

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

DEFENDER COUNCIL
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

HONOLULU OFFICE
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

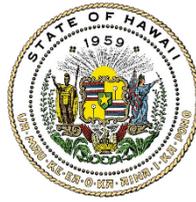
APPELLATE DIVISION
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2080

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2100

FAMILY COURT DIVISION
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2300

FELONY DIVISION
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2200

FACSIMILE
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

HAYLEY Y. C. CHENG
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

HILO OFFICE
275 PONAHAHAWAI STREET
SUITE 201
HILO, HAWAII 96720
TEL. NO. (808) 974-4571
FAX NO. (808) 974-4574

KONA OFFICE
75-1000 HENRY STREET
SUITE #209
KAILUA-KONA HI 96740
TEL. NO. (808) 327-4650
FAX NO. (808) 327-4651

KAUAI OFFICE
3060 EIWA STREET
SUITE 206
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766
TEL. NO. (808) 241-7128
FAX NO. (808) 274-3422

MAUI OFFICE
81 N. MARKET STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
TEL. NO. (808) 984-5018
FAX NO. (808) 984-5022

February 11, 2026

HB 1768: RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports** HB 1768 which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into agreements under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), or any other federal law permitting local participation in federal immigration enforcement, and further prohibits certain immigration-related actions.

This measure affirms Hawai'i's longstanding commitment to equal protection, dignity, and public safety by clearly delineating the appropriate boundaries between state and county law enforcement agencies and federal immigration enforcement authorities. As reflected in the bill's findings, entanglement between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement erodes trust in government institutions and undermines public safety for the entire community.

From the unique vantage point of the OPD, trust is essential to the fair and effective administration of justice. OPD represents indigent clients across the State, many of whom are immigrants or members of mixed-status families. When individuals fear that any contact with law enforcement, courts, or correctional facilities may expose them or their loved ones to immigration consequences, they are less likely to:

- Appear in court as witnesses or victims;
- Report crimes;
- Seek medical, social, or educational services; or
- Meaningfully participate in the judicial process.

HB 1768 appropriately recognizes that public safety depends upon community trust. By prohibiting state and county law enforcement agencies from entering into federal immigration enforcement agreements under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), and by limiting certain immigration-related actions except as required by law, the bill reinforces that Hawai‘i’s law enforcement priorities are grounded in state and local public safety and not federal civil immigration enforcement.

The bill prohibits law enforcement agencies from:

- Inquiring into immigration status except as required by law;
- Honoring immigration “hold requests” absent legal authority;
- Transferring individuals to federal immigration authorities without a judicial warrant or determination of probable cause; and
- Providing non-public personal information in noncriminal matters except as required by law.

These provisions are consistent with constitutional safeguards and due process principles. Individuals in state or county custody should not be detained beyond their lawful release date based solely on administrative immigration requests. Requiring judicial authorization before transfer ensures that fundamental protections remain intact.

HB 1768 does not prevent compliance with federal law where compliance is required. Rather, it provides needed clarity about what local agencies may and may not do. Such clarity benefits law enforcement officers, correctional staff, and the courts by reducing legal uncertainty and potential liability exposure.

For these reasons, the OPD **supports** HB 1768.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

To: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Committee

Capitol, Room 325

Hearing
Place: Hawaii State

Re: Testimony in

STRONG SUPPORT of HB1768

Dear Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Members of Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1768 which would prevent Hawaii law enforcement and judiciary from participating in Federal immigration enforcement.

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii is very concerned that residents of Hawaii are being targeted by Federal immigration officers.

Kupuna value immigrants that often provide care services as well as provide basic services for all citizens.

Kupuna are immigrants themselves or are descendants of immigrants. Persecution of immigrants must be halted.

Please approve this Bill,

Sincerely,

Larry Smith

Chairperson of the Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Member of Hawaii Indivisible

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of HB1768**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

We own Mercado de la Raza, a Latin market and community gathering space dedicated to celebrating culture, supporting small businesses, and creating a welcoming environment for Latino families and neighbors. As a pillar of the Latino community, we serve as a trusted hub where people connect to resources, share traditions, and build relationships that strengthen our collective voice and well-being.

HB1768 is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 1768, RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1768**, Relating to Immigration, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under title 8 United States Codes section 1357(g) or any other federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, and prohibits law enforcement agencies or law enforcement officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances.

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 law enforcement. If law enforcement agencies or officials were to enter into agreements to engage in immigration enforcement, or were to engage in immigration-related actions, this would cause the expenditure of scarce local resources on federal activities when Maui is still recovering. It would also deteriorate trust in law enforcement that is already eroding due to increased federal immigration activity. **HB 1768** 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. HB 1768 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 HB 1768. Protecting local autonomy, civil rights, and community trust strengthens public safety for all.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 12, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Testimony in strong support of re: HB 1768

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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 stand in strong support of HB 1768. 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.

This measure is an important step toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.

Aloha Honorable Congresspeople,

I am writing as the Lead Organizer for Maui Indivisible to strongly urge you to pass HB1768. We must work decisively and quickly to protect Hawai'i Nei from the Trump regime's lawless and violent policies and procedures, its disregard for democratic norms and protocols, and its utter disdain for our constitutional rights. Please do your job to keep our communities safe from ICE and Trump's Gestapo.

Marnie Masuda

Wailuku, Maui



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

Testimony of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

In SUPPORT of HB1768

Relating to Immigration

Hearing: Friday, February 13, 2026, 2:00PM (JHA), Room 325 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Aparna Patrie**, and I submit this testimony **on behalf of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) in strong support of HB1768.**

HCIR is a statewide coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai'i's shared future. HB1768 is a critical public safety and governance measure that reaffirms constitutional protections, promotes accountability, and safeguards community trust in law enforcement.

HB1768 would prohibit state and county law enforcement agencies from assisting federal agents in conducting federal immigration enforcement, and engage in discriminatory targeting of immigrants. This bill makes clear that Hawai'i's public safety institutions should not be used to facilitate unlawful or unconstitutional conduct, and should be used to protect and serve Hawai'i's residents, first and foremost.

This measure is important because constitutional rights apply to all people, regardless of immigration status. This bill enforces constitutional safeguards for our immigrant populations in various important ways. It contains a prohibition on holding immigrants in state or local custody for ICE or other federal immigration agencies beyond the legal period allowed under the Fourth Amendment. It prohibits state and local law enforcement agents from inquiring about the citizenship status of any individual in Hawai'i, except as required by law, and prohibits state and local officers from engaging in racial profiling of immigrants. It ensures that federal agents are required to have proper legal authority, including a judicial warrant, when seeking a transfer of an immigrant into their custody. These are important safeguards. When residents fear intimidation, retaliation, or surveillance for exercising these rights, democratic legitimacy is undermined and community trust erodes.

HB1768 draws a necessary boundary. It ensures Hawai'i's resources are not used to do the job of the federal government to conduct immigration enforcement, ensures that Hawai'i does not engage in actions that exceed lawful authority, prevents discriminatory targeting, and protects civil rights while preserving the integrity of state and county law enforcement agencies. By clearly limiting cooperation in these circumstances, the bill provides guidance to agencies and



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

reassures communities that public safety resources will not be used to suppress lawful expression or civic participation.

Importantly, HB1768 does not interfere with legitimate law enforcement duties. Rather, it reinforces constitutional norms and ensures that public safety institutions operate in a manner consistent with Hawai'i's values of fairness, accountability, and respect for civil liberties.

For these reasons, the **Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committees to PASS HB1768.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aparna Patrie

Legal Advisor and Private Immigration Attorney
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 3:31:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew B. Johnson	Pacific Gateway Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Pacific Gateway Center

In SUPPORT of HB1768

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Matthew Johnson, Executive Director for Pacific Gateway Center, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

As Executive Director of Pacific Gateway Center, I lead strategic efforts to empower immigrants and refugees across Hawai‘i through workforce development, small business support, and immigration legal services. Our organization provides holistic programs that create pathways to economic self-sufficiency while strengthening the social and economic fabric of our islands.

HB1768 is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Matthew B. Johnson

Pacific Gateway Center



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1768
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

February 12, 2026

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) strongly supports HB1768, which establishes critical guardrails limiting state and county law enforcement participation in federal civil immigration enforcement. As a nonprofit organization that works to advance immigrant justice across Hawai'i through immigration legal services, education, and advocacy, TLC understands that public safety is strengthened when immigrant communities trust local law enforcement.

Local entanglement with federal civil immigration enforcement undermines trust, discourages crime reporting, and ultimately makes communities less safe. Moreover, detaining individuals based solely on civil immigration detainers raises serious constitutional questions and liability exposure for the state and counties. HB1768 addresses these concerns by prohibiting state and county law enforcement agencies from entering into cooperative agreements on federal civil immigration enforcement, and restricting certain immigration-related activities, including collecting or sharing sensitive information and honoring immigration detainer or transfer requests without judicial authorization.

HB1768 aligns Hawai'i with other states that have enacted similar policies to protect community trust and constitutional rights, including Oregon, California, Illinois, Washington, New Jersey, and New Mexico. The bill promotes due process and community safety and helps ensure that Hawai'i's law enforcement resources remain focused on Hawai'i's priorities. We urge the Committee's support.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Legal Clinic
and TLC Board President Amefil Agbayani,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Sablan'.

Christina Sablan

Community & Policy Advocate



Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB 1768
Relating to Immigration

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The ACLU of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") is in **strong support of HB 1768**, which prohibits law enforcement from participating in agreements pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g)—also known as 287(g) agreements—or any other law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

HB 1768 affirms Hawaii's constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself legally, financially, or morally in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.

Across the country, states and local governments have learned—often through costly litigation—that cooperation with federal law enforcement is not neutral. When state or county agencies lend personnel, data, facilities, or credibility to federal operations, they also absorb the **downstream consequences: exposure to civil liability, erosion of community trust, and complicity in actions that violate constitutional norms**. HB 1768 reflects a decision to draw principled boundaries around such cooperation.

I. Non-Cooperation is a Lawful and Necessary Exercise of State Power

The basis for HB 1768 rests squarely on **the anti-commandeering doctrine, a foundational principle of American federalism**. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that while the **federal government may enforce federal law, it may not compel states to use their resources**, officers, or political subdivisions to do so. In *New York v. United States*, the Court made clear that Congress may not “commandeer the legislative processes of the States.”ⁱ In *Printz v. United States*, the Court extended that principle to state executive officials, holding that the federal government may not require state officers to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program.ⁱⁱ These cases do not describe an exception; they articulate a structural protection of liberty.

Immigration enforcement is federal, governed by shifting priorities that state governments neither control nor supervise. **When states entangle themselves in those efforts, they surrender authority over how their residents are policed while remaining legally liable.** HB 1768 affirms that Hawai‘i will not be commandeered into service of federal programs that it does not direct and cannot meaningfully oversee.

Federal courts have consistently upheld this choice. In *United States v. California*, the Ninth Circuit reaffirmed that states are under no obligation to assist with federal immigration enforcement and may affirmatively restrict the use of state resources for that purpose without violating the Supremacy Clause.ⁱⁱⁱ

II. 287(g) Agreements Create Real and Predictable Liability

The risks of cooperation are neither speculative nor abstract. Courts have repeatedly found that **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents have engaged in unconstitutional conduct, such as warrantless arrests, prolonged detention without probable cause, racial profiling, and retaliation against protected speech.** When state agencies assist in these operations—by honoring detainers or embedding officers—they invite liability under both federal and state law.

In *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County*, for example, a federal district court held that a county violated the Fourth Amendment by detaining an individual at ICE’s request without probable cause.^{iv} Numerous jurisdictions have paid significant settlements or judgments arising directly from cooperation with ICE requests later deemed unlawful. HB 1768 reduces the likelihood that Hawai‘i taxpayers will bear a similar liability.

III. Deputization and 287(g) Agreements Are Especially Dangerous

HB 1768 is particularly **important in rejecting deputization arrangements and 287(g)-style cooperation.** Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the federal government to deputize local law enforcement officers to perform civil immigration enforcement functions, often leading to widespread abuse.^v

By placing local police officers—trained to enforce criminal law—into the role of civil immigration agents, **287(g)-style agreements and memoranda of understanding encourage pretextual policing while blurring lines of accountability. Cooperation also undermines public safety.** When residents fear that contact with state or county agencies may expose them to federal immigration enforcement, they may be less likely to report crimes, seek medical care, enroll children in school, or participate as witnesses. The resulting erosion of trust makes communities less safe.

IV. Federalism Serves as a Shield for Civil Liberties

Federalism is not merely an abstract allocation of power; it is a concrete safeguard for individual rights. When national enforcement policy veers toward repression, state **refusal to cooperate is one of the most effective lines of defense for civil liberties.**

This principle carries particular force in Hawai‘i as **our State Constitution provides broader protections for individual rights than the federal Constitution.** The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has recognized that our Constitution is an independent source of rights and that federal constitutional minima do not define the outer bounds of liberty in Hawai‘i. In *State v. Zuffante*, the court reaffirmed that Hawaii’s Constitution may—and often does—offer greater protection than its federal counterpart.^{vi} So, even when protections are weakened or eliminated at the federal level, **Hawai‘i retains the authority to safeguard civil liberties under its own constitutional framework.**

By limiting state participation in federal enforcement schemes that threaten due process, equal protection, and expressive freedom, HB 1768 ensures that Hawaii’s constitutional commitments are not undermined. HB 1768 is a prudent response to a federal enforcement landscape that increasingly disregards civil liberties and transparency. By embracing a general position of non-cooperation, rejecting dangerous deputization schemes, and reaffirming the State’s sovereign rights under our federal system, the Legislature can protect Hawai‘i residents while shielding the State from unnecessary legal and financial liability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

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.

ⁱ *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144, 161–66 (1992), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/505/144/>.

ⁱⁱ *Printz v. United States*, 521 U.S. 898, 925–33 (1997), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/521/898/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ *United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865, 888–91 (9th Cir. 2019), <https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2019/04/18/18-16496.pdf>.

^{iv} *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas Cnty.*, No. 3:12-cv-02317-ST, 2014 WL 1414305, at *11–13 (D. Or. Apr. 11, 2014), <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/oregon/ordce/3:2012cv02317/110279/163/>. Unreported.

^v Immigration and Nationality Act § 287(g), 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:8%20section:1357%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:8%20section:1357%20edition:prelim)).

^{vi} *State v. Zuffante*, 157 Haw. 194, 200, 576 P.3d 243, 249 (2025), <https://law.justia.com/cases/hawaii/supreme-court/2025/scwc-23-0000376-0.html>.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:39:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:45:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I am a resident of Oahu.

I strongly support this bill and appreciate the work by some Committee members, who with other representatives, crafted and introduced this timely measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to urge passage of the bill. The hazard of complicity in unconstitutional activities is at hand.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:24:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:16:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support state level protections for everyone.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:28:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:40:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 11, 2026

Dear Representative Tarnas, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1768, Relating to the Chief Election Officer.

We all need to be sure that Hawai'i law enforcement officers are not caught up in or complicit in any way with illegal activities of federal agents. Such actions have often been unconstitutional. This bill would forbid our law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering into any agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement.

We don't want 'ohana members to be torn from each other by immigration agents, especially those who are trying to meet quotas for deportation.

Please vote yes on HB1768.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:12:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Blakemore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:15:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a proud retired police officer, I very strongly support HB1768. Immigration is a federal issue so state-certified law enforcement officers have no valid reason (let alone jurisdictional authority) to enforce any federal law, let alone immigration. In addition, local law enforcement has enough to do enforcing state laws and city/county ordinances. With the unprofessional and illegal way federal law enforcement is carrying out their duties, local law enforcement should stay as far away from associating with such rogue and lawless agencies that give law enforcement a bad name.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:23:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB 1768 which prohibit any state or county law enforcement agency or official from entering into a 287(g) agreement or any other federal agreement that permits state/county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement. This bill promotes public safety by restoring trust in local law enforcement. We must work to restore the integrity of local law enforcement by ensuring local agencies are not drawn into activities that undermine public trust or chill civic participation.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of HB 1768.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:24:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Lynn Otaguro, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

HB1768 is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:51:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support to restrict immigration-enforcement actions.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:24:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am horrified by what I am seeing on the news. DHS is conducting unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps. There is no due process, which undermines the very foundation of democratic governance.

This bill is necessary to ensure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:47:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Bill 1768!

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:05:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Bringman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill because, while I believe in treating every person with dignity, I also believe strongly in honoring the laws that protect our country. I've seen firsthand the commitment and appreciation that legal immigrants bring when they follow the established process—people like my friend, who worked hard to come here the right way and deeply cherishes the United States. When legislation creates protections that benefit those who enter the country illegally, it can unintentionally signal that our laws are optional, shift taxpayer resources to support individuals outside the legal system, and weaken the sense of allegiance that comes from respecting the process. My concerns come from a place of compassion as well as fairness: supporting legal immigration means upholding the rules that keep our communities safe, stable, and united.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 5:56:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Gerald Montano

In SUPPORT of HB1768

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Gerald Montano, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

I am a pediatrician on Maui, and I am testifying as an individual.

HB1768 is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1768**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gerald Montano, DO

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:20:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Lanette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ICE OUT.

ICE OUT OF HAWAII.

ICE OUT OF OUR SHARED SAFE SPACES.

ICE OUT of our COMMUNITIES NOW!

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:34:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATHERINE ROSEGUO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:35:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

JJ Wassell

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:36:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support of this bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:36:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Carranza Callan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

With Aloha,

Kelly Carranza Callan

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:48:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Fulton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to a physical disability that limits my ability to provide oral testimony clearly, I am submitting my comments in writing. Mahalo for this opportunity to participate in this process.

PLEASE PASS THIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE with any amendments that may strengthen it:

1. Protects Community Trust and Public Safety

When local law enforcement becomes entangled in federal immigration enforcement, many immigrant residents *fear reporting crimes, cooperating with investigations, and seeking needed services*. This undermines public safety for everyone. HB 1768 helps **cement clear boundaries** between local policing duties and federal immigration duties, which can enhance trust and improve community cooperation.

2. Upholds Hawai‘i’s Values of ‘Ohana and Aloha

Hawai‘i has a long history of welcoming diverse cultures and families. By clarifying that local law enforcement will not serve as de facto immigration agents, HB 1768 aligns with our cultural values of compassion, fairness, and respect for due process — values central to Hawaiian traditions and our shared sense of community.

3. Limits Risky Law Enforcement Practices

HB 1768 also sets sensible limits on local involvement in immigration enforcement, prohibiting practices such as detaining individuals on “hold requests” from federal agencies, or sharing non-public personal information without appropriate judicial authorization. This protects civil liberties and ensures constitutional safeguards remain in place.

4. Promotes Efficient and Focused Local Policing

By preventing local agencies from entering into federal immigration enforcement agreements, HB 1768 allows Hawai‘i police and sheriffs to stay focused on *state and community law enforcement needs* — including traffic safety, crisis response, property crimes, and domestic issues — rather than being pulled into federal immigration operations that divert resources and attention.

CONCLUSION

HB 1768 is a *targeted, practical bill* that addresses clear community needs by establishing appropriate limits on local enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities. It promotes public safety, strengthens trust between residents and law enforcement, and ensures that Hawai'i's policing priorities remain rooted in community concerns rather than federal immigration objectives.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee **to pass HB 1768** expeditiously, and with any amendments that may make it strong.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Dana Fulton
808-385-2172
Makawao, HI

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:00:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The harm and neglect we are seeing in the enforcement agencies across the board is neglectful and harmful. Our local law enforcement is already challenged with maintaining ethics for victims of violence and listening and believing victims of harm. Local Law enforcement is challenged with a large capacity of responsibility that is too wide of a scope for them to achieve. They must stand on the principle of local and state law enforcement and to protect and serve the community.

Immigration enforcement is a whole other complicated system that is failing in so many ways. The conversation of immigration is challenged as we sit in an illegally occupied nation that was forced into becoming part of America. I am born on the continent of the United States, a land that was stolen by force, and I live in Hawaii. My existence as a legal resident is challenged as the legality of Hawaii being part of the United States is challenged. Immigration enforcement at baseline is not playing fair nor justified in enforcements that we see. Current Immigration forces in the United States currently are displaying unexcusable violence and harm to all people.

So to HB1768 the local police should have absolutely nothing to do with Immigration as a joint force or acting on behalf of Immigration forces. The local police are to help and protect the people of their community. I hope that the Local law enforcement will take a stance that if ever Immigration forces begin rounding up people and unliving people they will stand against this.

I support HB1768 and do not want to see our local and state supporting the work of immigration. Please focus on the work that is already too much.
Thank you Pahnelopi McKenzie

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:01:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB1768 PROHIBIT 287(g) AGREEMENTS

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Title 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. *Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.*

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority **passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.**

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

Elizabeth Kamida

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:03:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

Karen Ez

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:05:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kahala Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1768.

HB1768 prohibits 287(g)-type agreements and limits local law enforcement participation in federal immigration enforcement, with narrow and appropriate exceptions. This bill draws clear boundaries to ensure local resources are not diverted into federal immigration operations.

When communities trust local law enforcement, victims and witnesses are more likely to report crimes and cooperate with investigations. HB1768 reduces the risk of profiling, clarifies agency roles, and strengthens public safety by keeping local law enforcement focused on community needs rather than federal enforcement agendas.

For these reasons, I strongly urge passage of HB1768.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:07:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this measure.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:12:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ICE has been involved in the death of over 30 different individuals, who have not been tried before a jury of their peers or have not seen the inside of a courtroom. They have rounded up innocent people, including American citizens, and have ignored countless legal orders. If they will not listen to the law and the constitution to which they are bound, we, in return, should not honor or welcome their presence. Until it's defunded and those who are committing these injustices are brought to justice, we must focus on protecting those on these islands, not masked men who only want to kill.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:36:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is too important an issue to be left for counties to fight over and let maga insurrectionists wreak havoc in county gov't.

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:38:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Judith Mura. Strongly Support HB1768

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:42:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in strong support of HB1768, which severs any agreement or arrangement that would transform Hawai‘i's law enforcement into an arm of federal immigration enforcement. This bill is not merely a policy preference; it is a moral firewall against a fascist assault on American democracy, waged by an administration that has weaponized the Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and the machinery of federal law enforcement to terrorize immigrant communities, silence dissent, and advance a white supremacist vision of who belongs in this country.

We are witnessing something deeply dangerous. The Trump administration has deployed ICE not as a border enforcement agency, but as a paramilitary force conducting domestic terrorism, detaining journalists and activists, and separating families with calculated cruelty. These are not immigration operations; they are political spectacles designed to instill fear, assert dominance, and appeal to the darkest strains of American racism. This is fascism wearing the badge of law enforcement.

HB1768 makes clear: Hawai‘i will not be complicit.

This bill prohibits our county police departments from entering into 1357(g) agreements or any similar arrangement that would task state and local officers with enforcing federal civil immigration law. It prohibits them from inquiring into immigration status, detaining individuals based on civil immigration warrants, or transferring custody to ICE without a judicial warrant. These are not radical positions; they are the baseline standards of trust-based, community policing.

Immigrants are not our enemies. They are our neighbors, our colleagues, our ‘ohana. They staff our hospitals, harvest our food, care for our kūpuna, and teach our children. They pay taxes, start businesses, and enrich every facet of life in Hawai‘i. The suggestion that we must purge or subordinate these communities to preserve some mythologized "American identity" is not patriotism—it is white supremacy dressed in flag pins. It is the same ideology that has fueled Japanese internment, the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the brutal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. We know where this path leads, and we must refuse to walk it.

When local police are conscripted as immigration enforcers, public safety collapses. Victims of crime become afraid to call 911. Witnesses refuse to come forward. Families avoid schools, clinics, and food assistance programs out of terror that a routine interaction will lead to deportation. This does not make us safer; it makes our communities more vulnerable and less just.

HB1768 preserves the distinction between local law enforcement's duty to protect and federal immigration authority's role in civil enforcement. It ensures that a traffic stop does not become the prelude to a family's destruction. It tells every immigrant in Hawai'i—whether documented or undocumented, whether arrived yesterday or generations ago—that you are seen, you are valued, and you are protected under the law of this state.

We are living through a moment of profound moral testing. The administration in Washington has made clear that it views immigrants, Black and brown communities, and political dissenters as obstacles to be crushed rather than people to be served. HB1768 is our answer. It says: Not here. Not in Hawai'i.

I urge you to pass this bill with the strongest possible language and send an unmistakable message that our islands stand firmly against fascism, against white supremacy, and for the dignity of every human being who calls this place home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:06:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement

The brutal attacks on people--including citizens, people hear legally, and families have sickened me and must be stopped. This bill would I believe contribute in a small but important way to ending the authoritarian Trump rule: careful research has shown that if just 3.5% of people actively act to block the machinery of oppression then such regimes collapse and this bill is one way of throwing sand in the machinery of oppression. Please support it.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:10:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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 and I support HB1768.

I support this bill because:

- Prevents local resources from being used for federal immigration enforcement agreements (e.g., 287(g)-type participation).
- Strengthens community trust so victims and witnesses report crimes and cooperate with law enforcement.
- Reduces profiling risk and promotes clear boundaries for local agencies.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:18:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:22:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

thank you

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:27:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:31:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a very important bill. With all the civil rights violations, against American citizens and others, states must do all they can to rein in the feds as well as other bad actors. ICE is sent everywhere and we need to be prepared. Minneapolis is the flashpoint. It needs to stop and been impeded at every point.

I assume this bill will be amended. Please be advised that I support all bills which will stop, impede, rein in Trump's goons. We may not even survive the 26 elections let alone the next three years.

Please vote yes and move the bill forward.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:37:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am a member of the Hawai'i island community.

ICE is terrorizing communities near and far, unconstitutionally targeting folks via racial profiling, including people who are at their own court hearings. Please do everything you can to put barriers in place for this paramilitary occupying force who does not follow laws and is killing people, in the streets and those they detain. Their presence is ultimate HEWA in Hawai'i Nei.

Me ke aloha,

Allison Shiozaki

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:44:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony of Nancy Convard

In SUPPORT of HB1768

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Nancy Convard, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

I am a community member and I am testifying as an individual.

HB1768 is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nancy Convard

nconvard@gmail.com

202-288-8822

Testimony of Patrick Switzer
In SUPPORT of HB1768

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Patrick Switzer and I submit this testimony in support of HB 1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287 (g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

I am a Registered Nurse working in Honolulu and I am testifying as an individual to advocate for policy that will help protect the vulnerable members of our community that I serve.

I support HB1768 because if people are afraid to call the police when they need help, or have witnessed crimes, it will degrade public safety and erode the trust between local law enforcement and the community.

We need to establish clear boundaries between local law enforcement and federal civil immigration enforcement. In the last few months we have seen the destruction created by the federal immigration paramilitary forces in American cities trampling peoples' civil rights whether they are citizens or not, and we cannot allow that to happen in Hawaii.

I respectfully request that the Committee pass HB1768.

Sincerely,
Patrick Switzer, R.N.
pastronaut@hotmail.com (808) 294-1594

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:09:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:41:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Muller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Alexis Muller, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1763, Relating to Immigration Enforcement.

Hawai‘i has a long and proud history shaped by immigrants who have contributed to our culture, economy, and community well-being. This measure affirms an essential principle: that all residents of our State deserve to live with dignity, safety, and freedom from fear, regardless of immigration status. HB 1763 reinforces Hawai‘i’s commitment to equity, fairness, and public trust.

The provisions of this bill appropriately clarify the role of state and county law enforcement by ensuring that local agencies remain focused on public safety rather than federal civil immigration enforcement. When immigrant community members fear that interactions with law enforcement, courts, schools, or health services may expose them or their families to immigration consequences, it undermines public safety for everyone. People are less likely to report crimes, seek medical care, access social services, or participate fully in civic life—outcomes that harm the entire community.

By prohibiting agreements under 8 U.S.C. §1357(g) and limiting immigration-related enforcement actions by state and county agencies, HB 1763 helps preserve the trust that is critical between government institutions and the communities they serve. Trust is not only a moral imperative; it is a practical necessity for effective public safety, public health, and community resilience.

Importantly, this bill does not interfere with federal authority or lawful judicial processes. Instead, it draws clear and responsible boundaries that protect individual rights while allowing local agencies to carry out their core duties effectively and lawfully.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to pass HB 1763. This measure strengthens Hawai‘i’s values, promotes public safety, and ensures that our State remains a place where all residents can live, work, and contribute without fear.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:50:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in the type of unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps federal agencies are currently conducting. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an unholy alliance with ICE.

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

Marcela Montalto

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:27:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Iding	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators

Please strongly support this bill. Our local law enforcement officers should NOT be dragged into immigrant enforcement activities that they may not ethically support. Further, this bill ensures continued trust in our local law enforcement.

Thank you

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:32:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given shocking actions by federal agencies in immigration enforcement here and across the country - often in direct violation of due process, rule of law, public safety, human dignity, accountability and spirit of aloha - I urge the Legislature to expedite approval of HB1768. This bill needs to be expedited to the Governor's desk for signing to protect all of the people of Hawai'i. MAHALO, Patti Cook

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:42:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass!

Judith White, Kapaa

Member Kauai Indivisible

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 1768, RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui – The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1768**, Relating to Immigration, which prohibits any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under title 8 United States Codes section 1357(g) or any other federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement, and prohibits law enforcement agencies or law enforcement officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances.

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 staff, and their places of work or 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 people’s rights are not violated.

The images we see on the news and social media of aggressive, untrained, unmasked, unbadged persons attacking citizens and noncitizens alike is eroding trust in law enforcement. Community members are concerned that our local police are collaborating with federal agencies on immigration enforcement. There have been reports that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call the police for protection because of fear that it may result in the victim being detained by federal agents for immigration matters instead.

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, the 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 strongly support HB 1768 because it ensures that our local enforcement agencies protect the communities they serve, not engage in immigration activities beyond their authority. HB 1768 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 such 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 needs to ensure 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 HB 1768 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 in federal immigration activity. It protects community members who no longer trust their local police force. This bill also provides important protection for volunteers like me engaged in constitutional observer work. **I request that you support HB 1768** 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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:54:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1768

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:56:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janet Matlock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in STRONG support of HB1868, prohibiting 287(g)-type agreements and limiting certain immigration-related actions by law enforcement.

What we have all witnessed happening on the continent by DHS and ICE must not happen in Hawai'i. Common decency and our Aloha alone should be enough for Hawai'i to refuse to enter into these agreements.

The argument that these are our "federal partners" and that without these agreements we may not receive support investigating true criminal activities (drug running, human trafficking, for example) is simply bogus. The current federal administration is already withholding support to States based on personal vendetta - do we really believe the fantasy that this administration will be kinder to Hawai'i simply because we allowed ourselves to be complicit?

Stand up to bullies. Support HB1768.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock, Kailua Kona

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:58:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Makes sense, that no state agency could separately/ independently agree to a Federal request.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 12:44:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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 HB1768

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Ellen Caringer, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

I am a clinical psychologist and I am testifying as an individual. HB1768 is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

drcaringer@gmail.com

(808) 281-7463

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:21:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addie Berliner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB1768

Local police should focus on local public safety rather than federal immigration enforcement.

Thank You for supporting this bill!

Addie Berliner

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:34:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

our state should not participate in these unlawful and illegitimate abuses of power

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:37:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Matlock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Peter Matlock

In SUPPORT of HB1768

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

I am a Hawai'i Island resident who is extremely concerned about the corrupting influence that intertwining with an essentially lawless federal agency, whose willingness to violate our laws and Constitutional rights and flout good policing standards, threatens to undermine the integrity of and the public's trust in our professional community law enforcement officers. Our local police deserve better than to be put in such a compromising position.

We need to clearly prohibit 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements.

I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter Matlock

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani
In SUPPORT of HB1768**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1768, which prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

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 serving primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant populations; the latter legally entitled to live and work in Hawai'i and U.S. under the Compact of Free Association (COFA). I am heartbroken to see that our patients and their families now live in fear of deportation and being torn from their families here, and stay home from work, from school and even their medical appointments. They hide from federal agencies like ICE and Customs and Border Patrol who do not seek to protect, but terrorize our community, immigrants and citizens alike.

I strongly support HB1768 as critically important because I believe is important because public safety depends on trust. When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1768. We must keep all persons who call Hawai'i home safe and protected under the law. In Hawai'i we are more than neighbors, we are 'ohana.

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

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:55:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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 HB 1768

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:57:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1768. I believe it is important to codify this into state law to protect the independence of our local law enforcement officers, and to explicitly say that participation in immigration raids with federal law enforcement is not part of their job description. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:59:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy J. Budd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: HOUSE JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Hon. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Hon. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Re: *URGING STRONG SUPPORT HB1838 HD1, HB1870 HD1, HB1768, HB1548 and HB2600*

Hearing: Friday, Feb 13, 2026 — 2 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy J. Budd and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1838 HD1, HB1870 HD1, HB1768, HB1548, and HB2600**. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process and transparency. It is critical that our state provide these protections so all of our residents, including vulnerable immigrant and mixed-status families, can access essential services without fear and survivors can seek help and safely cooperate with authorities.

State and county participation in civil immigration enforcement near sensitive locations such as schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and courts *must be prohibited*. People must be able to safely access education, health care, emergency services and courts without fear.

Secretive or masked enforcement undermines due process and public trust. Transparency is essential to constitutional accountability—especially for immigrant communities. Prohibit masks and require that name tags and official badges be worn.

287(g) programs lead to racial profiling, unlawful detention, and fear of law enforcement. Ending deputization keeps local resources focused on community safety—not federal

immigration enforcement. Transfers to immigration authorities should require a judicial warrant or finding of probable cause.

A single extra day in a sentence can trigger mandatory detention or deportation under federal law. This reform promotes proportional sentencing and prevents unnecessary incarceration and family separation for low-level offenses.

Appropriating funds to provide for a Deputy Public Defender assigned to complex constitutional matters is a strategic and important investment to ensure due process, efficiency and fairness.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Budd

Kaua`i Resident, attorney, and former Hawaii Board of Education member

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 2:56:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a retired physician and voter who lives in Kapolei and am also a member of Indivisible. My apologies for not meeting the deadline by a few hours but hope that you will still consider my testimony in support of HB1768. The bill prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into 287(g) agreements or other agreements that permit state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

When people believe that calling the police could expose themselves or a loved one to immigration consequences, they are less likely to report crimes or cooperate as witnesses. This chilling effect is especially harmful for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other serious crimes who need to feel safe seeking help.

By clearly prohibiting 287(g) agreements and similar arrangements, HB1768 keeps local law enforcement focused on local public safety priorities and helps ensure that victims and witnesses can come forward without fear. Clear boundaries between local policing and federal civil immigration enforcement strengthen community cooperation, improve crime reporting, and support safer communities for everyone.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 3:28:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1768. This Bill would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1768 would prohibit law enforcement agencies in Hawaii from entering an agreement to assist federal agencies with immigration enforcement as provided in Titla 8 U.S.C. §1357, also known as 287(g) agreements. It would also prohibit other actions by state or local law enforcement officials in aid of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill is necessary to assure that our law enforcement agencies and personnel do not become complicit in unlawful, indiscriminate and violent immigration sweeps. Hawaiian communities practice the spirit of aloha and cherish our ohanas and neighbors. Federal enforcement under this administration does not share our values, and our law enforcement officers should not be delegated to assist them.

Because it is reported that making 287(g) agreements with Hawaiian agencies is a federal priority passage of HB1768 is needed urgently to protect law enforcement on all the islands from being pressured into an alliance with ICE.

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

Wednesday, February 13, 2026 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Joey Badua

In SUPPORT of HB1768

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Joey Badua, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill.

I strongly support this bill because HB1768 would prohibit any state or county law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into a 287(g) agreement (8 U.S.C. Sec. 1357(g)) or any other federal agreement that permits state/county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

Public safety, civil rights, local control and community trust are important values that are embedded in our Aloha state. We heard in the congressional oversight hearing before the House Homeland Security Committee on February 9, 2026 where lawmakers pressed Acting Director Todd Lyons, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, on accountability, transparency, training standards, force policies, and cooperation with local authorities. Mr. Lyons defended aggressive enforcement despite local concern or backlash, including but not limited to two fatal shootings of U.S. citizens by federal officers in Minneapolis. Mr. Lyons stated that there are only **3,000 agents with body cameras out of 13,000 agents.** and Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Rodney Scott **10,000 agents with body cameras out of 67,000 agents.**

When Congressman Bennie Thompson asked about training, Mr. Lyons said **47 days training to three-months training** for a person coming off from the street. HB1768 prevents entanglement with 287(g) agreements that blur roles by deputizing local law enforcement into federal immigration enforcement. HB1768 supports safer communities by helping ensure that local law enforcement remains focused on local safety and that residents feel safe reporting harm.

As a community member, protecting due process is a priority. HB1768 would prevent informal ICE access in custody would and should be prevented. ICE interviews should not happen in custody without legal basis or written consent, reducing coercion risk.

HB1768 would also reduce profiling risk, given that our vibrant community is made of immigrants.

We have seen the federal enforcement go out of control. Even Texas Congressperson Michael McCaul admitted the escalation of enforcement. HB1768 balances this chaos by prohibiting actions including immigration-status inquiries, responding to ICE notification request for immigration enforcement, sharing non-public personal information in noncriminal matters, ICE interviews in custody without written consent, detaining on ICE hold requests and sharing releases dates.

Thus, I humbly request for your support of HB1768.

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 6:43:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill HB 1768

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 6:50:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john savino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1768

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:09:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Baylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

my name is Melissa Baylor and I support this bill. Keep law enforcement and ICE separate

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:09:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Wolf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Taylor Wolf and I support this bill. Please help keep your constituents safe by continuing to separate law enforcement and ICE.

Thank you!
Taylor

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:10:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Ouellette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Adrienne Ouellette and I am a resident of Kailua, Oahu. I support HB1768. I do not want local law enforcement to enter into agreements for immigration enforcement. Our community deserves law enforcement efforts and members that focus on our community needs.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:11:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah L.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

HB1768 is necessary for the safety of our communities. ICE has proven they are violent and corrupt. I support HB1768 because I do not want our local law enforcement to be complicit in killing people.

Mahalo,

Sarah

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:11:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello, my name is Mary Hellstrom. I am a registered voter in the City & County of Honolulu. I strongly support this bill and urge the legislature to pass it with immediacy. It is essential that the legislature of Hawai'i uphold the state constitution and basic human rights for its residents. I do not want local law enforcement to be implicated in human rights violations in the state of Hawai'i. Thank you.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:12:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Danielle Shabin. I am a healthcare worker who believes in protecting our community. I believe police should continue to do their jobs separate from any association with immigration agents terrorizing people. We don't want law enforcement to be complicit in these acts. I support this bill.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:13:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasna Delic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jasna Delic and I support this. It's important to me to ensure Hawaii police is focused on their task to their community and not providing immigration services which the public is not currently intending to provide financing for.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:35:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nanci kreidman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, grateful the Committee has scheduled this Bill for Hearing. I submit this testimony in support of HB 1768.

thank you for your favorable action.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:03:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estrella S Marin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Estrella Marin I live here in Hawaii and do support this bill.

I do not feel safe in my community knowing that any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official could enter into an agreement under title 8 United States Codes section 1357(g) or any other federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement.

Prohibiting law enforcement agencies or law enforcement officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances makes me feel safer.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:25:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Tarnas 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 STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL HB-1768.

HB-1768 would have at least three major, unintended consequences that are especially concerning for public safety of Hawai'i residents.

First, it would convert Hawai'i into a de facto sanctuary jurisdiction by broadly prohibiting state and county law enforcement from entering 8 U.S.C. 1357(g) agreements or any similar cooperative arrangements with federal immigration authorities, thereby weakening cooperative federalism and undermining enforcement of federal law. A categorical ban on these lawful partnerships removes an important tool for identifying and removing individuals who violate federal immigration laws, including those who commit serious crimes.

Second, it would significantly increase public-safety risks by handcuffing officers: they could not inquire into immigration status (except where separately required by law), honor immigration hold requests, provide release dates, or transfer individuals to federal authorities without a judicial warrant or judicial determination of probable cause. In practice, this means that removable individuals, including some with serious criminal histories, will be released into the community instead of being safely transferred from local custody to federal custody, increasing risks to public safety and forcing federal officers to make more at-large arrests. Additional restrictions on information sharing and access to inmates would go beyond protecting civil rights and instead tend to frustrate lawful federal enforcement.

Third, the bill would impose a one-size-fits-all prohibition that strips local agencies of flexibility to respond to real threats. While the bill's findings emphasize "trust" between immigrant communities and local agencies, trust should not be pursued by creating safe havens from federal law or preventing reasonable cooperation between levels of government. Because HB-1768 does not distinguish between minor civil immigration issues and cases involving violent or repeat offenders, it effectively shields high-risk individuals along with low-risk ones.

Lastly, by categorically prohibiting Hawaii's state and county agencies from entering 8 U.S.C. 1357(g) agreements or similar cooperative arrangements and sharply limiting information-sharing, detainers, and transfers to federal immigration authorities, HB-1768 risks weakening Hawaii's ability to request federal law-enforcement support when it is most needed. In any future crisis involving transnational crime, terrorism concerns, or child trafficking, federal agencies may find it harder to rapidly integrate with local law enforcement because the State has legally walled off routine cooperation tools that build relationships and operational familiarity in normal times.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to defer indefinitely HB-1768.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:40:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann McIntire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann McIntire, and I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii. I have resided on Oahu for 13 years. I am writing in strong support of HB1768 which would prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies from collaborating with federal immigration authorities (ICE/CBP), limit the sharing of personal data for federal immigration enforcement purposes, and prevent the use of state and local resources to carry out federal immigration enforcement.

As a member of the public, a local attorney and longtime Oahu resident, I believe this bill is essential to promoting public safety, protecting civil liberties, and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer resources.

1. Promoting Public Safety and Community Trust

Local law enforcement agencies are most effective when they have the trust and cooperation of the communities they serve. When residents fear that interactions with local police could lead to immigration enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. This undermines public safety for everyone—regardless of immigration status.

By clearly separating local law enforcement from federal immigration enforcement, this bill would help ensure that police officers can focus on their primary mission: preventing and solving crimes, and keeping our communities safe.

2. Protecting Civil Liberties and Due Process

Limiting data sharing and prohibiting the use of state resources for federal immigration enforcement helps safeguard the privacy and constitutional rights of residents. State and local agencies collect personal information for specific purposes—such as public safety, licensing, or social services—not for federal immigration enforcement.

Residents should not have to fear that accessing essential services or interacting with state agencies will expose them or their family members to immigration action. Clear boundaries protect due process and reduce the risk of wrongful detention or profiling.

3. Responsible Use of State and Local Resources

State and local resources are funded by our taxpayers to meet local needs. Diverting personnel, data systems, and facilities to support federal immigration enforcement shifts costs onto our state without clear public safety benefits. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility. This bill appropriately maintains that division of authority and ensures our limited resources are used where they are most effective and accountable to our communities.

4. Supporting Strong, Inclusive Communities

Hawaii is one of the most culturally diverse states in the nation and has long had a robust public policy favoring welcoming of immigrants and new citizens. Our state is home to many immigrants who contribute to our economy, culture, tourism and civic life. Policies that foster fear and instability harm not only immigrant families, but also employers, schools, faith communities, and neighborhoods. Clear legal protections that limit local involvement in federal immigration enforcement help create a stable environment in which all residents can live, work, and contribute.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote “yes” on HB1768. This legislation represents a thoughtful, balanced approach that prioritizes public safety, civil rights, and responsible governance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Ann McIntire

Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:45:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Crow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently support bill HB1768. All state and county law enforcement agency or officials should be prohibited from entering any agreement that allows them to participate in federal immigration enforcement.

Citing title 8 United States Code section 1357 (g) (1) that pursuant to which an officer or employee of the [State](#) or subdivision, who is determined by the [Attorney General](#) to be qualified to perform a function of an [immigration officer](#) in relation to the investigation, apprehension, or detention of [aliens](#) in the United States may carry out such function at the expense of the [State](#) or political subdivision and to the extent consistent with [State](#) and local law.

I support HB1768 because our local tax dollars should never be spent on our law enforcement being in kahootz with ICE, especially when they already have billions of dollars at their expense to commit domestic terrorism.

HB-1768

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 8:22:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/13/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Paul Woods II	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1768. It is essential for law enforcement to maintain the public's trust. Crimes will go unreported, and criminals will target the immigrant community if people are afraid that contacting law enforcement will result in immigration enforcement actions in their neighborhoods.