

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412  
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 6, 2026, 8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1839  
Relating to Immigration

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would require local law enforcement to inform individuals of their rights before a custodial interview with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), host two annual community forums, if access to a detainee was provided to ICE, and make all records related to ICE's access to a detainee in state or local custody public. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) offers the following comments and **suggested amendments regarding provisions on records and community forums** in this bill.

Proposed subsection 353C-\_\_(f), on page 7 at lines 10-14, covers records pertaining to detained individuals, and refers to Hawaii's open records law, the Uniform Information Practices Act (Modified), chapter 92F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) (the UIPA), as follows:

(f) All records relating to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to a detained individual provided by a law enforcement agency, including all communication with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be public records for

purposes of chapter 92F, including the exemptions provided by chapter 92F; provided that personal identifying information shall be redacted before public disclosure.

The UIPA generally requires disclosure of “government records.” The term “public records” is not used or defined by the UIPA, although it is often used as a shorthand way to say records are fully disclosable to the public. The above quoted language stating that records are “public records for purposes of chapter 92F, including the exemptions provided by chapter 92F,” is thus ambiguous: it is unclear whether the intent is to say that the records are fully public for the purpose of the UIPA’s exceptions once personal identifying information is redacted, or that the records are presumed to be public but the UIPA’s exceptions to disclosure (under sections 92F-13 and 92F-22, HRS) apply and may authorize further redactions. For example, these exceptions, if applicable, may allow an agency to withhold access to law enforcement records related to a pending investigation (sections 92F-13(3) and 92F-22(1), HRS); or to an individual’s home address, personal phone numbers, and social security numbers (section 92F-13(1), HRS). OIP respectfully suggests that the bill should clarify whether these exceptions apply.

The two phrases “personal identifying information shall be redacted,” found on page 7, lines 15-17, and page 9, line 20, to page 10, lines 1-2, do not specify whose personally identifying information must be redacted—that of the detainees, local law enforcement officials, or ICE officers. OIP recommends specifying that the detainee’s personally identifying information must be redacted if that is the Legislature’s intent. OIP would also respectfully suggest the language be changed to state the personally identifying information shall be redacted in accordance with chapter 92F.

Given these concerns, OIP recommends subsection (f) be amended as follows, if this Committee intends for the UIPA's exceptions to disclosure to apply:

(f) All records relating to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to a detained individual provided by a law enforcement agency, including all communication with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be made available to the public to the extent required by chapter 92F ~~public records for purposes of chapter 92F, including the exemptions provided by chapter 92F~~; provided that personal identifying information of a detained individual shall be redacted before public disclosure.

If this Committee does not intend the UIPA's exceptions to disclosure to apply, OIP recommends subsection (f) be amended to read as follows:

(f) All records relating to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to a detained individual provided by a law enforcement agency, including all communication with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be made available to the public notwithstanding public records for purposes of chapter 92F, including the exemptions to disclosure provided by chapter 92F; provided that personal identifying information of a detained individual shall be redacted before public disclosure.

OIP also recommends the following **amendment** to subsection (h), page 9, line 20, page 10, lines 1-2:

“provided further that personal identifying information of a detained individual shall be redacted.”

Regarding community forums, subsection (h), starting on page 8, requires law enforcement agencies to hold community forums “subject to the requirements of chapter 92.” If the intent is to apply Hawai‘i’s Sunshine Law, part I of chapter 92, HRS, to these community forums, then OIP respectfully recommends that this measure specify “part I of chapter 92,” as chapter 92 includes six other parts, some of which are irrelevant to meetings. However, OIP recommends **removing the reference to chapter 92, on page 9, line 1, entirely** because the Sunshine Law applies to government boards, as defined by section 92-2, HRS; not to events such as hearings and forums held by an agency that is not a government board.

Instead, to ensure transparency, OIP recommends that the bill set its own public access standards for these forums. In addition to requiring law enforcement agencies “to receive and consider public comment,” OIP suggests that the bill be amended to include that,

1. All community forums are open to the public, and
2. Public notice of a community forum shall be posted on an electronic calendar or a website maintained by the State or the appropriate county, at least six calendar days in advance.

Thank you for considering OIP’s testimony.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

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

**HONOLULU OFFICE**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
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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**

ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

**HILO OFFICE**  
275 PONAHAHAWAI STREET  
SUITE 201  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
TEL. No. (808) 974-4571  
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**KONA OFFICE**  
75-1000 HENRY STREET  
SUITE #209  
KAILUA-KONA HI 96740  
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**KAUAI OFFICE**  
3060 EIIWA STREET  
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**MAUI OFFICE**  
81 N. MARKET STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TEL. No. (808) 984-5018  
FAX No. (808) 984-5022

**February 5, 2026**

**HB1839: RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

**Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports HB1839**, which, *inter alia*, requires law enforcement agencies to inform individuals in custody of their rights before any interview with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”).

The OPD submits that, for individuals in custody for pre-trial detention, subsection (a) of the proposed law should also require that the written notice provide the Fifth Amendment warnings required by Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436, 86 S. Ct. 1602 (1966).

Subsection (c) of the proposed law should be amended to add that law enforcement agencies shall inform the individual of their right to consult with counsel. Furthermore, consistent with Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 571-31.8, subsection (c) of the proposed law should state that juveniles in custody shall have contact with legal counsel and shall also, to the extent practicable, have contact with a parent, guardian, or legal custodian prior to any interview with ICE. Because the OPD expects law enforcement agencies to offer individuals access to counsel through the OPD, the OPD encourages support for HB2600, funding for an immigration attorney within the OPD, in order to effectuate the intent of HB1839.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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



Reed K. Mahuna  
*Interim Police Chief*

William V. Brillhante Jr.  
*Managing Director*

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

February 4, 2026

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representatives Ilagan and Hussey and Members:

RE: HOUSE BILL 1839 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION  
DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2026  
TIME: 08:30 A.M.  
PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE  
CONFERENCE ROOM 423

The Hawaii Police Department (HPD) respectfully **opposes** HB1839 Relating to Immigration.

While the intent of this measure to promote transparency and due process is understandable, the bill imposes significant and unfunded mandates on county law enforcement agencies without providing any mechanism or resources to implement them.

The bill requires law enforcement agencies to adopt and administer written notices and multilingual consent forms before any civil immigration interview can occur. It further mandates extensive logging and recordkeeping of interview requests, compliance decisions, and ICE notifications, as well as quarterly transmittal of redacted records to the Attorney General. In addition, the bill obligates agencies that have provided ICE access to any detained individual in the prior year to host at least two public forums annually, subject to open meeting requirements, and to present detailed statistical data regarding ICE interactions.

These requirements create substantial administrative and operational burdens for the Hawaii County Police Department. They would require new systems, staffing, and infrastructure to ensure compliance, yet the bill provides no funding or implementation mechanism to support these mandates. This is particularly concerning given the Department's existing resource constraints and its obligation to prioritize core public safety responsibilities.

HOUSE BILL 1839 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2026

TIME: 08:30 A.M.

PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE

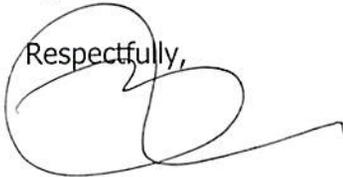
CONFERENCE ROOM 423

Page 2

Moreover, the bill places an undue onus on the Department to participate in civil immigration enforcement activities, despite the fact that current policy expressly forbids the HPD from engaging in civil immigration enforcement. This measure conflicts with established policy and risks diverting resources from essential law enforcement functions to activities that are outside the Department's scope and contrary to its mission.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Police Department respectfully urges the Committee to reject this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

REED K. MAHUNA  
INTERIM POLICE CHIEF



# POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



**DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI**, MAYOR  
**REIKO MATSUYAMA**, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**ELLIOTT K. KE**, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**MARK T. OZAKI**, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony in Opposition of HB 1839, Relating to Immigration**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kaua'i Police Department, I am submitting testimony in **OPPOSITION** of HB 1839, which proposes to impose new requirements on state and county law enforcement agencies regarding civil immigration interviews with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), public records designation for related records, and mandatory public forums.

While we recognize and respect the Legislature's intent to safeguard civil rights and ensure transparency, HB 1839 raises significant operational, legal, and public safety concerns that warrant serious consideration.

Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, and state and county law enforcement agencies have no affirmative duty to collect or share immigration status information. Nevertheless, HB 1839 would require local agencies to implement new procedures, including written and multilingual advisements and consent forms, expanded documentation and reporting, transmission of records to the Attorney General, and, in some cases, public forums and statistical disclosures. These requirements exceed existing legal obligations and would impose significant administrative and operational burdens, diverting limited personnel and resources away from core public safety functions.

In addition, the bill effectively places local law enforcement agencies in the position of managing civil immigration-related processes, despite long-standing policies that prohibit engagement in civil immigration enforcement. Many of the protections outlined in HB1839 are already addressed through existing constitutional and statutory safeguards. Adding duplicative procedures may lead to inconsistency and operational challenges rather than improved outcomes and will place additional administrative burdens on already critically short-staffed agencies.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **OPPOSE HB 1839**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Chair Ilagan  
February 5, 2026  
Re: Opposition of HB 1839  
Page 2 of 2

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott K. Ke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elliott K. Ke  
Chief of Police  
Kaua'i Police Department

## TESTIMONY (HB1839)

**Testimony of:** Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino

**Organization (if any):** Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza

**In SUPPORT of:** HB1839

**Hearing Date/Time:** Friday, February 6, 2026, 8:30 am

**To:** Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair, Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino, and we are submitting testimony **in strong support of HB1839** on behalf of **Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza**.

**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**.

### Why I support HB1839

In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

### What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)

We support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

- 1. Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**

HB1839 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**.

This matters to Mercado de La Raza because protecting immigrant community members with clear, language-accessible Know Your Rights notices ensures families can make informed choices, avoid coercion, and access legal support when facing civil immigration interviews.

## 2. **Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**

HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: **no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent**, provided in the person's language whenever possible, stating:

- the interview is voluntary,
- which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
- the purpose of the interview, and
- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.

This matters to Mercado de La Raza because requiring written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview helps prevent coercion in custody, protects due process, and ensures our community members fully understand their rights before engaging with immigration authorities.

## 3. **Logging and transparency**

HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to **log requests and outcomes** and make information available for public oversight (including **community forums** as appropriate).

HB1839 builds trust by creating transparency and accountability through documented ICE interview requests and outcomes, ensuring communities can verify that rights are respected and oversight is possible.

## 4. **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

HB1839 should be implemented with **uniform statewide guidance**—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

This matters because uniform statewide guidance, model policies, and training ensure HB1839's protections are applied consistently, so no one's rights depend on which facility or county is holding them.

## **Proven approach**

This approach is **modeled on policies already used in other states**, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

### **Addressing common concerns**

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through **standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows**—and do not outweigh the importance of **informed consent and due process**.

### **Request**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1839**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino**

**Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza  
808.593.2226**

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:46:19 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Honolulu Hawaii NAACP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The NAACP strongly supports HB 1839. This Bill is a commonsense due process and transparency measure that ensures people in state or county custody receive a critical “Know Your Rights” notification before any civil immigration interview, and that any interview proceeds only with clear, voluntary, informed consent.

Hawai’i has a large immigrant and mixed-status population. Across America communities are experiencing fear and confusion which leads to individuals being reluctant to seeking help or getting information on understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel. HB 1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance to include model forms, policies, and effective training to ensure everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

“Know Your Rights” notice before any civil immigration interview ensures that a person in custody is communicated to in a language they understand, that the interview is voluntary, and they can decline or request an attorney. HB 1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate). This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to pass HB 1839 and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alphonso Braggs

President

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:55:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Testimony of: Matthew B. Johnson**  
**Organization: Pacific Gateway Center**  
**In SUPPORT of: HB1839**

**My name is Matthew B. Johnson, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 on behalf of Pacific Gateway Center.**

**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.**

**Why I support HB1839**

- **“In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights.”**
- **“No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.”**

**What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

**I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:**

1. **Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**  
**HB1839 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.**
2. **Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**  
**HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible,**

**stating:**

- **the interview is voluntary,**
- **which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),**
- **the purpose of the interview, and**
- **the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.**

**1. Logging and transparency**

**HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).**

**2. Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

**HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.**

## **Proven approach**

**This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.**

## **Addressing common concerns**

**Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.**

## **Request**

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,  
Matthew B. Johnson**

**Pacific Gateway Center**



House Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey  
Friday, February 6, 2026, 08:30 am  
Room 423 and Videoconference  
HB 1839 – Relating to Immigration

TESTIMONY

Nette Monaus, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and Committee Members

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1839**, which requires law enforcement agencies to notify detained individuals of their rights, including the right to decline interviews and the right to legal representation before any civil immigration interview. All individuals in the United States are entitled to due process under the law, regardless of their immigration status. Reports continue to surface of non-immigrants being detained and denied their civil rights and due process. Mass deportation efforts create new safety risks for non-immigrants as they face Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

HB1839 seeks to strengthen due process and transparency in interactions with immigration authorities, such as ICE. These measures ensure equal protection under the law, prevent coercion, and promote fair treatment of individuals in custody.

Additionally, HB1839 aims to ensure that Hawaii's law enforcement agencies operate within their legal boundaries while prioritizing civil rights. By mandating that records related to ICE access to detained individuals be designated as public records, the bill fosters transparency and accountability in law enforcement practices. These provisions align with Hawaii's commitment to protecting civil rights and upholding the principles of due process for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Nette Monaus

League of Women Voters Advocacy Committee



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill  
In SUPPORT of HB1839**

Representative Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 6th, 2026, 2pm Room 423

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

My name is **Liza Ryan-Gill**, testifying on behalf of the **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)**. 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.

We strongly support **HB1839**, a bill to provide due process and transparency to ensure that 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.

HB1839 strengthens civil rights protections for individuals in state or county law enforcement custody by establishing clear, enforceable due-process requirements before any civil immigration interview may take place. Individuals in custody are in an inherently vulnerable position. Without clear safeguards, people may not understand that they have the right to decline an interview, request an attorney, or avoid answering questions that could have serious immigration consequences. In practice, many individuals mistakenly believe that they are required to speak with immigration officers or that declining will negatively affect their criminal case or custody status.

This bill ensures that individuals receive written notice — in multiple languages — explaining the purpose of any civil immigration interview, that participation is voluntary, and that they may decline to participate or request that an attorney be present. These protections are essential to ensuring that any consent is truly informed and not the result of confusion, pressure, language barriers, or fear.

Importantly, HB1839 reflects best practices that have already been adopted in other states and local jurisdictions across the country. States and major cities including California, Illinois, New York, Connecticut, and Washington have implemented similar notice, consent, documentation, and transparency requirements governing local law enforcement interactions with federal immigration authorities. These policies are widely recognized as effective tools to protect due process, ensure informed decision-making, and maintain public trust — while still allowing federal authorities to carry out their own responsibilities independently.



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

Experience from these jurisdictions shows that requiring informed consent and public documentation does not interfere with legitimate law enforcement functions. Instead, it promotes clarity, reduces coercion, prevents misunderstandings, and strengthens confidence in the justice system. It also helps ensure that state and local resources are not used in ways that undermine constitutional protections or community safety.

HB1839 ensures that individuals in custody understand their rights before speaking with ICE, protects access to counsel, and helps prevent coercive or uninformed interviews. It makes ICE interactions transparent to the public through documentation and public records and requires community engagement through public forums, improving accountability and trust between communities and law enforcement.

At its core, this bill is about fairness, transparency, and respect for due process. People should not face life-altering immigration consequences without fully understanding their rights and without making a truly voluntary and informed choice.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Liza Ryan Gill

Executive Director

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540  
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Elsa West, and I submit testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I believe immigrant and mixed-status families should feel safe in this place they've chosen to make their home. Hawai'i is a community, and what I find most important is the safety of everyone, no matter their origin and ethnicity. It pains me to see the state of this nation, and I hope that Hawai'i can be an exception to the inequality and injustice we are seeing.

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

Sincerely,  
Elsa West  
American Civil Liberties Union  
edubjr2010@icloud.com

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:55:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)	Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 1839.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)



House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Honorable Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony in Support of H.B. 1839, Relating to Immigration**  
Hearing: February 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

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 H.B. 1839.

Public records are a critical mechanism for ensuring government accountability. Accountability in law enforcement is the backbone of public trust. It protects constitutional rights and improves officer safety and professionalism. And it helps communities understand whether law enforcement agencies are acting in accordance with community values and legal standards.

Additionally, the requirement to hold public forums fosters direct communication between agencies and the communities they serve, furthering the goals of a transparent and participatory government.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1839.





## **House Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB1839**

**Friday, February 6th, 8:30 AM in Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

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

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports HB1839. This bill guarantees that people in state or county custody receive clear "Know Your Rights" information before any civil immigration interview, and that these interviews only take place with voluntary, informed consent.

People in custody need to be told that the interview is voluntary, who is requesting it, and that they have the right to say no or ask for a lawyer. HB1839 helps prevent confusion and pressure by making sure people get clear notice in a language they understand and by requiring written consent before any interview takes place.

The bill also increases accountability by requiring basic record-keeping and public transparency. It creates standard forms, policies, and training across the state to make sure these protections are applied the same way throughout Hawai'i.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1839.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is placed below the text 'Thank you for your support and consideration,'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1839, RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

February 6, 2026

#### To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1839**. This measure because it affirms a basic principle that should never be controversial in Hawai'i: there must be no secret police and no secret government processes.

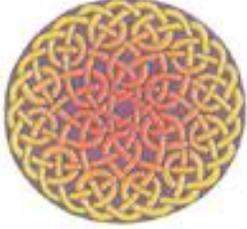
This bill does not interfere with federal immigration enforcement. Instead, it ensures that when federal immigration authorities seek access to individuals in state or county custody, that access occurs openly, lawfully, and with full respect for due process. No one should be interviewed by federal agents in a locked facility without knowing why they are there, whether participation is voluntary, or whether they have the right to decline or consult an attorney.

Secret interviews undermine public trust, chill cooperation with local law enforcement, and erode the civil rights protections guaranteed by the Hawai'i Constitution. Transparency is not an obstacle to public safety — it is a prerequisite for it. Communities are safer when people know their rights will be respected and that government power is exercised in the light, not behind closed doors.

By requiring informed consent, language access, public recordkeeping, and community reporting, this bill draws a clear line between lawful cooperation and covert enforcement. It ensures accountability without obstructing federal authority and protects both residents and law enforcement officers through clear, uniform procedures.

Hawai'i's history and values demand openness, fairness, and dignity for all people. This bill honors those values and deserves your full support.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1839. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at [legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org).



## *Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC*

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

### **House Committee on Economic Development (ECD)**

Friday, February 6, 2026, 8:30 AM, Room 423

Re: Testimony of Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara in **Strong Support** of **H.B. No. 1839**, Relating to **IMMIGRATION**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

As a civil rights attorney I submit this testimony in **strong support** of HB 1839, which would establish due process protections and transparency requirements governing civil immigration interviews conducted at state and county law enforcement facilities. This bill is a measured, constitutionally sound exercise of Hawai'i's authority to protect the rights of individuals in its custody, and I respectfully urge this Committee to pass it.

### **Constitutional Foundation**

Hawai'i possesses one of the most protective constitutional frameworks in the nation. **Article I, Section 5** of the Hawai'i State Constitution guarantees that no person shall be denied equal protection of the laws or be discriminated against in the exercise of civil rights because of race or ancestry. **Article I, Section 6** recognizes an explicit, affirmative right to privacy — broader than any parallel protection in the federal Constitution — and **Article I, Section 14** secures the right to counsel. Taken together, these provisions create a constitutional floor below which the State may not sink when it holds individuals in custody, regardless of those individuals' immigration status. HB 1839 is a direct expression of these constitutional commitments.

Hawai'i's Constitution also enshrines the Aloha Spirit as a guiding principle of governance. That clause is not merely aspirational; it instructs all persons exercising governmental authority to treat others with mutual respect, kindness, and dignity. **Hawai'i's Constitution also enshrines a principle with no parallel in any other state charter: Article IX, Section 10, the Law of the Splintered Paddle — *Māmalahoe Kānāwai* — the decree of Kamehameha I commanding that every elderly person, woman, and child shall "lie by the roadside in safety."** Elevated to constitutional status, the *Māmalahoe Kānāwai* imposes on the State an affirmative obligation to protect the most vulnerable persons within its borders from harm. Separately, the Aloha Spirit, codified at HRS § 5-7.5, instructs all persons exercising governmental authority to treat others with mutual respect, kindness, and dignity. Together, these two provisions — one constitutional, one statutory — form a distinctive mandate that Hawai'i's government must act as a shield for those in its care, not merely a passive custodian. When a detained individual is confronted by federal immigration agents inside a state or county facility, the power imbalance is acute. The Aloha Spirit demands **The *Māmalahoe Kānāwai* and the Aloha Spirit demand** that Hawai'i interpose basic procedural safeguards — informed consent, language access, and the right to counsel — to ensure that no person is coerced into surrendering rights they do not know they possess. Our State is "justifiably proud of its rich immigrant heritage, which has woven many residents into a valued tapestry of races, ancestral

groups, religions, cultures, and languages from many parts of the world." HB 1839 honors that heritage and operationalizes those constitutional **and statutory** values.

### **Analysis of Key Provisions**

**Informed Written Notice.** Section 2 of the bill requires law enforcement agencies to provide every detained individual with a **written notice before** any civil immigration interview may commence. That notice must explain the purpose of the interview, confirm that participation is voluntary, and inform the individual of the right to decline or to proceed only with an attorney present. The written consent form must be available at no cost in **at least fourteen languages**. This multilingual requirement transforms the right to informed consent from an abstraction into an operational reality, ensuring that language barriers do not become de facto instruments of coercion.

**Logging and Documentation.** The bill mandates that law enforcement agencies **maintain a detailed log** of each civil immigration interview request, including the date and time, whether the **written consent form** was **provided**, the **language** used, whether **consent** was given, and whether **counsel was present**. This contemporaneous record-keeping is the backbone of any accountability regime. Without a documentary record, there is no way to verify whether agencies are complying with the law, and no way for policymakers, courts, or the public to assess whether the rights of detained persons are being respected.

**Notification of ICE Holds and Transfer Requests.** Under subsection (e), when a law enforcement agency receives an ICE immigration hold, notification, or transfer request, it must provide a copy of that request to the detained individual and inform the individual whether the agency intends to comply. If the agency notifies ICE that an individual will be released on a certain date, it must promptly provide the same written notification to the individual and the individual's attorney or designated representative within two business days. These requirements **ensure that individuals are not left in the dark about actions being taken to transfer them into federal custody** — a prerequisite for any meaningful **exercise** of their **right to counsel**.

**Transparency and Public Accountability.** The bill designates all records relating to ICE access to detained individuals as **public records** under Chapter 92F, with personal identifying information redacted before disclosure. Agencies that have provided ICE access during the prior year must hold at least two **community forums** subject to the Sunshine Law (Chapter 92), at which they report on ICE access data — including the number and demographic characteristics of affected individuals — and receive **public comment**. The **attorney general** must also **submit an annual report** to the legislature summarizing ICE access requests and outcomes, aggregated by county. This layered transparency architecture ensures democratic oversight at every level.

### **Civil Rights Implications**

The protections in HB 1839 address a well-documented problem: **individuals in law enforcement custody are in an inherently coercive environment**. When federal immigration agents seek access to such individuals, the coercive character of the setting is compounded. **A person who is not informed of the right to remain silent, the right to decline an interview, or the right to have an attorney present may reasonably believe that participation is mandatory**. The bill's written-notice and consent

requirements directly counteract this dynamic by placing **affirmative obligations** on the custodial agency to serve as a procedural checkpoint. The **requirement to provide reasonable phone access and the opportunity to consult with counsel before any interview further reinforces the right to counsel guaranteed by Article I, Section 14 of the Hawai'i Constitution.**

The transparency provisions serve an equally vital function. By making **ICE-related records publicly accessible and requiring community forums**, the bill bridges the gap between law enforcement operations and democratic accountability. **Communities affected by immigration enforcement — and the public at large — gain the ability to evaluate whether state and county agencies are exercising their discretion appropriately.** The bill also includes meaningful **enforcement mechanisms**: the attorney general may investigate complaints and issue corrective orders, and aggrieved persons may seek injunctive or declaratory relief and reasonable attorney's fees. These provisions ensure that the bill's protections are not merely aspirational but enforceable.

### **Closing**

HB 1839 represents sound civil rights policy. It does not interfere with federal immigration enforcement; as the bill correctly notes, federal law does not require state and local entities to collect or share information with ICE, and there is no affirmative duty to do so. What the bill does do is exercise the State's well-established discretion to **ensure that its own agencies operate consistently with Hawai'i's constitutional guarantees of due process, privacy, equal protection, and the right to counsel.** It is precisely the kind of legislation that the Hawai'i Constitution contemplates and that the Aloha Spirit demands **the *Māmalahoe Kānāwai* and the Aloha Spirit demand.** I respectfully urge this Committee to pass HB 1839.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Rep Greggor Ilagan, Chair**  
**Rep Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 6, 2026  
8:30AM - Conference Room 423  
HB1839 - Relating to Immigration- Support

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

HULI PAC strongly supports HB 1839, which ensures due process and transparency for immigrants and migrants in state and county law enforcement custody when federal immigration authorities seek access for civil immigration matters.

HB 1839 recognizes that while immigration is a federal responsibility, state and local agencies have discretion in how they respond to requests from federal immigration enforcement. This bill establishes clear, consistent requirements before any civil immigration interview with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement may begin, including written notice that explains the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary, and that the person may decline or choose to be interviewed only with an attorney present. The bill also requires that these consent forms be available at no cost and in the languages provided by the Office of Language Access.

HB 1839 further strengthens transparency by designating records relating to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement access to detained individuals as public records, with personal identifying information redacted, and requiring law enforcement agencies to log interview requests and key details. The bill also requires agencies that provided federal immigration authorities access to detained individuals within the previous year to hold at least two community forums during the following year to share information and receive public comment.

These protections promote lawful due process, clearer standards for agencies, and accountability to the public. They also reinforce Hawai'i's commitment to civil rights protections for all.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support passage of HB 1839.

Mahalo.

**To:** Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
**Re:** SUPPORT **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540**  
**Hearing:** Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

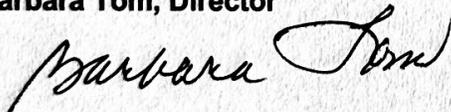
Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara Tom, and I submit testimony on behalf of the Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center in **strong support** of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency, ensuring that immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and that survivors are able to seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

Waipahu Safe Haven works closely with immigrant and migrant communities in Waipahu, providing holistic services that support family stability, health, housing, and overall success in Hawai'i. Our goal is to empower families to become contributing and thriving members of our community. These bills are critical to that mission, as they help remove fear-based barriers that prevent individuals from accessing services, reporting harm, or seeking protection when they need it most.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to protecting the safety and dignity of all residents of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
**Barbara Tom, Director**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Tom".

**Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center**



**Rep. Gregor Ilagan, Chair**  
**Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 6, 2026  
8:30AM Conference Room 423

RE: HB1839 - Rights Notice Before ICE Interviews - Support

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in support of HB1839 as a commonsense due process and transparency measure that protects workers, families, and the integrity of our local economy. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 570 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

From a small business and workforce perspective, clarity and trust matter. When people in state or county custody are questioned about civil immigration matters without understanding their rights, fear and confusion spread beyond the individual—to families, workplaces, and entire communities. That instability affects employee wellbeing, workforce participation, and small business continuity.

HB1839 helps ensure that no civil immigration interview occurs in custody without informed, voluntary consent. It requires clear "Know Your Rights" notice—in a language the person understands—so individuals know the interview is voluntary and that they may decline or request an attorney. It also establishes a bright-line rule requiring written, multilingual consent before any interview proceeds, reducing coercion and protecting due process.

The bill also promotes accountability and transparency by requiring facilities to log interview requests and outcomes, and by supporting statewide model forms, policies, and training. Uniform standards ensure that rights do not depend on which facility or county someone is held in—creating consistency for agencies, workers, and employers alike.

These are practical, proven protections already used in other states. Concerns about implementation can be addressed through standardized forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and trust in public institutions.

For working families and small businesses, HB1839 supports a more stable workforce, clearer processes, and a fair system people can understand and rely on.

### Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country Market  
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family Dentistry  
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

Maile Meyer  
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki  
Abundant Life Natural Foods  
Hilo

Chamber of  
Sustainable Commerce  
808.445.7606  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI 96823



Hawai'i

Committee: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 am  
Place: Conference Room #423 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 1839, Relating to Immigration**

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i, I write in strong support of HB 1839, which represents a vital step toward ensuring due process and transparency for individuals in state or county custody by mandating that they receive information about their rights, in a language they understand, before any civil immigration interview. It is critical that these interviews only proceed with clear, voluntary, and informed consent.

In Hawai'i's immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can often prevent individuals from seeking help<sup>1</sup> or understanding their rights. It is essential that no one is questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without being made aware that the interview is voluntary and that they have the right to request counsel.

HB1839 guarantees that individuals in custody receive a Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview. This ensures that they are informed—clearly and in a language they understand—that participation in the interview is voluntary, and they have the option to decline or request an attorney. This notice is crucial because it empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their circumstances.

Furthermore, HB1839 establishes a requirement for written, multilingual consent before any interview with ICE proceeds. This creates a clear standard that no civil immigration interview can take place without documented consent, provided in the person's language whenever possible. This documentation must clarify that the interview is voluntary, identify the agency requesting it, explain the purpose of the interview, and inform the individual that they may decline and/or have an attorney present. Ensuring that consent is obtained in an accessible manner is vital for maintaining trust and promoting informed participation.

Transparency and accountability are also central to HB1839. The bill mandates that facilities log requests and outcomes related to civil immigration interviews, making this

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<sup>1</sup> See Reva Dhingra et al., "Immigration Policies and Access to the Justice System: The Effect of Enforcement Escalations on Undocumented Immigrants and Their Communities," *Political Behavior* 44 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-020-09663-w>

information available for public oversight. This level of transparency is essential for building trust within the community; when individuals know that there is a system of checks and balances in place, they are more likely to seek help without fear of repercussions.

Moreover, HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance, including model forms, policies, and training. This uniformity ensures that everyone in custody receives the same protections, regardless of where they are detained. Consistency in the application of these protections is crucial for fostering confidence in the system.

This approach is modeled on successful policies already in place in other states,<sup>2</sup> demonstrating that strong consent-and-notice rules can be effectively implemented with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures. By following these best practices, we can avoid confusion and enhance the rights of individuals in custody.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1839. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Mandy Fernandes  
Policy Director  
ACLU of Hawai'i

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization founded in 1965 that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds.*

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<sup>2</sup> See e.g., California's TRUTH Act. AB 2792 (2016).

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:32:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:11:02 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:05:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Yunker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is about **protecting the constitutional rights of people in state and county custody**. HB 1839 ensures that individuals are informed of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities about civil immigration matters. That is a basic safeguard and a commitment to due process and transparency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:22:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:34:20 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kiana Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of HB1839 as both an individual and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network.

As we've seen increasing examples of ICE and CBP violating the statutory and due process rights of immigrants in the news, it's more important than ever that our state uses its authority to protect the rights of our immigrant communities. This bill provides one such means by ensuring that those in its custody who are facing a civil immigration interview with federal agencies know their rights and are able to exercise them.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony,

Kiana Lee, Honolulu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:35:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1839.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:21:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you for this oppportunity to support HB1839 which would require state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in the custody of a state or county law enforcement agency of their rights before any interview with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:21:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE this bill. Firstly, Illegal immigrants do NOT have rights under our Constitution because they are NOT citizens. You know this. Secondly, Federal Law Enforcement Agencies are not obliged to follow state laws on immigration. The State of Hawaii has zero jurisdiction in this area.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:49:10 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Wakukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's keep our local and state/ county police or law-enforcement adjacent jobs out of the unjust current federal policies and actions. Hawai'i can do better.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:50:37 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a supporter of Indivisible Hawai'i I ask you to pass this bill.  
Thank you.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:30:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dwight T. Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a registered voter living on Oahu. I strongly support the requirement that persons in state or county custody be informed of their rights before being questioned by Immigration and Customs representatives. It is imperative that these individuals know where they stand legally prior to ICE interrogation.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:13:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. State and contues should NOT be allowed to interfere with federally mandated law enforcement activities and laws.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:32:43 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katy Hintzen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Due process is an absolutely critical right for all of our community members regardless of immigration status. Please pass this bill to help protect our constitutional rights and the safety and dignity of all our community members as well as the integrity of our legal systems.

Thank you,

Katy Hintzen

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:46:28 PM

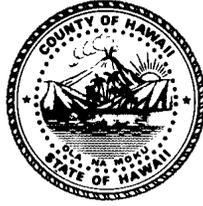
Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I am worried about ICE turning into a secret police. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

**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: February 3, 2026

TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2

SUBJECT: HB1839

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and 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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jenn Kagiwada

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:23:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ilagan 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 HB-1839.

This bill is a federal preemption violation and de facto sanctuary policy masquerading as due process protection. It uses Hawaii's state police power to obstruct federal immigration enforcement through mandatory consent forms, logging requirements, public transparency provisions, and required community forums. While framed as civil rights protection, these provisions collectively create administrative barriers designed to chill law enforcement cooperation with ICE and signal to individuals in custody that they can refuse federal interviews. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, and Hawaii's state-level obstruction reverses traditional federalist principles by using procedural requirements as a vehicle for hostility toward federal authority.

HB-1839 imposes substantial unfunded mandates on county law enforcement while compromising operational security. The bill requires law enforcement agencies to provide consent forms in 14 languages, maintain detailed logs of all ICE interactions, manage public records requests, and conduct two mandatory public forums annually—all without state appropriations. These compliance burdens divert resources from actual public safety work. Additionally, publicizing all ICE-related records (even with redacted personal information) reveals patterns of federal enforcement operations and chills intelligence sharing between local and federal agencies, potentially compromising not just immigration enforcement but terrorism and child/sex trafficking investigations.

The bill's selective obstruction of one federal agency politicizes law enforcement, creates legal ambiguities, and harms the communities it claims to protect. By singling out ICE for unprecedented procedural obstacles while not imposing similar requirements on cooperation with the FBI, DEA, or ATF, HB-1839 violates equal protection principles. The vague application to "civil immigration violations" invites litigation and practical confusion. Most critically, obstruction of federal cooperation prevents efficient removal of violent criminals and child/sex trafficking suspects while leaving law-abiding undocumented immigrants vulnerable to an

inefficient, politicized system. The legislature should reject HB-1839 and preserve law enforcement's professional independence from political and ideological activism.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:44:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 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

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:09:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lucille Frances	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

due process, yes.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:25:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As much as we must protect the rights of American citizens. we must also protect the rights of immigrants. Immigrants made this country. Most of us are descendants of immigrants. We must protect them. Please move this bill forward.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:10:55 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 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 agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill

Elizabeth Weltin as an individual citizen and on behalf of Ka‘ū Voices-An Indivisible Chapter and member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN)

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:51:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
muhtadia rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Muhtadia Rice and I am submitting testimony **in strong support of HB1839.**

**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.**

**Why I support HB1839**

Examples you can adapt:

- “In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights.”
- “No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.”

**What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

1. **Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**  
HB1839 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**. Proper notice matters to me.
2. **Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**  
HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: **no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent**, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:
  - the interview is voluntary,
  - which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
  - the purpose of the interview, and

- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present, especially for language access and informed consent.
1. **Logging and transparency**  
HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to **log requests and outcomes** and make information available for public oversight (including **community forums** as appropriate). Transparency builds trust.
  2. **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**  
HB1839 should be implemented with **uniform statewide guidance**—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained. Uniformity matters.

### **Proven approach**

This approach is **modeled on policies already used in other states**, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures. We can follow best practices and avoid confusion.

### **Addressing common concerns**

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through **standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows**—and do not outweigh the importance of **informed consent and due process**.

### **Request**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1839**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Muhtadia Rice

Kailua, Hawaii

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:51:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass!

Judith White, Psy.D.

Member, Kauai Indivisible

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1839- Relating to Immigration

Rep. Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB1839, which upholds Hawai'i's long-standing commitment to civil rights, due process, and transparency while maintaining appropriate boundaries between state and local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement.

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. HB1839 takes important, measured steps to ensure that individuals in state or county custody clearly understand their rights before any civil immigration interview occurs. Requiring written notice, informed consent, language access, and reasonable opportunities to consult with counsel are basic due process protections that align with Hawai'i's constitutional values and do not interfere with federal immigration authority.

Equally important, this bill promotes transparency and public accountability. By designating records related to ICE access as public records (with appropriate redactions) and requiring regular community forums, HB1839 ensures that the public can understand how these interactions occur and how often they happen. Transparency builds trust with immigrant communities, the broader public, and law enforcement alike.

HB1839 does not prohibit cooperation with federal agencies, nor does it place undue burdens on law enforcement. Instead, it establishes clear, consistent procedures that protect individual rights, reduce misunderstandings, and affirm Hawai'i's proud immigrant heritage.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1839.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Jeremiah Brown

Waialua, Oahu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:07:10 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the statement below; the outrageous behavior of ICE must be countered and democracy be preserved:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawai'i State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 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 agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:03:10 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

I write in support of HB1839. 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.

No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:36:55 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:28:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB 1839

Aloha Chair and committee members,

Please support HB 1839. As stated in the Bill, states and counties have discretion on how to approach these issues and unifying the process statewide will bring consistency and ultimately save money and time for all involved.

I work on committees throughout the state and it is challenging when counties operate under separate procedures. HB 1839 addresses these complications, and I believe will simplify and protect all parties involved. The changes being proposed seem obvious and I am grateful to this team for bringing the needs forward and making the needed changes.

With appreciation,

Lisa Darcy, Kula, Maui, HI

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:17:10 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mia Larsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Mia Larsen and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

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

Sincerely,  
Mia Larsen

Honolulu.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:23:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Ann Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is our kuleana to ensure safety and due process for everyone in Hawai'i.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:31:59 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540.

Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony..

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:16:55 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Kizer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and ask my elected officials to approve/pass. Mahalo.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:17:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayo Malik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony of: Kayo Malik**  
**In SUPPORT of: HB1839**  
**Hearing Date: 2/6/26**

Aloha,

My name is Kayo Malik, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 on behalf of myself]

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.

**Why I support HB1839:**

**In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.**

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

- Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview  
HB1839 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.
- Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds  
HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:
- the interview is voluntary,

- which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
- the purpose of the interview, and
- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.
- **Logging and transparency**  
HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).
- **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**  
HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.
- **Proven approach**

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

### **Addressing common concerns**

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kayo Malik, Maui

-

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:41:09 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:46:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support. Thank you!

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:27:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of: Rev. Amy Wake  
 Organization: Wesley United Methodist Church Kahala  
 In SUPPORT of: HB1839  
 Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 6  
 To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is Amy Wake], and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839.

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.

**Why I support HB1839**

In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights.

No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

**What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

1. Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview  
 HB1839 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.
2. Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds  
 HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:

- the interview is voluntary,
  - which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
  - the purpose of the interview, and
  - the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.
1. Logging and transparency  
HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).
  2. Statewide model forms, policies, and training  
HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

## **Proven approach**

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

## **Addressing common concerns**

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.

## **Request**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Amy Wake  
Wesley United Methodist Church Kahala  
pastoramywake@gmail.com

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:29:33 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to ensure county law enforcement notify all individuals of their rights. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:43:25 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839.

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.

In Hawai’i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel. Every person deserves to understand their options and make informed decisions about their own case, regardless of their immigration status or where they come from.

**I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:**

HB1839 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. This basic notice is the foundation of due process and helps prevent coercion or misunderstanding in high-stress situations.

Written, multilingual consent before any interview proceeds

HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible. The consent form must state that the interview is voluntary, identify which agency is requesting it, explain the purpose of the interview, and affirm that the person may decline and/or have an attorney present. Language access is not a luxury—it is a civil right, and informed consent is meaningless without it.

HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight, including community forums as appropriate. Transparency builds trust between our communities and law enforcement, and it allows us to ensure that policies are being followed consistently and fairly.

HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms, policies, and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained. Uniformity ensures fairness and prevents confusion for both detainees and facility staff.

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures. We can follow best practices and avoid the confusion that comes from inconsistent or ad hoc policies.

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process. Protecting constitutional rights is not a burden; it is a responsibility we all share.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ezgi Green

Waiialua, O'ahu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:48:22 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bobbie Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enforce democratic norms please

## **HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:21:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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 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**.

In Hawai'i's immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

### **Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**

HB1839 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**.

### **Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**

HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: **no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent**, provided in the person's language whenever possible, stating:

- the interview is voluntary,
- which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
- the purpose of the interview, and
- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present

### **Logging and transparency**

HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to **log requests and outcomes** and make information available for public oversight (including **community forums** as appropriate).

## **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

HB1839 should be implemented with **uniform statewide guidance**—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

This approach is **modeled on policies already used in other states**, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through **standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows**—and do not outweigh the importance of **informed consent and due process**.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1839**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, Hawai'i

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:37:40 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB1839, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify detained individuals of their rights before any civil immigration interview with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), designates related records as public, and mandates annual community forums on these interactions.

**1. Upholding Due Process for All Individuals**

Due process is a foundational civil and constitutional protection that ensures individuals are informed of their rights before significant government actions. HB1839 strengthens due process for people in state or county custody by requiring law enforcement to notify individuals of their rights before civil immigration interviews with ICE. This aligns with constitutional principles and helps prevent confusion, misunderstanding, and involuntary waivers of legal protections.

The bill recognizes that while federal law governs immigration enforcement, federal law does *not* require state and local governments to share information with ICE, nor does it obligate state agencies to assist with immigration enforcement beyond narrow limits. HB1839 reinforces this discretionary space to protect basic civil rights consistent with federal law.

**2. Transparency and Accountability Improve Public Trust**

HB1839 designates records of ICE access to detained individuals as public records, which promotes transparency. Research indicates that increased transparency in law enforcement builds community trust, decreases fear, and improves cooperation between residents and officials — all of which contribute to safer communities.

By making records publicly accessible and requiring quarterly reporting and legislative summaries, the bill also lays the groundwork for data-driven policymaking, helping lawmakers and the public understand how often and under what circumstances federal immigration access occurs.

**3. Community Engagement Through Public Forums**

HB1839 requires agencies that provided ICE access in the previous year to hold at least two public forums annually to share information and receive community input. These forums create space for dialogue, accountability, and education — all important elements of effective public governance and community resilience.

Engagement helps ensure that diverse voices — including immigrant communities and civil rights advocates — can inform how policies are implemented and how protections are upheld within law enforcement practices.

#### **4. Civil Rights Alignment With Hawai‘i Values**

Hawai‘i’s constitution affirms that no person shall be denied equal protection or civil rights because of race, ancestry, or other status. HB1839 reinforces this principle by protecting due process and transparency for all individuals in state custody, regardless of immigration status, and by ensuring that state systems are not used in a way that could inadvertently lead to civil rights violations.

#### **Conclusion**

For these reasons — enhancing due process protections, increasing transparency, promoting community trust and engagement, and aligning policy with Hawai‘i’s core civil rights values — I strongly urge the Committee to support and pass HB1839.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha ‘āina,  
Kēhau Lucas

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:36:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 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**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:38:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1839.

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:47:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
denise woods	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immigration laws exist for a reason. Enforce them, this is democracy. If you didn't care about the millions of deportations under Obama or Clinton, then you have no standing to try to destroy the rule of law now.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:01:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support **HB 1839**, a critical bill that protects civil rights, ensures due process, and strengthens community trust in law enforcement by requiring state and county law enforcement agencies to **notify individuals in custody of their rights before any interview with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** and by making records of ICE access public and subject to community review.

This measure recognizes that Hawaii is home to a diverse tapestry of immigrants who are integral members of our communities. Federal immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility, but state and local agencies should not be passive intermediaries without clear standards for protecting individuals' rights. HB 1839 ensures that people in custody understand their rights before any ICE interview — including that participation is voluntary and that they can have legal representation — which is essential for fair treatment and due process.

By designating records of ICE access as public and requiring law enforcement agencies that have provided ICE access to host **two public forums per year**, this bill promotes **transparency and accountability**. These forums create meaningful opportunities for community input, raise public awareness, and help ensure that civil rights are upheld, especially for vulnerable individuals who may fear deportation and choose not to seek help or remain silent about crimes and abuses.

HB 1839 contributes to public safety, civil liberties, and trust between communities and law enforcement by balancing cooperation with federal authorities with the constitutional rights of individuals in custody. For these reasons, I urge your **strong support** of HB 1839.

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:15:40 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary santa maria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee on ECD

I support HB 1839. It will keep us safer and make sure that everyone understands what is happening.

sincerely

M. Santa Maria

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:53:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People need to know their rights

## **HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:58:25 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DIANNE WINTER BROOKINS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Dianne Winter Brookins and I am submitting testimony **in strong support of HB1839** as a member of the Hawaii Coalition for Civil Rights (HCCR).

**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**.

### **Why I support HB1839**

In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

### **What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

#### **Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**

HB1839 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**.

#### **Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**

HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: **no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent**, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:

- the interview is voluntary,
- which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
- the purpose of the interview, and
- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.

### **Logging and transparency**

HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to **log requests and outcomes** and make information available for public oversight (including **community forums** as appropriate).

### **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

HB1839 should be implemented with **uniform statewide guidance**—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

### **Proven approach**

This approach is **modeled on policies already used in other states**, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

### **Addressing common concerns**

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through **standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows**—and do not outweigh the importance of **informed consent and due process**.

### **Request**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1839**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Winter Brookins

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:08:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Collat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm sad to be writing my support of this bill, which would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 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.

I'm sad that a bill like this is even needed. But every single day, we see 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 agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Aloha, Michael

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:19:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:34:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inge Detlefsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People need to know their rights prior to interrogation by ICE. There is a lot of confusion about rights you have when questioned by ICE so there needs to be a duty to inform people of their rights in language they can understand. In case of minors there needs to be an attorney present ASAP.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:39:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB1839. We must maintain our basic rights. ICE must not remain lawless and out of control or we slip further into a dictatorial autocracy.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:47:54 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Kapon Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jordan Kapon Nakamura and I'm submitting testimony in support of this bill which will provide needed protections for our immigrant 'Ohana residing and contributing to our communities. Our fascistic federal government is using immigration status as a political tool to carry out white supremacist displacement en masse, and Hawai'i has a duty to its population to protect those who call this place home and who rely on democratic due process and the purpose of the state to protect the rights of residents and uphold a humane and just state of affairs. This bill provides basic requirements for rights to be clearly stated, recieved, and understood by affected parties who might otherwise be subject to the advances of ICE agents without proper information of their rights, many of which are being violated willingly and without impunity by the ICE department. Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to the kokua of Hawai'i's people.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:30:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daphne Loren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Hearing Date/Time: February 6th, 2026 8:30 am**

**To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee**

**Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,**

**My name is Daphne Loren, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 on behalf of myself.**

**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.**

**Why I support HB1839**

**Immigration enforcement officers should be responsible for telling people their rights. Members of our immigrant and mixed-status communities may experience fear and confusion during interactions with immigration enforcement officers and may not understand their rights or know how to seek help. No one should be in custody and questioned about civil immigration matters without knowing that the interview is voluntary and that they can request legal counsel.**

**What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

**I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:**

- 1. Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**  
**HB1839 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. This is a matter of common courtesy; without understanding their rights, people cannot make informed decisions.**
- 2. Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**  
**HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible,**

**stating:**

- **the interview is voluntary,**
- **which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),**
- **the purpose of the interview, and**
- **the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.**

In a state where we have access to technology and professionals who can facilitate translation, it does not make sense to leave those who do not speak English fluently uninformed.

### **Logging and transparency**

**HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).**

There is immense lack of trust in immigration enforcement in my community due to the violence and violation of rights we are witnessing nationwide. Recording requests and outcomes and making this information available to the public can build trust and encourage accountability.

#### **1. Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

**HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.**

Forms, policies, and training should be standardized statewide to ensure that citizens, immigrants, and visitors in our state can understand their rights.

### **Proven approach**

**This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.**

### **Addressing common concerns**

**Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.**

**Staff time, translation, and coordination should not be considered a burden by competent agencies that care about justice and safety in our communities.**

## **Request**

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,  
Daphne Loren**



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 423  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB1839, RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

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

Roots Reborn **strongly supports HB1839**, 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; makes related ICE access records public; 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:

- Distributed over 3,500 constitutional rights flyers
- 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** 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** 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**.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', written over a white background.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*  
EPA Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:45:56 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**To:** Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

**Re:** SUPPORT **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540**

**Hearing:** Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Nancy J. Budd and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540**. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process and transparency. It is critical that our state provide these protections so all of our citizens, including vulnerable immigrant and mixed-status families in particular, 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. Every day we see masked and violent federal “agents” attacking and abducting people, including minors, on streets, at schools and as they enter court buildings to attend hearings. This must stop.

Secretive or masked enforcement undermines due process and public trust. Transparency is essential to constitutional accountability—especially for immigrant communities.

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.

No one should be questioned by immigration authorities without understanding their rights. The TRUTH Act ensures consent, language access, and transparency—core principles of due process.

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

Survivors should never be punished for seeking help. Standardized policies ensure survivors can report crimes safely, support law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and access the protections guaranteed under federal law.

Together, these bills

- Protect families from separation
- Strengthen public safety
- Increase trust in public institutions
- Uphold essential constitutional rights and due process
- Affirm Hawaii's commitment to dignity and justice for all

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-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:06:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1839. Agencies should have to inform people in custody of their rights before civil immigration interviews.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:15:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am submitting testimony **in strong support of HB1839**, as a Lahaina resident and 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**.

In Hawai'i's immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

**Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**

HB1839 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**.

**Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**

HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: **no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent**, provided in the person's language whenever possible, stating:

- the interview is voluntary,
- which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
- the purpose of the interview, and
- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.

### **Logging and transparency**

HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to **log requests and outcomes** and make information available for public oversight (including **community forums** as appropriate).

### **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

HB1839 should be implemented with **uniform statewide guidance**—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

This approach is **modeled on policies already used in other states**, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through **standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows**—and do not outweigh the importance of **informed consent and due process**.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1839**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis, Lahaina, Hawai'i



**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:54:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

I am writing to submit my personal testimony in *strong* support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures provide essential community safety tools and support due process and transparency. We owe these guidelines and safeguards to our extensive immigrant community, as well as in support of ourselves and our own personal liberties. All residents, regardless of status, deserve to live in our communities and access essential services without fear.

The Maryland House and Senate gave overwhelming final approval this Tuesday to identical bills that will prohibit agreements between local police and federal immigration agencies, and are likewise working on other bills similar to ours. If they can do it, so can we! I strongly urge you to PASS these measures quickly out of committee and push for them to be also passed in the Senate where appropriate. From there please see they are expeditiously sent to the full legislature for emergency approval and forwarding to the Governor for signature. Time is of the essence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

D. K. Lynn  
Honolulu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:15:54 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:44:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540  
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Gabrielle Clark and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I firmly believe that everyone, no matter their country of origin, deserves an equal opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy life. No one should fear for their safety in the pursuit of this. No one, no child, should go to school wondering if they won't make it back home. No one should avoid treating their health conditions out of fear of being detained. Having protected spaces, law enforcement transparency & accountability, accessible legal information, due process & fair opportunities for visas protects the mental health, physical health, and overall wellbeing of our community members. We would all be better for it.

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

Sincerely,  
Gabrielle Clark  
O'ahu  
[gabbynclark@gmail.com](mailto:gabbynclark@gmail.com) / [clarkgn@hawaii.edu](mailto:clarkgn@hawaii.edu)

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:57:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kencho Gurung, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency, so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

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

Sincerely,  
Kencho Gurung, Hilo

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:18:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monisha Das Gupta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Monisha Das Gupta. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1839. I support this bill because it augments due process for individuals in state or local law enforcement custody. Everyone has the right to know their rights.

The bill requires the state or local agency to notify the individuals of their rights before they can be interviewed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The bill requires that immigration enforcement agents' access to individuals held in jails, prisons, and other state facilities be part of the public record. The bill also proposes two public forums a year for the state agencies to report back on ICE access to those in jails and prisons. These accountability mechanisms and efforts at transparency will build or restore public trust.

Honolulu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:28:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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.

No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

1. Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview  
HB1839 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.
2. Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds  
HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:
  - the interview is voluntary,
  - which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
  - the purpose of the interview, and
  - the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.
1. Logging and transparency  
HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).
2. Statewide model forms, policies, and training  
HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections

regardless of where they are detained.

## **Proven approach**

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:34:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lee-Won Fulbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The measures in this bill are extremely important to me as a local Hawai'i resident born and raised on Oahu, and to my community. Mahalo for fighting for immigrant justice and the safety of all people here.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:44:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yoon-Hi Fulbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immigrant issues are very important to me. Please pass this bill.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:36:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1839.

Tina Marie Even  
Waikoloa Village

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:41:36 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to strongly support HB1839 as a citizen and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii. This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 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.

I am aware news reports 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 agencies.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:50:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1839

My name is Joie Yonamine, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 on behalf of myself and a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

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

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:59:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1839 and ask for your support of HB1839.

Support 1839 because it requires notice of rights before ICE interviews in custody - supporting informed consent and due process.

Support 1839 because it improves transparency through public records and required community forums.

Support 1839 because it these are inherent rights according to the U.S. and Hawai'i Constitutions, the Rule of Law, and as democratic society that cares for and protects its people.

'O wau iho no,

Lorrie Ann Santos Kane'ohe, O'ahu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:19:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1839 is a critical due process and transparency measure to ensure people in state or county custody receive “Know Your Rights” information before any civil immigration interview. This should be a baseline right to protect all residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1839.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:27:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a community member on Maui, I support this bill because it:

- Requires notice of rights before ICE interviews in custody—supporting informed consent and due process.
- Improves transparency through public records and required community forums.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter!

Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony of Joey Badua In SUPPORT of HB1839**

**Relating to Immigration**

**Rep. Ilagan**, Chair

**Rep. Hussey**, Vice Chair

**Committee on Economic Development and Technology**

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

My name is **Joey Badua** and I submit testimony in **strong support of HB1839** because this is basic. HB1839 keeps basic constitutional protections which consequently strengthens community trust in each other.

It's basic to protect due process for people in custody by being told clearly and in a language they understand that the interview is voluntary and they can decline or request an attorney. HB1839 supports a bright-line rule that safeguards individuals from coercive or uninformed interviews which will lead to people unknowingly waiving their constitutional rights.

HB1839 also gives communities visibility into how often ICE interacts with local enforcement, whether policies are being followed, and whether certain groups are being disproportionately targeted. Because immigration enforcement can disproportionately affect certain ethnic and national groups, HB1839 reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to equal protection, fair treatment and upholding the constitution and that immigration status does not erase constitutional protections.

Most importantly, this bill supports the immigrant communities that make up the fabric of the state and reflects Hawai'i's long-standing recognition that immigrants are essential members of the community. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

*Joey Badua*

*PO Box 29724 Honolulu, HI 96820*

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:03:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jax Davis Pomaika'i Roster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: In Support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886 and HB1839

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Jax Davis Pomaika'i Roster, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

Our community, as an island, is made up of immigrants. According to the American Immigration Council, 18% of the people in the Hawaiian Archipelago are immigrants. These people have families and lives and work just as much as anyone else. Taking a step to pass these measures will allow the protection of these immigrants and immigrant families.

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

Sincerely,  
Jax Davis Pomaika'i Roster  
808-458-3125

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:05:55 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1839.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:50:21 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee.

I support HB 1839 which requires local law enforcement to provide information to people held in their custody concerning their rights and their consent or denial of consent to an immigration interview. They are also to be notified of where and why they will be transferred, should that occur. Immigrants, whether legally in the country or not, have the right to know what is happening to them. This bill is an attempt to make that clear.

Please pass HB1839

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:57:36 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin J Block	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kevin Block and I submit testimony on behalf of myself and my law firm, Maui Immigration Law, LLC, in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540.

Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I have been deep in the trenches, helping the immigrant community through direct representation, advocacy and policy work for over a decade. We have seen that the current administration is pushing the limit on violating the due process rights that everyone is entitled to, regardless of status. Many States across the continent are putting in place protections to ensure basic rights and due process and it is incumbent on us to do so as well

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

Kevin Block, Attorney at Law

Maui Immigration Law, LLC

Email: [kevin@immigrationlawmaui.com](mailto:kevin@immigrationlawmaui.com)

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:43:43 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. My address is 77-356 Ainanani Street, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

I support HB1839. I believe it is fair and just to require written notice of purpose of civil immigration interview and their rights, including consent in various languages. All ICE records or local law enforcement related to detained individuals should be made public. Law enforcement agencies must have annual public forums if they provided ICE access to detained individuals.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:51:36 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill is needed now more than ever. I want to see all citizens and visitors given fair treatment in knowing their rights.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:57:27 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony of:** Alyce Dodge

**In SUPPORT of:** HB1839

**Hearing Date/Time:** Feb. 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

My name is **Alyce Dodge**, and I am submitting testimony **in support of HB1839**.

**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**.

This proven approach is **modeled on policies already used in other states**, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures. We can follow best practices and avoid confusion.

No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

**What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

- 1. Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**  
HB1839 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**.
- 2. Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**  
HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: **no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent**, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:
  - the interview is voluntary,
  - which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
  - the purpose of the interview, and

- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.
1. **Logging and transparency**  
HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to **log requests and outcomes** and make information available for public oversight (including **community forums** as appropriate).
  2. **Statewide model forms, policies, and training**  
HB1839 should be implemented with **uniform statewide guidance**—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1839**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Alyce Dodge

Honolulu, Oahu

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:00:36 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
janet Matlock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We all have rights when interacting with law enforcement. Please ensure that people in state or county custody be provided with "Know Your Rights" information prior to any civil immigration interview. Further, before any interview is undertaken, require that the detainee has given clear, voluntary and informed consent, free of intimidation or coercion.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock

Kailua Kona

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:20:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1839

In strong SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Gorman-Chang and I support HB 1839. This bill is necessary to more clearly codify the rights of individuals being picked up by ICE in our country and in our state of Hawai'i today. For those individuals being picked up and detained, it is of vast importance in a democracy to explain to the individual being detained, the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary, that the individual may decline to be interviewed or chose to be interviewed with their attorney, and all other items listed in this bill. Our immigrants are in a vulnerable situation and this should not be exploited by any law enforcement personnel.

As a United Methodist here in Hawai'i I stand by our denomination's social principles detailed below. HB 1839 enumerates protocols that must be followed in order to protect immigrant rights as well as their rights to be treated with dignity and without being terrorized.

United Methodist Churches: Our Social Principles: Migrants, Immigrants, and Refugees:" We affirm the dignity, worth, and rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees, including displaced and stateless people. In so doing, we acknowledge that the world today is facing an unprecedented crisis related to the displacement of vast numbers of people due to such factors as ongoing wars and other hostilities, foreign interventions, widespread famine and hunger, global warming and climate change, and the failure of nation-states to adequately protect and care for their people.

"We recognize that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence, and abuse.

"We oppose all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees. Additionally, we decry attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions. We challenge policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children, and we oppose the existence of for-profit detention centers for such purposes."



**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:21:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terry McDonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

An important update to our laws

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:29:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kiara Womack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:29:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**TESTIMONY: SUPPORT HB1839**

Testimony of: Peter Matlock

Individual

In SUPPORT of: HB1839

Hearing Date/Time: February 6, 2026

To: Chair Inaga, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

My name is Peter Matlock (Hawai'i Island resident) and I am submitting testimony as an individual to strongly support of HB1839.

HB1839 is an appropriate, necessary, and commonsense due process and transparency measure to ensure people in state custody receive "Know Your Rights" information before any civil immigration interview, and that any interview proceeds only with clear, voluntary, informed consent.

We need this measure to ensure every person knows and can obtain rights that are duly theirs under the law. This is for their protection and for all of ours.

People facing interrogation also need to completely understand what is being asked of them (i.e.—need for multilingual translation) and be free to act voluntarily.

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Peter Matlock

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:32:03 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support due process for immigrants.

I am providing testimony for the support of H.B. 1839, relating to immigration. My name is James Christian Gavrilov, I am a retired ARMY veteran, a member of Indivisible Hawaii and am currently a student in the Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

In order to not only preserve but to continue to strengthen The State Of Hawaii's unwavering dedication to civil rights, it is of critical importance to the nearly 300,000 immigrants (documented & undocumented) who call Hawaii home that this bill before you be passed with the utmost urgency in order to unequivocally guarantee that our migrant and immigrant population be given their due process and afforded all civil rights protections inherent to this bill.

I need not remind anyone in this august body of the increasingly hostile narrative towards migrants and immigrants over the past year to present day, we have all paid witness to it in one form or another. Therefore, the immediate passing of H.B.1839 would send a clear, politically unfettered message to not only our current migrant and immigrant population, but to all future migrant and immigrant populations that the State of Hawai'i will continue to be at forefront in its steadfast support of these populations.

Hawaii is justifiably proud of its rich immigrant heritage. According to Article I, section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution: no person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws or the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise of these rights because of race or ancestry. The passing of H.B. 1839 can and will guarantee that the provision of Article I, section 5 of the state constitution will continue to be unwaveringly met, and most importantly that all matters of due process and civil rights be lawfully afforded to our migrant and immigrant populations.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and your attention to this urgent matter and respectfully urge you to vote in favor of H.B.

1839.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:17:55 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jenna Khan-Gates	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Jenna Khan-Gates, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I support HB1839 because it:

- Requires notice of rights before ICE interviews in custody—supporting informed consent and due process.
- Improves transparency through public records and required community forums.

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

Sincerely,

Jenna Khan-Gates

O'ahu resident

jennakhan7@gmail.com

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:30:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have seen immigration enforcement going completely off the rails and it is absolutely necessary that we build guard rails around these systems to protect the rights and dignities of ourselves and our community members. This bill does a good job beginning to create that framework. Please **support** HB1938.

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:55:08 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I submit this testimony in strong support of SB571, which would establish clear, statewide protections for people in state or county custody before any civil immigration interview occurs.

SB571 is a thoughtful and practical measure that promotes transparency, due process, and consistency across Hawai‘i’s detention facilities. The bill would require that individuals receive “Know Your Rights” information before any interview with federal immigration authorities and that a multilingual written consent form be completed before such interviews proceed. This form would clearly state that participation is voluntary, identify the requesting agency, explain the purpose of the interview, and affirm the person’s right to decline or to have an attorney present.

The measure would also require facilities to log and report every interview request and its outcome, increasing public accountability and enabling policymakers to better understand how these encounters occur in practice. By directing the Attorney General to issue statewide model forms, policies, and training, SB571 ensures that all jails and detention facilities follow a uniform process rather than leaving protections to vary by county.

California has implemented similar safeguards through its TRUTH Act, which requires written consent before any civil immigration interview of a person in local custody, along with notice and transparency measures such as logging requests and holding annual community forums when access occurs. While California experienced some operational concerns related to staffing, translation logistics, and coordination, those challenges were addressed through Attorney General guidance, model forms, and county-level adoption. Importantly, California’s framework governs local agency procedures rather than federal officers, demonstrating that these policies can be implemented effectively while remaining legally durable.

SB571 reflects these best practices. Its bright-line consent rule, language-access requirements, transparency provisions, and statewide training standards are critical to ensuring people in custody understand their rights and are treated fairly. The bill also makes clear that it regulates Hawai‘i agencies and facilities—not federal officers—while providing mechanisms for oversight through Attorney General enforcement and limited injunctive relief when necessary.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support SB571 and help ensure that Hawai'i's correctional facilities operate with fairness, clarity, and accountability.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:24:00 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

Feb. 5, 2026

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540  
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

Apologies for somewhat belated testimony – household emergencies yesterday.

My name is John M. Knox, a retired socio-economic consultant and longtime Waimānalo resident. I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

When I was a boy, there was a TV show that took us back to the “thrilling days of yesteryear” when the Lone Ranger was a roving masked knight fighting for the good. The show often ended with grateful townsfolk asking, “Who was that masked man?” Today, that question is still being asked, but no longer gratefully. Transparency and humanity must be restored to law enforcement – ironically, by better laws!

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

Sincerely,

John M. Knox  
Waimānalo  
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:55:10 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1839 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS on due process and transparency for civil immigration contacts of persons in custody of state or local law enforcement. HB1939 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 agencies.**

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

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:12:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachel Tjoeng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee members--

Please support this bill to ensure that people ICE interveiws know their rights and that law enforcement that cooperates with ICE must hold public forums twice a year. We need to have ICE and law enforcement accountable to communities.

Mahalo,

Rachel Tjoeng

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:40:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:47:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1839

DS Matsunaga

Waimea, Hawai'i Island

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:21:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please protect our rights

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB1839, RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, 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 HB1839**, 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; makes related ICE access records public; and requires agencies providing ICE access to detained individuals to hold two public forums annually.

I currently volunteer as a 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 have also trained them how to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work, their schools and community service locations for interactions with federal agents.

I begin my training presentations 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, in the school context for example, empowers people to be able to exercise their rights to protect themselves, their school, and their employees, students, and communities.
- **BUILD COLLECTIVE POWER:** 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** 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 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.

House Bill 1839 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** 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 and vote it out of committee.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, J.D.  
Wailuku, Maui

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:26:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**In SUPPORT of: HB1839**

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

**Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,**

**My name is Andrew Isoda, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839.**

**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.**

**Why I support HB1839**

- **In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights.**
- **No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.**

**What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)**

**I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:**

1. **Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview**  
**HB1839 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.**
2. **Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds**  
**HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible,**

**stating:**

- **the interview is voluntary,**
- **which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),**
- **the purpose of the interview, and**
- **the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.**

**1. Logging and transparency**

**HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).**

**2. Statewide model forms, policies, and training**

**HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.**

## **Proven approach**

**This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.**

**We can follow best practices and avoid confusion.**

## **Addressing common concerns**

**Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.**

## **Request**

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,  
Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i**



**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:07:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I urge you to support HB1839, which 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.**

It is the very least we can do for the immigrants in our communities who make our lives so much better.

Thank you

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:03:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony of: Meadow Dawn Stassens

Individual

In SUPPORT of: HB1839

Hearing Date/Time: Feb 6, 2026 8:30AM HST

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is Meadow Dawn Stassens and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839.

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.

Why I support HB1839

No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

- Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview  
HB1839 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.
- Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds  
HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:
  - the interview is voluntary,
  - which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
  - the purpose of the interview, and
  - the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.

- Logging and transparency  
HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).
- Statewide model forms, policies, and training  
HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

### Proven approach

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

### Addressing common concerns

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Meadow Dawn Stassens  
Na'alehu, HI

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:47:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jahnavi Stassens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of: Jahnavi Richter Stassens

Individual

In SUPPORT of: HB1839

Hearing Date/Time: Feb 6, 2026 8:30AM HST

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is Jahnavi Richter Stassens and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839.

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.

Why I support HB1839

No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

What HB1839 should ensure (key protections)

I support HB1839 because it advances the following protections:

- Know Your Rights notice before any civil immigration interview  
HB1839 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.
- Written, multilingual consent before any ICE interview proceeds  
HB1839 supports a bright-line rule: no civil immigration interview in custody without written consent, provided in the person’s language whenever possible, stating:
  - the interview is voluntary,

- which agency is requesting it (e.g., ICE),
- the purpose of the interview, and
- the person may decline and/or have an attorney present.

- Logging and transparency

HB1839 promotes accountability by requiring facilities to log requests and outcomes and make information available for public oversight (including community forums as appropriate).

- Statewide model forms, policies, and training

HB1839 should be implemented with uniform statewide guidance—including model forms/policies and training—so that everyone in custody receives the same protections regardless of where they are detained.

### Proven approach

This approach is modeled on policies already used in other states, showing that strong consent-and-notice rules can be implemented in practice with clear forms, training, and consistent procedures.

### Addressing common concerns

Some agencies may raise concerns about staff time, translation, or coordination. These concerns can be addressed through standardized model forms, interpreter access, and clear workflows—and do not outweigh the importance of informed consent and due process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jahnavi Richter Stassens  
Na'alehu, HI

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:08:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is **Mary Lu Kelley**, and I am a member of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working statewide to advance policies that keep immigrant communities safe, healthy, and included. Also member of Kauai Indivisible.

I write today in support HB1839 — Rights Notice Before ICE Interviews + Transparency + Community Forums

I support HB1839 because:

- Requires notice of rights before ICE interviews in custody—supporting informed consent and due process.
- Improves transparency through public records and required community forums.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

**MaryLu Kelley**

**Koloa, Kauai**

[Mkelley323@gmail.com](mailto:Mkelley323@gmail.com)

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:04:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan-Shain Kanealii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Ryan-Shain Kahealani Kāneali‘i, and I am a sophomore at Moloka‘i High School. I am submitting this testimony as an individual in strong support of HB1839.

I was educated in Hawaiian Immersion until my freshman year of high school, and I continue to speak ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Through that education, I learned more than just a language—I learned values such as pono, kuleana, and aloha. I was taught that people deserve to be treated with dignity, to understand what is happening to them, and to have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

HB1839 reflects those values.

Requiring law enforcement agencies to inform individuals of their rights before any civil immigration interview with ICE is not extreme—it is fair, responsible, and humane. Understanding one’s rights is a foundation of due process, and without that understanding, true fairness cannot exist.

I also support the transparency provisions in this bill. Making records public and holding community forums helps build trust and understanding between government agencies and the communities they serve. Trust does not grow in silence; it grows through openness, accountability, and communication.

As a young person who is Black and Native Hawaiian, I am very aware of how systems can feel intimidating or unclear, especially for marginalized communities. This bill helps ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people are treated as human beings first, not just as cases or categories.

HB1839 is very important to me because it protects people, strengthens trust, and reflects the kind of Hawai‘i I am proud to grow up in—one that leads with compassion while upholding justice.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Ryan-Shain Kāneali'i

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:28:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ensure everyone can know our rights!

Show aloha

**HB-1839**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:32:08 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jason Nakano, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839 on behalf of myself.

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.

As with Miranda Rights, HB1839 enhances the assurance that due process is given to everyone. Informing a person of their rights is a proper procedure and protects our lawful society. Creating a standardized statewide procedure ensures that the information is given clearly and efficiently.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Jason Nakano