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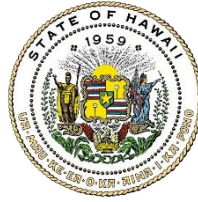
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April 7, 2026

**HB 1839, HD2, SD1: RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

**Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee On Ways and Means**

**Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee On Judiciary**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports HB1839, HD2, SD1**, and appreciates the amendments incorporating suggestions from the OPD's prior testimony. The OPD also encourages support for HB 2600, HD1 and its companion bill SB 2919, SD1, HD1 in order to effectuate the intent of HB1839, HD2, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
*Mayor*



Reed K. Mahuna  
*Police Chief*

William V. Brilhante Jr.  
*Managing Director*

Sherry D. Bird  
*Deputy Police Chief*

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
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**LATE**

April 7, 2026

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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Dela Cruz and Moriwaki, Rhoads and Gabbard, and Members:

RE: HOUSE BILL 1839, HD2 SD1 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION  
DATE: APRIL 8, 2026  
TIME: 10:15 A.M.  
PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

The Hawai`i Police Department respectfully submits the following testimony regarding HB1839 HD2 SD1.

The department recognizes and supports the Legislature's intent to ensure that individuals in law enforcement custody are aware of their rights prior to any civil immigration interview conducted by federal immigration authorities. We also acknowledge the amendment package proposed by the Hawai`i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) and appreciate the good-faith discussions that informed their recommendations. These proposed amendments preserve the bill's core due-process protections while addressing several significant operational concerns raised by county law enforcement agencies.

### **Support for HCIR's Proposed Amendments**

The Hawai'i Police Department supports the HCIR amendment package, which proposes deletion of the following provisions:

1. Section (a)(1)(B) – requiring law enforcement agencies to explain the purpose of a federal civil immigration interview.  
The department concurs that agencies often do not know the purpose of such interviews and cannot reliably provide this information.
2. Section (d) – requiring detailed per-incident logging of all civil immigration interview requests.  
Removal of this subsection appropriately alleviates administrative burdens while the remaining statutory requirements still ensure the existence of a documentary record.
3. Section (g) – requiring quarterly reporting to the Attorney General and an annual legislative report.  
Eliminating these requirements reduces recurring administrative demands while preserving transparency through UIPA under subsection (f).
4. Section (h) – requiring state and county law enforcement agencies to convene at least two public community forums per year.  
The department appreciates the removal of this requirement due to the substantial logistical and operational challenges associated with mandatory public hearings.
5. Section (i) – establishing a fixed deadline for the Attorney General to develop consent forms and model policies.  
Removing the hard deadline addresses implementation-timeline concerns while still allowing for the development of standardized materials.

### **Department Implementation**

With the proposed amendments, the department would be able to implement the remaining requirements of HB1839 HD2 SD1. Specifically, the department is amenable to amendments clarifying that our responsibility would be to provide the pre-prepared written consent form to individuals in custody prior to any civil immigration interview. This amended role can be accommodated with minimal operational impact.

### **Conclusion**

As amended through the HCIR recommendations, HB1839 HD2 SD1 preserves its central protections — written rights notification, voluntary and informed consent, and language access — while addressing the practical concerns identified by law enforcement agencies.

HOUSE BILL 1839, HD2 SD1 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

DATE: APRIL 8, 2026

TIME: 10:15 A.M.

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

Page 2

The Hawai'i Police Department appreciates the collaborative efforts of stakeholders to arrive at a workable compromise and stands ready to implement the bill as amended. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Na'u Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

REED K. MAHUNA  
POLICE CHIEF

**PUBLIC FIRST**  
LAW CENTER

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony with Comments on H.B. 1839 H.D.2 S.D.1, Relating to Immigration**  
Hearing: April 8, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of H.B. 1839 H.D.2 S.D.1 and offering a **friendly amendment**. This bill addresses, among other things, public access to records relating to a state or local law enforcement agency's provision of access to detained individuals to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

If the Legislature intends to make information about agency communications with ICE more publicly available, this bill *will not do that*. As currently amended, the proposal merely restates existing law. In making requests for the records contemplated here, agencies often withhold everything based on "frustration" and "confidentiality law" concerns. See HRS § 92F-13(3), (4).

If the Legislature intends to enable access to these records, we recommend reverting the language of subsection (f) to its H.D. 2 form, providing that chapter 92F exemptions shall not apply, except for redactions pursuant to section 92F-13(1). This amendment would lower obstacles to public access to the subject records, while ensuring proper protections for legitimate privacy interests.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify with comments on H.B. 1839 H.D. 2 S.D.1.



**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:28:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvette Kay	Testifying for Kona Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. Rights notice is the foundation of informed consent: a person in custody cannot meaningfully refuse an interview they don't know they can refuse.
2. SD1 change — “government records”: UIPA designation ensures public access through established disclosure procedures, strengthening transparency.
3. Right to refuse + right to consult an attorney: these must be affirmatively communicated before any civil immigration interview begins.
4. Public forums requirement: agencies that provide ICE access must hold two community forums per year — democratic accountability for state cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.
5. Joint WAM/JDC decision-making is the final Senate committee vote. Passed House and Senate PSM/EIG.

Aloha, My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona in Hawai'i County. I am on the leadership team for Kona Indivisible and run the protest arm of Kona Indivisible named, Matriarchy Rising. I support this bill.

yvettekay\_99@yahoo.com

96740

415-706-9638

**Testimony of HAWAII FILIPINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HFLA)  
In SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2 SD1**

Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary

WAM Chair: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz | WAM Vice Chair: Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
JDC Chair: Senator Karl Rhoads | JDC Vice Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and members of the Joint Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary,

My name is Wilfredo Tungol, HFLA Advocacy Committee chair. HFLA submit this testimony in **support of HB1839 HD2 SD1**, which requires law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights — including the right to refuse and the right to consult an attorney — before any civil immigration interview can begin, requires consent before the interview proceeds, designates ICE access records as government records accessible under UIPA, and requires agencies providing ICE access to hold two public community forums per year. HFLA support protecting the due process rights of immigrants in the event of ICE arrest.

You cannot waive a right you don't know you have. Many individuals held in law enforcement custody — already in a coercive environment — do not know they can refuse a civil immigration interview, or that what they say can be used in removal proceedings. Without a rights notice and affirmative consent requirement, participation in these interviews is not truly voluntary. HB1839 HD2 SD1 ensures that informed consent is the minimum standard before any civil immigration interview can begin. The SD1 amendment's re-designation of ICE access records as "government records" strengthens the transparency framework by ensuring public access through UIPA's established disclosure procedures.

Civil immigration interviews can initiate removal proceedings, trigger prolonged detention, and permanently alter a person's immigration case. The stakes are severe and often irreversible. The two public forums requirement creates democratic accountability — communities can learn when their state resources are being used to facilitate federal civil immigration enforcement. Having passed the House and Senate PSM/EIG, this bill comes before the joint WAM/JDC committees for the final Senate vote before the floor. I urge the Committees to advance it.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees **PASS HB1839 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Wilfredo Tungol  
HFLA Advocacy Chair  
808-387-7412





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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill

**In SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2 SD1**, with Requested Amendments

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and members of the Joint Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary,

My name is Liza Ryan-Gill, and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) in **support of HB1839 HD2 SD1**, which requires law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights — including the right to refuse and the right to consult an attorney — before any civil immigration interview can begin, requires consent before the interview proceeds, designates ICE access records as government records accessible under UIPA, and requires agencies providing ICE access to hold two public community forums per year.

HCIR is a coalition of 30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations across the pae 'āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai'i as a place where all families can thrive.

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### Why We Support HB1839 HD2 SD1

You cannot waive a right you don't know you have. Many individuals held in law enforcement custody — already in a coercive environment — do not know they can refuse a civil immigration interview, or that what they say can be used in removal proceedings. Without a rights notice and affirmative consent requirement, participation in these interviews is not truly voluntary. HB1839 HD2 SD1 ensures that informed consent is the minimum standard before any civil immigration interview can begin. The SD1 amendment's re-designation of ICE access records as "government records" strengthens the transparency framework by ensuring public access through UIPA's established disclosure procedures.

Civil immigration interviews can initiate removal proceedings, trigger prolonged detention, and permanently alter a person's immigration case. The stakes are severe and often irreversible. Having passed the House and Senate PSM/EIG, this bill comes before the joint WAM/JDC committees for the final Senate vote before the floor. We urge the Committees to advance it.

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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

## Requested Amendments

HCIR requests deletion of specific provisions from HB1839 HD2 SD1. These amendments were reached through good-faith negotiations with Hawai'i County Chief of Police Mahuna and with input from Honolulu Interim Police Chief Vanic. We believe these targeted deletions address the legitimate operational concerns raised by law enforcement while fully preserving the bill's core due process and consent protections. The bill's essential requirements — written rights notification, voluntary and informed consent, and language access — remain fully intact under this amendment proposal.

We request deletion of the following language, quoted directly from the bill:

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### Amendment 1 — Delete Section (a)(1)(B)

Delete the following line from the list of items the written consent form must explain:

*(B) The purpose of the interview, if known by the law enforcement agency;*

Reason: In practice, law enforcement agencies often do not know the purpose of a federal immigration interview in advance. This provision creates compliance uncertainty without adding meaningful protection for the individual. The remaining items in Section (a)(1) — Fifth Amendment rights, the voluntary nature of the interview, and the right to decline or request counsel — fully protect the individual's informed consent.

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### Amendment 2 — Delete Section (d) in its entirety

Delete the following provision requiring per-incident logging of civil immigration interview requests:

*(d) Law enforcement agencies shall log each civil immigration interview request, including the following: (1) Date and time of the civil immigration interview request; (2) Whether the written consent form under subsection (a) was provided to the individual; (3) The language used in the written consent form; (4) Whether consent was given to a civil immigration interview; (5) If consent was given, whether counsel was present at the interview; and (6) If consent was given, the date and time of the civil immigration interview.*



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Reason: Law enforcement agencies — particularly smaller county departments — raised legitimate concerns about the administrative burden of per-incident documentation requirements. Deleting this subsection removes that burden while the bill's remaining provisions (the signed consent form retention requirement in subsection (b), and the records provisions in subsection (f)) still ensure that a meaningful documentary record exists.

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Amendment 3 — Delete Section (g) in its entirety

Delete the following provision requiring quarterly reporting to the Attorney General and an annual legislative report:

*(g) Each law enforcement agency shall provide de-identified copies of the records maintained pursuant to subsection (f) to the department of the attorney general on a quarterly basis. The attorney general shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session that summarizes the requests for access to detained individuals by federal immigration authorities and the outcomes of those requests, aggregated by county.*

Reason: While HCIR strongly values transparency, the quarterly per-agency reporting and annual legislative reporting requirements raised practical concerns about administrative burden. Removing this subsection is appropriate at this stage; the bill's records-as-government-records designation in subsection (f) still ensures public accountability through UIPA.

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Amendment 4 — Delete Section (h) in its entirety

Delete the following provision requiring biannual public community forums:

*(h) The director, if a state law enforcement agency, or chief of police, if a county law enforcement agency, that has provided the federal immigration authorities access to a detained individual during the previous year shall hold at least two community forums during the following year. The community forums shall be open to the public and shall provide information to the public about federal immigration authorities' access to detained individuals and offer an opportunity to receive and consider public comment. As part of the forums, the law enforcement agency shall provide the director or chief of police with: (1) Data it maintains regarding the number and demographic characteristics of detained individuals to whom the law enforcement agency has provided federal immigration authorities access; (2) The date the federal*



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*immigration authority was provided the access; and (3) Whether the federal immigration authority was provided access through an immigration hold, notification request, or transfer, or other means. The law enforcement agency shall provide the information under paragraphs (1) to (3) to the director or chief of police in the form of statistics; provided that if statistics are not maintained, then the law enforcement agency shall provide the director or chief of police with individual records; provided further that personal identifying information of a detained individual shall be redacted.*

Reason: Police chiefs raised concerns about the logistical and administrative demands of convening mandatory public forums. HCIR agrees that removing this requirement is appropriate in order to reach a workable compromise. Community transparency on ICE access remains a priority we will continue to advance through other means.

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Amendment 5 — Delete Section (i) in its entirety

Delete the following provision establishing a hard deadline for the Attorney General to develop consent forms and model policies:

*(i) No later than December 31, 2026, the department of the attorney general shall develop and publish consent forms that meet the requirements of subsection (a) and model policies addressing requests from federal immigration authorities for access to a detained individual for law enforcement agencies to adopt.*

Reason: While HCIR supports the development of standardized consent forms and model policies by the AG — and believes this is essential to consistent statewide implementation — the December 31, 2026 deadline raised implementation concerns. Removing the hard deadline does not eliminate the AG's role; HCIR encourages the Committee to consider whether a future-year effective date or separate appropriation measure could support this work.

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Conclusion

HB1839 HD2 SD1, as amended by the deletions described above, remains a meaningful and enforceable protection for due process. The bill's core — written rights notification, voluntary and informed consent, and language access — is preserved in full. These amendments reflect genuine dialogue with law enforcement leadership and represent the kind of good-faith compromise that makes durable policy.



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We attach as Addendum A a model consent form currently in use in California, which demonstrates that the core consent and rights-notification framework this bill establishes is both practical and workable. This form has been successfully implemented in California county jails and provides a ready model for Hawai'i law enforcement agencies to adapt.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committees to PASS HB1839 HD2 SD1 with the requested amendments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Liza Ryan-Gill

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## ADDENDUM A: Model ICE Interview Rights and Consent Form (California)

*The following is an example of a consent form currently in use in California county jails, provided to illustrate that the core consent and rights-notification requirements of HB1839 HD2 SD1 are practical and proven. This form demonstrates that clear, accessible rights notification and informed consent can be implemented in a straightforward, one-page document.*

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### \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY JAIL ICE INTERVIEW RIGHTS AND CONSENT FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inmate: \_\_\_\_\_ Book & Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tier/Housing Area: \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Language Access — Please check the box if you would like this form in another language:*

- Solicito recibir este formulario en español. / I request to receive this form in Spanish.  請寄來中文表格。 / I request to receive this form in Chinese.  Nais ko pong makiusap na matanggap ang forma na ito sa Tagalog. / I request to receive this form in Tagalog.  Tôi yêu cầu để nhận mẫu đơn này trong tiếng Việt. / I request to receive this form in Vietnamese.  저는 이 서류를 한국어로 번역된 것으로 받고 싶습니다. / I request to receive this form in Korean.
-



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An Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent would like to interview you to investigate your immigration status and determine whether you are deportable. This interview is voluntary. You may decline to be interviewed, agree to be interviewed but only with your lawyer present, or agree to be interviewed without your lawyer present. Anything you say to the ICE agent at the interview may be used in immigration proceedings.

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For Inmate — Please pick ONE of the following options and sign your name:

- I do not agree to be interviewed by an agent of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
  - I agree to be interviewed by an agent of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), but only if my lawyer is present.
  - I agree to be interviewed by an agent of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without my lawyer.
- 

Inmate's Signature

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*Note: This form is provided as a model only. Under HB1839 HD2 SD1, the Department of the Attorney General would be responsible for developing the official standardized consent form for use by Hawai'i state and county law enforcement agencies, available in the languages specified in subsection (b) of the bill.*



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

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

HEARING: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 10:15 am; Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF HB 1839, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, Senator Hashimoto and Senator DeCoite of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

Roots Reborn **strongly supports HB1839, HD2, SD1**, Relating to Immigration. This measure requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights before interviews with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding civil immigration matters; designates related ICE access records as government records; and requires agencies providing ICE access to detained individuals to hold two public forums annually.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and across Hawai'i. Formed after the August 2023 Maui wildfires, we have since grown into an organization providing pro bono immigration legal services, Know Your Rights education, and rapid response coordination for immigrant residents statewide.

In partnership with our coalition, we have:

- Trained 700+ community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Provided 50+ trainings for service providers, employers, and community leaders
- Responded to over 450 tipline calls related to federal enforcement activity
- Trained 60+ volunteer observers in verification, peaceful documentation and de-escalation

These direct experiences ground our testimony. We have seen how fear and confusion about immigration enforcement undermine recovery, safety, and trust — especially among wildfire survivors and victims of domestic violence.

**HB1839, HD2, SD1**, is a common-sense due process and transparency measure. It ensures that no one is questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without understanding their rights or giving clear, voluntary, informed consent. The bill affirms that constitutional protections apply to all people within the United States, regardless of status. We urge that implementation include statewide standardized forms, multilingual access, and training to ensure consistency across jurisdictions. These procedures have proven workable in other states and support both equitable justice and effective governance.

**HB1839, HD2, SD1** strengthens public trust, ensures due process, and creates a transparent, uniform standard for engagement between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies. We respectfully urge your **strong support for HB1839, HD2, SD1**.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza', written over a horizontal line.

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*

April 7, 2026

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

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

### **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1839**

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

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

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

We urge your support of HB 1839. This measure is an important step toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.

## Testimony of In SUPPORT of HB1839 HD2 SD1

Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary

WAM Chair: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz | WAM Vice Chair: Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
JDC Chair: Senator Karl Rhoads | JDC Vice Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and members of the Joint Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary,

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1839 HD2 SD1**, which requires law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights — including the right to refuse and the right to consult an attorney — before any civil immigration interview can begin, requires consent before the interview proceeds, designates ICE access records as government records accessible under UIPA, and requires agencies providing ICE access to hold two public community forums per year.

As an educator working closely with immigrant and multilingual students and families, I see firsthand how fear and confusion around immigration enforcement can undermine trust in public institutions. You cannot waive a right you don't know you have. Many individuals held in law enforcement custody do not know they can refuse a civil immigration interview, or that what they say can be used in removal proceedings. Without a rights notice and affirmative consent requirement, participation in these interviews is not truly voluntary. HB1839 HD2 SD1 ensures that informed consent is the minimum standard before any civil immigration interview can begin. The SD1 amendment's re-designation of ICE access records as "government records" strengthens the transparency framework by ensuring public access through UIPA's established disclosure procedures.

Civil immigration interviews can initiate removal proceedings, trigger prolonged detention, and permanently alter a person's immigration case. The stakes are severe and often irreversible. The two public forums requirement creates democratic accountability where communities can learn when their state resources are being used to facilitate federal civil immigration enforcement. Having passed the House and Senate PSM/EIG, this bill comes before the joint WAM/JDC committees for the final Senate vote before the floor. I urge the Committees to advance it.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees **PASS HB1839 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:27:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members,

As a local citizen concerned with safety in our communities, I write in **strong support of HB1839 HD2 SD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in their custody of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities regarding civil immigration violations can begin, designates all records relating to federal immigration authorities’ access to detained individuals as public records, and requires agencies that have provided such access within the prior year to hold two public community forums per year.

As a state, we should have law enforcement measures that engender trust and accountability. Otherwise, our systems diminish, rather than bolster, public safety.

You cannot waive a right you don’t know you have. People in law enforcement custody — particularly those who may face civil immigration consequences — often do not realize they can refuse an interview with federal immigration agents, or that what they say may be used against them in removal proceedings. HB1839 HD2 ensures that before any civil immigration interview takes place, the person is clearly informed of their rights and must provide explicit consent. Without that notice and consent, the interview cannot proceed.

The public records and community accountability forum provisions address a broader transparency gap: when state resources are used to facilitate federal immigration access, communities have the right to know. These are not radical protections — they are the basic infrastructure of due process and democratic accountability. HB1839 HD2 passed the House with strong bipartisan support and the PSM/EIG committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage.

I urge the committees to **PASS HB1839 HD2 SD1** for the safety of our local communities.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:19:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in support of HB1839 HD2 SD1

**Tina Marie Even**  
**Indivisible Member**

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:22:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **support** of HB1839. The bill's core purpose of ensuring fairness, transparency, and community trust in our law enforcement. However, I cannot determine whether the recent changes strengthen or weaken the bill, and I respectfully request that the committee pass the **strongest possible protection against overreach and abuse by federal immigration authority**—whatever that requires.

**What the bill does well**

As originally drafted, HB1839 accomplishes three critical things:

1. **Informed consent.** It requires law enforcement to notify individuals in custody of their rights before any immigration-related interview, ensuring participation is truly voluntary. The amended version clarifies this should be a written consent form explaining the right to have an attorney present if the individual is represented.
2. **Transparency and accountability.** The bill requires public forums from agencies that have provided ICE access and makes records of that access available for oversight.
3. **Community trust.** By drawing clear lines between local facilities and federal immigration enforcement, the bill helps immigrant and mixed-status families feel safer reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help.

**But I am concerned about the changes to records designation**

The previous committee made three related changes to records access:

- Records are now designated as "**government records**" rather than "**public records.**"
- An exemption to the Uniform Information Practices Act was **removed.**

I am not certain whether these changes expand or restrict public access. "Government records" could mean records are subject to public disclosure requests—or it could mean they are held internally with less transparency. Removing an exemption typically *increases* access, but without knowing which exemption was removed, I cannot assess the net effect.

**My request to the committee**

I ask that the committee pass HB1839 in the **strongest possible form** to protect individuals in custody from coercion, ensure meaningful public oversight of ICE access, and prevent any backsliding into the shadows.

If the changes made by the previous committee weaken transparency—by making records harder to obtain or by narrowing the definition of what must be disclosed—please revert them. If the changes strengthen the bill, please keep them.

But above all, please ensure the final bill includes:

- Mandatory, written, multilingual notice of rights before any ICE interview.
- A requirement that consent be knowing and voluntary, with the right to refuse without retaliation.
- Genuine public access to records of ICE access in local facilities.
- Community forums whenever ICE has been granted access.

Hawai‘i must not become a partner in federal immigration enforcement that tears families apart and destroys trust in our local institutions. I urge the committee to pass the strongest protections available.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:01:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michaela Alcaraz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning/Afternoon Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Michaela, and I live in Hanamā‘ulu, Kaua‘i.

I am in support of, and respectfully urge you to also support, HB 1839.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:01:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stonly support HB1839 HD2 that requires that incarcerated persons, of interest to ICE or Border Patrol, be informed of their rights prior to meething with those officers. ICE has proven recently that it does not follow protocol and even lies to people they interview. AS a result, it is important that the State tale responsibility for providing that information before ICE has access to them.

Please pass this bill to help ensure that our neighbors are treated failrly.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:39:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:04:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john savino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1839 due process FOR ALL TOO BUT IMMIGRANTS MAY NOT BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO VOICE THIS!!!

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:19:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2.

It is crucial that Hawaii require that state law enforcement agencies provide all individuals in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview.

This should be a no-brainer: it is basic due process and all people in the US, regardless of their status, have it. Unfortunately, we live in Trump's US, and such basic rights are being flouted daily. The state of Hawaii must step up and protect the rights that the federal government is violating.

Please pass this Bill!

**I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.**

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:45:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 on behalf of myself and a member of Indivisible Hawai‘i.

HB1839 is a commonsense due process and transparency measure that ensures people in state or county custody receive “Know Your Rights” information before any civil immigration interview, and that any interview proceeds only with clear, voluntary, informed consent.

Ignorance should not be weaponized, particularly against disenfranchised populations under duress - such as when being detained and interrogated by immigration enforcement, as we have seen evidence of on the mainland.

I support HB1839 because it helps ensure that a person in custody is told—clearly and in a language they understand—that the interview is voluntary and they can decline or request an attorney.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.  
Joie Yonamine, Manoa

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
April 6, 2026

Senator Donovan DelaCruz Chair, Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Aloha, Senators,

**I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1839 HD2 SD1, "Relating to Immigration".**

**The United States is a nation of immigrants.**

**Arrests and Due Process: We in the islands reject fear tactics in our schools and on our farms, in clinics and places of worship.**

**This bill would make it necessary for law enforcement officers in Hawai'i to make detained immigrants aware of their legal rights, to guarantee due process.**

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

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

**Please vote yes on HB1839 HD2 SD1.**

Mahalo and Aloha,

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

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:53:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am writing in Strong Support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.**

**Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.**

**I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.**

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:33:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1839 - due process for immigrants

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:41:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tammy M DeBernardi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Tammy DeBernardi  
Ocean View, Ka'u

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:37:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in support

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:27:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee E McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN).

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:43:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired police officer, I believe strongly in due process, which is afforded to every person in the United States. Therefore, I very strongly support this bill and hope you do as well. Mahalo.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:49:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:03:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Over the past year, I have been watching the erosion of due process across the US. I am very concerned about the ways that federal agents have arrested, detained and deported people under the scope of Trump’s immigration crackdown. They have done this with impunity, regardless of proof, legal status, including those who are citizens. I have seen the horrible conditions at detention camps. I have read about individuals who have been detained for nearly a year without being charged with anything at all. I have watched video after video of federal agents hurting, and even killing people. Including hurting and killing those who have done nothing except trying to protect their neighbors. What is even more concerning is how governmental officers, including the president, blatantly lie about the victims, contradicting the facts that we clearly see with our own eyes.

This is the backdrop against which HB1839 is urgently important. We need to put safety measures in place that I have never imagined we needed before.

I urge you to pass HB1839 HD2.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 5:47:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1839 HD2 SD1 which would offer due process for immigrants.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 6:59:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill

Jane Aquino, Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:04:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:39:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SB1839 HD2 DUE PROCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS**

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

David Cuthbert, Pahoā, Hawai'i

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:44:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith Mura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1839 HD2 SD1

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:47:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monty Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.**

**Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.**

**I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.**

**Monty Clark**

**Hawaii Kai**

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:33:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:35:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Kamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN).

HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:46:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1839 because I believe all people are entitled to a robust defense and due process regardless of immigration status. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:00:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:13:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.**

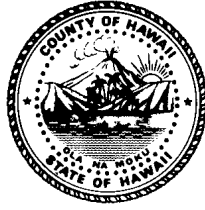
**Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.**

**I urge you to Pass HB1839 HD2.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.**

**Gail Morrison, Honolulu**

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



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

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: April 7, 2026  
TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means & Judiciary  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: HB1839 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair(s) Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chair(s) Moriwaki and Gabbard, and esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1839. Hawai'i has a rich history of diversity and a deep commitment to fairness and equality. This bill is important for safeguarding the proper execution of due process and civil rights of immigrants by ensuring informed consent, language access, and accountability, helping prevent coercion and protecting vulnerable individuals. These protections uphold Hawai'i's values, promote public trust in law enforcement, and create a clear paper trail to ensure fairness and prevent abuses in civil immigration enforcement.

Mahalo,

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

Jenn Kagiwada

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

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

HEARING:  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 10:15 am  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1839, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, Senator Hashimoto for my district on Maui, Senator DeCoite of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews. I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui, an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years, a volunteer Know Your Rights educator, and a founding coalition member of and volunteer constitutional observer with El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui – The People in Action Maui. I write to you today in **strong support of HB 1839, HD2, SD1**, Relating to Immigration.

As a volunteer Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide, I have helped train teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, parents and senior citizens on what their constitutional rights are, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and how to ensure these rights are not violated. I begin each training with an overview of why knowing our rights is important:

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

**I request your support of HB 1839, HD2, SD1**, to ensure that people in the custody of state and county law enforcement agencies are notified of their rights before interviews with ICE regarding civil immigration matters. House Bill 1839, HD2 ensures that no one is questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without understanding their rights or giving clear, voluntary, informed consent. House Bill 1839, HD2 provides for an implementation that includes statewide standardized forms, multilingual access, and training to ensure consistency across jurisdictions. These procedures have proven workable in other states and support both equitable justice and effective governance.

**House Bill 1839, HD2, SD1** strengthens public trust, ensures due process, and creates a transparent, uniform standard for engagement between local law enforcement and federal immigration agencies. I respectfully **request you support HB 1839, HD2, SD1** and vote it out of committee.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, J.D.  
Wailuku, Maui

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:56:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB1839 HD2 DUE PROCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS**

I am writing in **strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN)**. This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview. This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

Sadly we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

I urge you to **Pass HB1839 HD2**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Addie Berliner

**LATE**

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:40:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of HB1839 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN)**. This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS requiring that state law enforcement provide an individual in custody with information on their rights and the opportunity to decline a civil immigration interview.

**It is indeed unfortunate that we must pass legislation to explicitly mandate what should be intuitively obvious: that America operates under the rule of law, and its law enforcement agencies must follow due process before depriving anyone—citizen or immigrant—of their liberty.** But sadly, we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Several federal courts have found that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries. This bill provides one means of protecting the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal officers.

This is basic due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1839 HD2 would require state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview, and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

**We must not allow federal agents wielded like a personal goon squad of an authoritarian chief executive to run amok in our state.** I urge you to **Pass HB1839 HD2** as a way of helping those who might be victimized by such forces.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Aloha,

Michael

**LATE**

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:53:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle Goren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB1839 DUE PROCESS FOR IMMIGRANTS**

My name is Danielle Goren and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 as a Lahaina resident and member of Indivisible Hawai'i.

HB1839 would add a new Chapter to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement; requiring state and local agencies to provide an individual in custody with information about their rights before any civil immigration interview and would require transparency about ICE access to detained individuals.

As you are undoubtedly aware, we see daily examples in the news of ICE and CBP violating the statutory rights and due process rights of persons contacted about their immigration status. Multiple federal courts have determined that these agencies have denied due process rights to persons questioned, detained, and even rendered to foreign countries.

HB1839 is an effective way for us to protect the rights of noncitizens who are already in custody and facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Danielle Goren



**LATE**

**HB-1839-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:23:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/8/2026 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support