting swept up in immigration enforcement raids that, in a reversal of long-standing policy, now focus on law-abiding members of our communities. Our friends and family members, parents of children at our schools, spouses of our neighbors, and owners of small businesses we frequent and depend upon are being detained. I have witnessed families torn apart. The federal government’s attacks on immigrants have expanded to detentions based on the color of people’s skin, the work they do, and the way that they speak. We are all at risk when federal agents engage in racial profiling. Attacks on people engaged in constitutionally protected First Amendment recording of law enforcement or in peaceable protest have escalated to the use of chemical deterrents on children and families and the murder of two people.

I support SB 2057, SD1 because it reflects that our local enforcement agencies should use funding to protect the communities they serve, not engage in immigration activities beyond their authority. SB 2057, SD1 also preserves the historical separation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement responsibilities. As an attorney, I feel obligated to remind the members of the Committee that federal law does not require state or local entities to collect or share information with federal agents conducting immigration enforcement or infringing upon people’s First Amendment rights. Our law enforcement agencies have neither the personnel nor the funding to be deputized to undertake federal functions. To do so would interfere with the

primary responsibility of our law enforcement agencies, which is to maintain the trust and confidence of the residents that live here by clearly delineating their role as public safety officers. When police officers inappropriately blur the lines by getting involved with federal agents in immigration matters, immigrants will not come forward as witnesses in criminal investigations, and women will feel that they cannot report domestic or sexual violence. Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents chills our relationship with local law enforcement agencies and the security of our communities is compromised as a result.

Federal agents take photos of people and use name-recognition software to identify them. They take photos of license plates to learn the identity of and track constitutional observers as well as noncitizens. This bill offers vital protection from federal agents collaborating with local law enforcement on the use of these surveillance techniques to identify people engaged in protected First Amendment activity. It would be one protective step that could help protect not just me, but my family members who live with me. I should not have to fear hostile and lawless federal agents tracking my activities and endangering my family and the community members I serve.

As a lawyer with an understanding of the Constitution and who has taken an oath to uphold it and the rule of law, it is alarming to witness federal agents attack people lawfully engaged in First Amendment-protected activities, such as documenting federal agents in public and protesting federal activity. Seeing video footage of the murders of people engaged in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity has impacted my mental health. As a woman and mother, I am afraid of being targeted by unmasked, unbadged government agents or imposters while engaged in volunteer work to document, record, or protest the activity of federal agents. I am afraid that federal agents, in collaboration with local law enforcement, will take my picture or track my license plate, find out who I am and where I live, and come to my house and harm not just myself but my loved ones. Just yesterday during a training I conducted, an audience member asked what constitutional observers like me can do to protect ourselves from being targeted by federal agents. I said that there really is not much we can do other than rely on our community, document the truth, and hope that the courts and the law will protect us as we peaceably engage in constitutionally-protected activity. Our fear is justified based on the unlawful and violent behavior we are witnessing from federal agents. That is why bills like SB 2057, SD1 are so important.

The goal of the current administration is to frighten people into silence. I almost hesitated to submit testimony in support of this bill for fear of retaliation. This is how far we have fallen in the direction of authoritarianism, that people like me fear speaking up. Fortunately, I am not alone. Recently, the No Kings Coalition held an Eyes on ICE: Document and Record national training call in which over 200,000 people participated.

I am undeterred by the deaths of Renne Goode and Alex Pretti. I am inspired by them and millions are standing alongside me. This bill helps ensure that our local law enforcement does not exceed the scope of its authority by collaborating with federal immigration activity. It protects community members who no longer trust their law enforcement agents of any kind. This bill also provides important protection for volunteers like me engaged in constitutional observer work. **I request that you support SB 2057, SD1** and help protect the Constitution and rebuild trust in government.

Thank you for siding with your community on this issue.

Mahalo,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

LATE

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:08:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, I support this measure

LATE

SB-2057-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:39:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2057

Tina Marie Even

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

LATE

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 25, 2026
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: SB2057

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support of SB2057**. Adding a new section to Chapter 139 is essential to creating a clear boundary between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents. This measure strengthens jurisdictional clarity protecting our state resources and ensures that state funds are used for state priorities. Without clear statutory limits, local law enforcement can gradually become optional partners in federal immigration enforcement, even when state law does not require such cooperation.

By clarifying these boundaries, we can ensure that local law enforcement remains focused on serving and protecting our communities under state law. Preventing any sort of mission drift and avoiding unnecessary entanglement in federal civil enforcement matters is crucial for our public safety.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada