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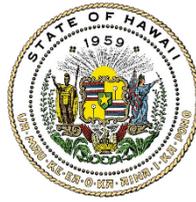
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STATE OF HAWAII
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February 11, 2026

HB 1870 HD 1: RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

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

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports** HB 1870 HD 1 which establishes statewide standards limiting participation by state and county actors in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations.

As described in Section 1 of the bill, the Legislature recognizes that schools, health care settings, libraries, shelters, and places of worship must remain safe and accessible to all residents, and that recent federal policy changes have created uncertainty and chilled access to essential services. This measure thoughtfully affirms Hawai'i's authority to regulate the conduct of its own state actors and contractors while preserving compliance with federal law.

From the unique perspective of the OPD, the individuals most impacted by fear of immigration enforcement are often the most vulnerable in our communities. Many of our clients and their family members rely on public schools, public health facilities, shelters, libraries, and state-funded social services. When individuals fear that seeking medical care, attending school, or accessing emergency shelter could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they avoid those spaces altogether.

By requiring a judicial warrant for access to nonpublic areas and for disclosure of personal information, the measure reinforces constitutional safeguards and ensures that decisions are grounded in probable cause, not administrative requests alone.

This is particularly significant for communities historically hesitant to engage with government systems. Ensuring that schools, universities, libraries, and health

facilities remain focused on education, care, and public service, rather than acting as extensions of civil immigration enforcement, promotes public health, educational access, and community stability.

This measure also provides needed operational clarity. By defining key terms such as “civil immigration enforcement,” “immigration detainer,” and “judicial warrant,” and by requiring agencies to designate an administrator or counsel to review requests, the bill reduces confusion among frontline employees.

The requirements for written policies, annual training, warrant-verification procedures, documentation of immigration-related requests, and multilingual notices create uniform statewide standards. These protects both the public and state employees, who should not be placed in the difficult position of navigating complex federal requests without guidance or clear authority.

The bill explicitly preserves cooperation with lawful judicial warrants and does not obstruct federal officers acting within their lawful authority. It regulates only the conduct of state actors and contractors.

The OPD is particularly supportive of the provisions requiring a judicial warrant and expressly excluding administrative warrants or immigration detainers. This distinction is consistent with due process principles and long-standing constitutional protections. By limiting disclosure of personal information absent a judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order, the bill reinforces data privacy and prevents the routine collection or sharing of immigration-status information. This protection is essential to maintaining trust between community members and public institutions.

For these reasons, the OPD **supports** HB 1870 HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
February 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1870 HD1 – RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) would like to provide comments on HB 1870 HD1 – Relating to Protected Community Locations, which establishes statewide standards limiting participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. UH appreciates the Legislature's efforts to ensure that institutions providing essential public services remain trusted spaces for all residents of Hawai'i.

As a public institution of higher education expressly included within the bill's definition of "protected community locations," UH agrees that clearly articulated procedures regarding access to nonpublic areas, verification of warrants, and referral to designated administrators or counsel are important for consistent and lawful implementation. Many of the privacy protections contemplated by this measure are already embedded in existing federal law. In particular, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) governs the disclosure of personally identifiable information from student education records and permits disclosure only under specific statutory exceptions, including valid judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas. UH appreciates that the bill's disclosure provisions are expressly tied to judicial warrants and court orders, which is consistent with FERPA's requirements and long-standing UH practice.

UH also notes that it is currently engaged in a systemwide review and revision of its time, place, and manner policies. As part of this work, UH is developing clearer, campus-specific guidance identifying public versus nonpublic areas of university facilities. This effort aligns closely with Section 4(a)(1) of the bill and would support effective implementation should the measure be enacted.

As drafted, the University of Hawai'i understands that "civil immigration enforcement" does not address UH's independent obligations to comply with federal employment laws and those controlling non-immigrant visas for students and visitors. However, because the definition is broad, UH notes that certain federal compliance activities—such as responding to an I-9 audit, participating in E-Verify where applicable, providing documentation for H-1B petitions, or maintaining and reporting personally identifiable information for F-1 and J-1 visa holders through SEVIS—could arguably fall within the

scope of “investigating” alleged violations of federal civil immigration law. For example, if a federal agency initiates an I-9 audit as part of an enforcement inquiry, that request could be characterized as civil immigration enforcement under the bill’s definition, potentially creating uncertainty about UH’s ability to comply. UH therefore respectfully requests clarification or an explicit carveout confirming that nothing in the Act restricts compliance with mandatory federal employment verification, visa sponsorship, SEVIS reporting, federal contractor certifications, or other conditions tied to federal funding. Such clarification would ensure that UH can both uphold the State’s intent to protect access to education and community spaces and continue to meet binding federal legal obligations.

While UH will not opine on the interaction between the bill and federal law, UH encourages careful consideration of the federal framework to ensure that the bill’s requirements can be implemented consistently with applicable federal statutes and constitutional principles. The University of Hawai’i remains committed to providing educational services in a manner that respects constitutional protections, student privacy, and the rule of law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/13/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: JHA

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1870, HD1, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, contractors, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. By 1/1/2027, requires all state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections. Appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to respectfully provide comments for HB 1870, HD 1.

The Department recognizes the Legislature's intention to maintain schools as safe and accessible learning environments for all students. In this proposed measure, K-12 public schools are identified as protected community locations under this measure, establishing uniform procedures for campus access, warrant verification processes, and designation of appropriate contact personnel, which would support consistent implementation across our school system. Ensuring that all students can pursue their education in environments free from disruption remains central to the Department's mission. The Department is happy to share that many of these safety measures already exist.

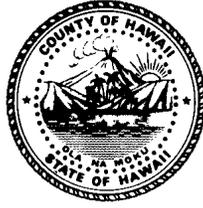
In particular, the Department notes that student privacy is already protected under federal statute. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) currently restricts disclosure of student education records, allowing release only in limited circumstances such as compliance with judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas. The bill's provisions regarding disclosure appear aligned with these existing federal privacy requirements that the Department already follows in its standard operations.

Regarding law enforcement on campus, the Department has guidelines to ensure compliance with federal immigration enforcement laws and to protect student rights.

The guidance includes procedures that accomplish most of the requirements set forth in the bill and expressly includes U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In short, the guidance designates the principal or designee as the point of contact for law enforcement and includes notification and involvement of employees in the principal or designee's chain of command, as well as the Department of the Attorney General. The Department also has the necessary counseling and behavioral health resources to respond and mitigate the effects of potential traumatic incidents such as immigration enforcement activities at or near schools.

Finally, the Department defers to the Attorney General's office for guidance as to the implementation of this measure, in particular, the authority the Department will have off campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to HB 1870, HD 1.



HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 12, 2026
TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB1870

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1870. In Hawai'i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay care, avoid school engagement, and skip emergency support. That harms not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire state.

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist **civil immigration enforcement** in or near protected community locations;
- Require a **judicial warrant**—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to **nonpublic areas**;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;
- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

Additionally, our recently passed, Resolution 399 Draft 2 from the Hawai'i County Council urging the State of Hawai'i to protect individuals against unconstitutional acts committed by federal immigration agencies includes a request to protect sensitive community spaces from warrantless intrusions by federal forces.

Mahalo,

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

Jenn Kagiwada



February 13, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 325

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

To: Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1870 HD 1, Relating to Protected Community Locations

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** for this measure, which establishes clear, statewide standards that help ensure that healthcare facilities remain safe and accessible to all residents. Limiting the civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations—absent a judicial warrant or an imminent threat—will help to reinforce the trust between service providers and the communities they serve. That trust is essential for effective public health outreach, preventive care, vaccination, testing, behavioral health services, and emergency response.

For health care providers, this measure helps to provide clarity, allowing them to focus on serving patients based on medical need. Further, this measure supports a stable care environment and reinforces Hawaii's longstanding commitment to access, safety, and community well-being.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.



**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
February 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Room 325**

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like to offer our comments in **strong support of HB1870 HD1**, which establishes protections to ensure that critical community locations remain safe and accessible for all residents, regardless of immigration status.

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits that works to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for the nonprofit sector, leveraging resources, educating and advocating for policies and practices that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

HANO's member organizations serve immigrants and mixed-status families every day, including nonprofits that provide immigration legal services, health care navigation, housing and food assistance, early childhood supports, and culturally responsive community-based programs. For many of these organizations, HB1870 has been identified as a priority bill this session because of its importance to community trust, safety, and access to services.

This legislation is especially timely. Immigrants make up nearly one in five residents in Hawai'i, hold approximately one-quarter of jobs statewide,¹ and are deeply woven into our economy, workforce, and communities. In 2025, ICE arrests in Hawai'i increased dramatically, nearly quadrupling compared to the prior year, and impacted immigrant communities from more than 40 countries.² This enforcement climate has had a chilling effect on families seeking basic support, even as so many in our communities are already struggling to afford food, housing, health insurance, and care for their keiki and kūpuna.

Nonprofit organizations rely on trust to do their work. When people fear that accessing services could expose them or their loved ones to immigration enforcement, they delay care, withdraw from programs, and avoid institutions that are meant to support stability and wellbeing. HB1870 helps ensure that nonprofits, schools, health care facilities, churches, and other community locations can continue to function as trusted, safe spaces where people can seek help without

¹ "Immigrants in Hawaii." *American Immigration Council*, 2026, map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/hawaii/. Accessed 3 Feb. 2026.

² Leonard, Matthew. "Hawai'i ICE Arrests and Detentions in 2025 Spiked from Year Before." *Honolulu Civil Beat*, 6 Jan. 2026, www.civilbeat.org/2026/01/hawaii-ice-arrests-detentions-2025-far-exceed-2024/.

fear. These protections are essential not only for immigrant families, but for public health, educational outcomes, and community resilience across Hawai'i.

Nonprofits exist to support our neighbors in times of need, and our sector has a long track record of helping communities through the darkest of moments. This time will be no different. The strength and resilience of nonprofit organizations matter more than ever, reminding our communities that we have power even when many feel most powerless. HB1870 affirms those values and helps ensure that nonprofits can continue standing together and for each other.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

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

This measure protects access to essential services. Families should be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



FEBRUARY 13, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1870, HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1870, HD1, relating to protected community locations, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, contractors, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations; and by 1/1/2027, requires all state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending human trafficking and gender violence, and all forms of systemic exploitation. In our work with survivors of sexual exploitation—many of whom are migrants—we consistently see how aggressive and opaque immigration enforcement undermines community safety and survivor access to justice. This measure advances essential protections by strengthening transparency, accountability, and clear boundaries between local law enforcement and federal civil immigration enforcement.

Recent enforcement trends heighten these concerns. Data from 2025–2026 show that a growing share of individuals targeted by ICE have no criminal history. According to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, 73.6% of people held in ICE detention as of November 30, 2025 had no criminal conviction. A January 2026 analysis of ICE data found that the number of detained individuals with no convictions or pending charges increased from 3,165 in February 2025 to 25,193 in January 2026, and Reuters reported that 27% of ICE arrests since January 2025 involved people without criminal charges or convictions. When enforcement expands beyond serious public safety threats, the result is community fear, the precise conditions in which trafficking thrives.

This proposal is consistent with constitutional principles and established law. States are not required to administer or enforce federal civil

immigration programs. Under the anti-commandeering doctrine, reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Printz v. United States* (1997), the federal government may not compel state or local officials to carry out federal enforcement. Courts have also recognized limits on state involvement in immigration enforcement, including in *Arizona v. United States* (2012). HB 1870 lawfully exercises Hawai'i's authority to set boundaries that protect public safety and civil rights.

Comparable policies have been adopted elsewhere. Jurisdictions across the country have implemented limits on state and local participation in federal civil immigration enforcement—often referred to as “sanctuary” or “community trust” policies—because residents are more likely to report crimes and cooperate with investigations when they are not afraid of deportation. Examples include California's Values Act and similar frameworks adopted by states and cities nationwide. These policies are rooted in the same public-safety logic this bill advances.

For trafficking survivors, the ability to safely access care can mean the difference between escape and continued exploitation. This measure helps ensure survivors can seek services without fear that reporting abuse will trigger detention, family separation, or removal. That strengthens cooperation with law enforcement against traffickers, and promotes safer communities across our island home.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 1870, HD1, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

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

Roots Reborn and El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui* — work directly with immigrant and migrant families still recovering from the 2023 wildfires and navigating overlapping crises of housing, employment, and public safety. We **strongly support HB 1870, HD1**, which establishes statewide standards to limit state and local participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near community locations providing vital public services such as schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship. The bill ensures these institutions adopt policies, conduct training, and uphold data privacy protections, supported through funding by the Attorney General.

Our teams are deeply rooted in the community. We are in daily contact with families, local leaders, and service providers who turn to us when fear or confusion arise. That proximity gives us clear visibility into how immigration enforcement affects people's willingness to access education, health care, and other essential services..

Since the federal government reversed its sensitive-locations policy in early 2025, community members have reported seeing federal agents in or near schools, hospitals, and places of worship across Maui. Families tell us they are afraid to send their children to school, attend church, or visit the doctor (even for urgent care) because they fear exposure to enforcement. This growing climate of fear undermines both recovery efforts, public health and community safety.

EPA Maui's rapid response network and tipline were created to provide accurate information and calm during these moments. Since December 2024, we have trained more than 700 community members, responded to over 450 tipline calls, and deployed trained observers to share Know Your Rights resources and document enforcement activity peacefully. Because of our longstanding relationships, people consistently reach out to us first when they need help navigating interactions or sightings.

HB 1870, HD1, provides necessary statewide guidance. It limits state and county participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near community locations, requires a ****judicial warrant**** for access to nonpublic areas, safeguards personal information, and ensures that staff are trained and communities informed.

This bill does not restrict lawful federal action—it clarifies responsibilities for our state institutions and keeps vital public spaces safe, trusted, and accessible for all who call Hawai'i home.

We respectfully urge you to **support HB, HD1 1870**.

Sinceramente,

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

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

EPA Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Re: **HB1870 HD1 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 13, 2026; 2:00 PM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing **in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1**, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, contractors, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations.

Our schools and child care centers should be places where keiki feel safe, welcome, and free to learn without fear. This bill helps ensure that students and their families do not experience anxiety or disruption due to immigration enforcement activities at or near educational settings. These protections are essential for supporting children's emotional well-being and educational success.

Students who fear enforcement actions at school grounds may be less likely to attend regularly, participate fully, or engage in learning. This bill helps remove those barriers by requiring that state actors refrain from assisting civil immigration enforcement in schools, school buses, licensed child care facilities, and other educational settings unless there is a valid judicial warrant.

Keiki's healthy development also relies on safe access to essential services. This bill also covers health care facilities, shelters, libraries, and programs that provide preventive health care, mental health support, food assistance or other social services, which many families with children depend on daily.

A child's sense of security is deeply tied to their 'ohana's stability. By setting clear limits on how and when state agencies interact with federal immigration enforcement, this bill helps reduce the risk of unexpected family separations occurring in places where children should be able to feel secure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 12, 2026

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

Testimony in strong support of re: HB 1870

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii.

We stand in strong support of HB 1870. We do not want our union members, their families, or anyone else in our community to be targeted, terrorized, assaulted, kidnapped, or killed by government agents or anyone else. We do not want their rights to be violated. All people should be treated with respect and dignity.

HB 1870 is an important step both to protect the most vulnerable members of our community and to keep certain institutions as safe spaces for everyone.

Thank you.



The House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
February 13, 2026
Room 325
2:00 PM

RE: **HB 1870 HD1, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Attention: Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports HB 1870 HD1 with amendments.**

We appreciate the Committee's decision in HD1 to remove the specific statutory civil penalty of \$2,500 that appeared in the original measure. However, UHPA remains concerned regarding the amended language in Section -6 which removed the language limiting penalties to "wilful or repeated" violations. The current text now broadly directs the Attorney General to adopt policies to issue findings and unspecified "penalties" against state actors for *any* violation. By removing the "wilful" standard, this language exposes individual faculty members to undefined administrative or civil sanctions for inadvertent procedural errors or honest mistakes made under pressure.

Our members are educators and researchers, not legal experts trained to distinguish between administrative and judicial warrants while facing armed federal agents. It is unreasonable to expect frontline public employees to navigate these complex jurisdictional conflicts under the threat of personal penalty, particularly when the standard for liability has been lowered from "wilful misconduct" to potentially any procedural error.

To address this, we respectfully request two amendments to Section -6:

Shift Liability to the Employer. We firmly believe that the burden of liability for compliance failures should rest with the institution, rather than falling personally upon frontline public employees. We request the bill clarify that any financial penalties be assessed against the employing state or county agency, rather than the individual.

Create a "Good Faith" Safe Harbor. Because the "wilful" standard was removed from the bill, we urge the Committee to include a specific "safe harbor" provision to protect employees who are doing their best in difficult circumstances. We recommend that the statute explicitly state that no penalties or findings of violation shall be issued against a state actor who acts in good faith reliance on what appears to be a valid judicial warrant, or who acts under duress or a reasonable fear for their safety.

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Website: www.uhpa.org



This protection is critical to ensuring that faculty are not punished for honest mistakes or for prioritizing the immediate safety of themselves and their students during high-pressure law enforcement encounters.

With these amendments, UHPA supports HB 1870 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



February 12, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1870 HD1**, Relating to Protected Community Locations

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Llasmin Chaine, LSW, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1, Relating to Protected Community Locations

Hearing: Friday, February 13, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Ensuring that protected community locations such as schools, healthcare facilities, and shelters remain safe and accessible is fundamental to the Commission’s mission of promoting equity and justice for all women in Hawaii. The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is in **strong support of HB1870 HD1.**

This bill establishes clear statewide standards that limit the involvement of state and county actors in federal civil immigration enforcement within or near protected community locations. Such standards are vital to reducing fear and barriers to accessing essential services, particularly for immigrant women who may otherwise avoid seeking support due to concerns about immigration status.

Continued collaboration with stakeholders will help maximize the positive impacts of this legislation and address any operational challenges. The Commission urges this Committee to **pass HB1870 HD1.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

February 12, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama

Rep. Elle Cochran

Rep. Gregg Takayama

Rep. Mark J. Hashem

Rep. Diamond Garcia

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa

Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

HEARING RE: HB 1870 – Relating to Protected Community Locations

POSITION: IN SUPPORT

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2026

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

To: Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
From: League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County

The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County is testifying in support of HB1870. This support aligns with the League of Women Voters principled defense of the rule of law and of the civil liberties protected by the Constitution. On January 28, 2026, League of Women Voters CEO Celina Stewart reaffirmed the League's commitment, *"The League's role is often to stand between this place of fear and participation, between communities under threat and the democratic systems that are meant to protect us."*

The League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County has held two public forums in 2025 on Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) on both sides of our island with a large public turnout. We learned from county officials, immigrant advocates, and immigrants themselves about the impact of federal immigration enforcement actions on our community, particularly for immigrant families. Our main concern is the effect this has had on our civil liberties and our sense of safety in our homes and persons.

Enactment of HB1870 establishes standards, training and privacy protections for all state-funded agencies in civil immigration enforcement. HB1870 provides clear and comprehensive regulations regarding the involvement by all state and county agencies and employees, as well as all recipients of state funds. The passage of these HB1870 will uphold the responsibility of the State of Hawai'i to protect all residents' civil liberties by ensuring the safe access of families and individuals to Protected Community Locations.

HB1870 standards provide clearly defined limitations to state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement by the following:

Defined Protected Community Locations

- An established 1000 foot protected perimeter around these locations
 - No access to nonpublic areas for immigration enforcement purposes
 - No collecting/retaining/sharing personal or identifying information (e.g., schedules, enrollment, patient data, worship schedules, alerts) for civil immigration enforcement
 - No facilitating interviews or surveillance for civil immigration enforcement
- No facilitating interviews or surveillance for civil immigration enforcement
- Judicial warrant standard: Access to nonpublic areas is allowed only with a valid judicial warrant (not an administrative warrant or detainer), verified by a designated administrator/counsel.

Documentation & transparency:

- Immigration-related requests must be documented, copied/photographed, and sent to the designated administrator/counsel and the Attorney General.

Implementation requirements: Agencies (including DOE, charter commission, UH, HHSC, State Library System, HI-EMA) must adopt and post written policies that:

- Identify nonpublic areas
- Establish warrant verification procedures
- Prohibit immigration-status data collection unless required by law
- Require annual staff training
- Require multilingual notices that services are provided regardless of immigration status and explain warrant requirement
- Attorney General publishes model policies (including for counties; voluntary for private providers/places of worship).

Enforcement & accountability

- AG receives complaints, investigates, and issues corrective orders.
- Civil penalty up to \$2,500 per willful/repeated violation (with notice and opportunity to cure).
- Private right of action for injunctive/declaratory relief + attorneys' fees.
- Anti-retaliation protection for complainants, witnesses, and workers who refuse unlawful assistance.

Supporting and protecting immigrants who are productive, contributing members of our society is a good investment in the economy and the health of our community as a whole. This is true aloha.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs unanimously pass HB1870 and all companion bills into law for the sake of our civil and constitutional rights. Safe community spaces are a concrete action to protect these rights and to maintain a sense of security for our vulnerable immigrant populations in Hawai'i.

###

*American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam &
American Samoa) Section*



TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 6, 2026

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG
Dr. Tiffinie R. Mercado, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD, FACOG, Legislative Chair
Dr. Olivia Manayan, MD, MPH, FACOG, Legislative Committee

Re: HB1870 Relating to Protected Community Locations: AG; Civil Immigration Enforcement; State Actors; State Contractors; Protected Community Locations; Statewide Standards; Written Policies; Appropriations Position: SUPPORT

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai'i Section (ACOG Hawai'i), which represents physicians dedicated to providing safe, evidence-based reproductive health care across our state, respectfully submits testimony in strong support of HB1870.

Health care is built upon trust. Patients seek care during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives — during illness, injury, pregnancy, and times of profound personal stress. The presence of civil immigration enforcement personnel in or near health care facilities and other protected community locations undermines this essential trust. When individuals fear that seeking medical attention could expose them or their family members to immigration enforcement, they may forgo or delay necessary care altogether. This erosion of trust not only harms individual patients but also weakens the public health infrastructure that serves our community.

A growing body of public health research has demonstrated that the perceived or actual presence of immigration enforcement is associated with decreased utilization of preventive and primary care services and an increased reliance on emergency departments for conditions that could have been addressed earlier in outpatient settings. Delays in care can allow otherwise manageable illnesses to progress to more severe stages, resulting in avoidable complications, higher health care costs, and increased strain on emergency and hospital systems. For pregnant patients in particular, delays in prenatal care can have lifelong consequences for both parent and child.

HB1870 establishes clear, statewide standards that help ensure that schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and other community service sites remain spaces where individuals may safely access essential services without fear. Importantly, this bill does not impede lawful public safety functions; rather, it affirms the principle that access to education, medical care, social services, and places of worship should not be compromised by civil immigration enforcement activities. The requirements for written policies, staff training, and data privacy protections provide practical and consistent guidance that supports both institutional clarity and community confidence.

From a physician's perspective, the ability to provide timely, confidential, and uninterrupted care is fundamental to ethical medical practice. Patients must feel secure that the act of seeking care will not place them at additional risk. By reinforcing protected community locations and strengthening data privacy standards, HB1870 helps preserve the

integrity of the clinician-patient relationship and promotes earlier engagement with preventive and primary care — outcomes that benefit individual patients, families, and the broader health system alike.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to advancing equitable, compassionate, and evidence-based policies that safeguard the health and well-being of the people of Hawai‘i.

Respectfully submitted,

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Hawai‘i Section (ACOG Hawai‘i)



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1870, HD1
RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

February 12, 2026

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

The Legal Clinic (TLC) strongly supports HB1870, HD1 a measure that restores protections for sensitive community locations and ensures safe access to essential services amid escalating federal immigration enforcement activities. TLC is a nonprofit organization that works to advance immigrant justice statewide through immigration legal services, community education, and policy advocacy.

Since the Trump administration's revocation of long-standing federal protections for sensitive locations, immigration enforcement activities have been observed across Hawai'i at or near schools, churches, and courthouses. These actions undermine community safety, causing widespread fear and discouraging residents from going to school, seeking medical care, or accessing justice through the courts.

HB1870, HD1 restores safeguards for sensitive community locations by limiting participation by state and county officials, agencies, employees, and contractors in civil immigration enforcement at or near these spaces. The HD1 amendments strengthen the bill by clarifying definitions, implementation authority, and requirements for written policies, annual training, designated contacts, warrant verification, and data privacy protections. These provisions will help to ensure fair and effective implementation across state and county systems.

HB 1870, HD1 strengthens community safety and recognizes that access to essential services benefits everyone. We urge the Committee to pass this bill.

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

Christina Sablan
Community & Policy Advocate



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

**Testimony of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights
In SUPPORT of HB1870 RELATED TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS**

Representative Tarnas, Chair
Representative Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13th, 2026, 2pm Room 325

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

My name is **Aparna Patrie**, 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 **HB1870**, a bill to prohibit federal immigration officers from conducting immigration enforcement in schools, hospitals, health care facilities, and places of worship.

These institutions must be safe havens — places where children, patients, congregants, and community members can learn, receive care, and worship without fear that they or their family members will be arrested, detained, or deported. When immigration enforcement occurs in or around these settings, it undermines trust, interferes with essential services, and causes profound emotional and social harm. In schools, it disrupts learning and harms student mental health; in hospitals and health care facilities, it discourages patients from seeking care and delays critical medical treatment; and in places of worship, it erodes the spiritual and communal safety that these spaces provide.

For many years, under long-standing federal policy, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security designated schools, churches, hospitals, and other “sensitive locations” as places where immigration enforcement actions were generally prohibited. This policy recognized that enforcement in these settings creates trauma, disrupts essential services, and weakens community trust. However, under the current administration, these sensitive-location protections have been weakened or eliminated, allowing federal immigration officers greater discretion to conduct enforcement even in these spaces. As a result, Hawai'i can no longer rely on federal policy to protect students, patients, and worshippers, making state-level safeguards like HB1870 both necessary and urgent.

Recent events in Kona illustrate why these protections are urgently needed. Just a few months ago, a young student at Konawaena Elementary School was removed from campus by a school resource officer and turned over to federal authorities after his father was detained by immigration agents. The child was ultimately deported along with his father. This incident



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caused widespread concern among educators, parents, and community members across Hawai‘i Island. Families reported that students were afraid to attend school, that attendance dropped, and that children altered their daily routines out of fear of encountering immigration agents.

These harms extend beyond schools. Across the mainland United States, there have been numerous reports of people being arrested at hospital emergency rooms while seeking care, including emergency treatment for themselves or their children. These incidents create a climate of fear that discourages immigrant communities from accessing health care — even for critical or life-saving services. Patients delay routine checkups, avoid vaccinations, and sometimes forego urgent medical treatment entirely, placing their health, and in some cases their lives, at risk. In Hawai‘i, protecting hospitals, health care facilities, and emergency rooms from immigration enforcement is essential to ensure everyone can seek care without fear.

In places of worship, enforcement activity has caused congregants to feel unsafe, undermining faith communities’ role as centers of support, guidance, and sanctuary. Across all these settings, enforcement disrupts essential services, compromises public safety, and inflicts trauma on individuals and families.

HB1870 would provide clear, statewide protections ensuring that schools, hospitals, health care facilities, and places of worship remain safe, welcoming spaces. The bill aligns with long-standing principles that sensitive locations should be free from enforcement actions, where people’s rights, well-being, and trust are prioritized. It also supports educators, health care providers, and religious leaders, who should never be forced to choose between their professional duty and the safety of those they serve.

No child should be afraid to go to school. No patient should hesitate to seek life-saving care. No family should fear deportation while attending a place of worship. And no teacher, doctor, nurse, or religious leader should have to compromise their professional obligations to protect community members.

For these reasons, and in light of the real harms already experienced in Hawai‘i and across the mainland, we strongly urge the Legislature to pass HB1870 and affirm that our schools, hospitals, health care facilities, and places of worship are safe spaces — not sites of immigration enforcement.



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aparna Patrie

Legal Advisor and Private Immigration Attorney

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 3:28:10 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony of Pacific Gateway Center

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is Matthew Johnson, Executive Director for Pacific Gateway Center, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

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

This measure protects access to essential services. Families should be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Matthew B. Johnson

Pacific Gateway Center



Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in **STRONG SUPPORT** of
HB 1870, HD1, Relating to Protected Community Locations

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

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") I write in strong support of H.B. 1870, HD1, which sets protective standards for immigration enforcement in community areas that are especially sensitive.

HB1870 promotes community safety and public health. In Hawai'i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines, especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay care, avoid school engagement, and skip emergency support. This not only harms immigrant families but also jeopardizes the wellbeing of our entire state.

H.B. 1870 promotes safety and public health by:

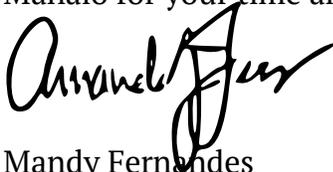
- **Limiting State Resources:** The bill limits the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. This reinforces the idea that our public buildings should be places of safety and trust, not fear.
- **Requiring judicial Warrants:** It requires a judicial warrant (rather than an administrative warrant) before granting access to nonpublic areas. This practice protects vulnerable residents and upholds constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.
- **Protecting Sensitive Information:** HB1870 prevents the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes, ensuring that schools, libraries, shelters, and hospitals remain sanctuaries for learning, healing, and support.

- **Establishing Clear Procedures and Training:** The bill establishes procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently. This ensures everyone has access to public services without the threat of surveillance or detention.

Importantly, HB1870, HD1 does not obstruct federal officers acting within lawful authority. Instead, it clarifies what state actors and recipients of state funds may and may not do, ensuring our public institutions remain accessible and trusted.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to support H.B. 1870, HD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving our communities in Hawai'i for over 60 years.

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1870 HD 1
HB 1870 HD 1 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Hawai'i House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, February 13, 2026

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

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is submitting this testimony in support of HB 1870 HD 1, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, contractors, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The bill also requires all state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections. CLASP is pleased to see the Hawai'i House of Representatives undertake such critical action to protect children in immigrant families, including the more than 1 in 4 children in Hawai'i who live with at least one immigrant parent,¹ at a time of heightened immigration enforcement and instability. With the rescission of the former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Protected Areas Guidance, immigrant families are living with uncertainty and fear that have made them hesitant to seek out medical attention and other critical services, drop off their children at school, and carry out everyday activities.

Established in 1969, CLASP is a national, non-partisan, non-profit, anti-poverty organization that advances policy solutions for people with low incomes. Our testimony draws upon the work of CLASP experts in the areas of immigration, anti-poverty, and child development policies. As a national anti-poverty organization, we bring a deep commitment to families living with low incomes and knowledge of the challenges that they experience, including the importance of federal programs that support their health and economic well-being. At CLASP, we also have deep expertise in policies that support children's healthy development, such as promoting access to good nutrition, high quality health care, and education, a healthy living environment, and stable, nurturing caregivers. We recognize that harsh immigration policies, such as increased immigration enforcement and the rescission of the federal protected areas policy, undermine these very foundations.

Without the federal protected areas policy in place, immigration agents have been and will continue to carry out enforcement actions without regard to the safety and well-being of children, which our own research has shown can result in arrests near child care programs and schools. As Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence near such locations become

¹ The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the American Community Survey.

more common, the likelihood also increases that children could witness a parent's detention, arrest, or other encounters with ICE agents.² Research shows that children who witness their parents' arrest are more likely to suffer severe impacts on their mental and physical health, negatively impacting their long-term development.³

Without this federal guidance in place, service providers are also left with confusion and uncertainty as to how to best protect the children and families they serve and what rights they have as providers. During the first Trump Administration, these providers reported being overwhelmed by the impact of anti-immigration rhetoric, the constant change in immigration policies, and heightened stress.⁴ Those who themselves are immigrants, such as the 1 in 5 nationwide early care and education providers, may also have additional concerns about their own families' well-being.

Ending the protected areas policy also has a destabilizing effect on entire communities. Children who witness threats to their classmates, parents, teachers, and care providers may not be able to thrive and meet developmental milestones. Many places that families and children rely on for community and friendship, such as schools, Head Start centers, and child care programs, could suddenly become targets, leaving the community as a whole traumatized and paralyzed by the threats of immigration enforcement. Compromising access to these supports in the midst of an onslaught of other immigration policies serves to only further undermine the safety and well-being of immigrant families and communities. And when some of us are not comfortable seeking out health care, we all are less healthy.

Background and History of the Protected Areas Policy

In 1993, under the Clinton Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service issued a memo restricting immigration enforcement in institutions of education, places of worship, funerals, and other religious ceremonies.⁵ This initial memo served as the foundation for the protected areas policy, also referred to as sensitive locations, for over 30 years, which has had consistent bipartisan support across Presidential Administrations. In 2008, under the Bush Administration, ICE released additional field guidance that reaffirmed the 1993 memo.

² Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear: Immigration Policy's Effects on Young Children." CLASP. March 1, 2018.

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/our-childrens-fear-immigration-policys-effects-young-children-2/>.

³ Chaudry, Ajay, Randolph Capps, Juan Pedroza, Rosa Maria Castaneda, Robert Santos, and Molly M. Scott. 2010. "Facing Our Future." Urban Institute. February 2, 2010.

<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/facing-our-future>.; Center on Developing Child. 2007. "InBrief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development." Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. May 20, 2007.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief/inbrief-the-impact-of-early-adversity-on-childrens-development>.

⁴ Matthews, Hannah, Rebecca Ullrich, and Wendy Cervantes. 2018. "Immigration Policy's Harmful Impacts on Early Care and Education." CLASP. March 1, 2018.

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/immigration-policy-s-harmful-impacts-early-care-and-education/>.

⁵ Puleo, James A. 1993. "Enforcement Activities at Schools, Places of Worship, or at Funerals or Other Religious Ceremonies." Immigration and Naturalization Service.

<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/IMM-Memo-SensLocationsEnforce.pdf>.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which oversees both ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), established policies that restrict immigration enforcement actions in certain “sensitive locations.”⁶ These locations included places of worship, schools, health care facilities, and early childhood programs such as licensed child care, preschool, pre-kindergarten, and Head Start programs.

In October 2021, DHS announced a new “protected areas” policy that replaced the 2011 policy with stronger parameters.⁷ To clarify the policy, it included locations that were outlined in the previous policy but also added more locations, such as those providing social services and places where children gather, like playgrounds, and improved implementation. The 2021 policy also had the goal of restricting immigration enforcement actions at or near “protected areas” and went further, explicitly stating that, except in limited circumstances, immigration agents could not conduct arrests, apprehensions, or other enforcement actions in or near these locations. The policy also advised against enforcement actions near a “protected area” and advised the use of judgment as to whether such an action would “restrain people from accessing the area.”

On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the Biden Administration’s guidelines for ICE and CBP enforcement actions in certain “protected areas,” recommending that agents use “common sense.”⁸ On January 31st, additional guidance from DHS was issued stating that Assistant Field Office Directors and Assistant Special Agents in Charge are able to provide prior authorization for enforcement actions on a case-by-case basis in or near sensitive locations “either verbally or in writing.” Unfortunately, this guidance lacks clear guardrails to ensure that local field offices are consistently implementing the policy so as to mitigate the chilling effect and potential harm to communities.

Impact of Immigration Raids on Children

The Trump Administration’s reckless and indiscriminate immigration enforcement has resulted in an increasing number of incidents in protected areas. In just the first few weeks of 2026, the Trump Administration has continued to disregard longstanding protections for protected areas.

⁶ Morton, John. 2011. Review of Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. October 24, 2011. <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>.

⁷ Mayorkas, Alejandro N. 2021. “Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or near Protected Areas.” Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf.

⁸ Department of Homeland Security. 2025. “Statement from a DHS Spokesperson on Directives Expanding Law Enforcement and Ending the Abuse of Humanitarian Parole.” U.S. Department of Homeland Security. January 21, 2025. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/01/21/statement-dhs-spokesperson-directives-expanding-law-enforcement-and-ending-abuse>.

Schools in cities across the country have gone into lockdown⁹ because of the presence of immigration agents, with the trauma extending beyond children¹⁰ in immigrant families to all children in these communities. There are regular reports of ICE and CBP presence in protected areas. For example, immigration officers detained a family, including a seven-year-old,¹¹ outside a hospital where the family had gone to get emergency care for the child. And they intimidated community members outside of a church,¹² and ultimately deported a church worker.

The Trump Administration's increasingly violent and indiscriminate immigration enforcement in and around protected areas casts a cloud of uncertainty and danger over common activities that affect immigrant families' ability to live their lives. This phenomenon restricting daily life, commonly referred to as the "chilling effect," causes families to avoid seeking out basic necessities, from medical care to social services.¹³ When immigration agents have the ability to show up at early education centers, healthcare facilities, playgrounds, schools, and places of worship, mixed-status families with children will not seek services in these places as often or stop going to these critical places altogether. Many providers and advocates are already reporting on this chilling effect and its impact on school attendance and academic achievement, child care attendance and participation, and delivery of timely health care.¹⁴

Early Care and Educational Impacts

The prospect of immigration enforcement authorities in schools and child care centers threaten the safety of both people who work to educate and care for children as well as children and their families. Overall, more than 1 in 8 workers in the U.S. education sector is an immigrant, or over 2.1 million people, and nearly 1 in 5 child care workers is foreign-born.¹⁵ CLASP led a six-state

⁹ "Minneapolis schools cancel classes after Border Patrol clash disrupts dismissal at Roosevelt" MPR News, January 8, 2026

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/01/08/after-border-patrol-clash-at-roosevelt-minneapolis-schools-cancel-classes>.

¹⁰ "How ICE Raids are Affecting Children – And What Schools Can Do" Greater Good Magazine, February 4, 2026, https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_ice_raids_are_affecting_children_and_what_schools_can_do.

¹¹ "ICE detains family seeking emergency care for child at Portland hospital" OregonLive, January 23, 2026, <https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2026/01/ice-detains-family-seeking-emergency-care-for-child-at-portland-hospital.html>.

¹² "ICE deported Minnesota church employee, surveilled parish during MAss, mayor says" EWTN News, January 9, 2026, <https://www.ewtnnews.com/world/us/minnesota-ice-catholic-church?redirectedfrom=cna>.

¹³ Xu, Qingwen, and Kalina Brabeck. 2012. "Service Utilization for Latino Children in Mixed-Status Families." *Social Work Research* 36 (3): 209–21. <https://doi.org/10.2307/42659834>; Heinrich, Carolyn, Mónica Hernández, and Mason Shero. 2022. "Repercussions of a Raid: Health and Education Outcomes of Children Entangled in Immigration Enforcement." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 42 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443>.

¹⁴ Riddell, Roger. 2025. "Denver Public Schools Sues over Trump Policy Allowing On-Campus ICE Raids." *K-12 Dive*. February 14, 2025.

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/denver-public-schools-sues-over-trump-immigration-policy/740145/>; Mader, Jackie. 2025. "Parents Pull Kids from Childcare as Immigration Fears Hit US's Youngest." *The Guardian*. February 7, 2025.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/07/us-immigration-childcare-workers>; Schorsch, Kristen. 2025.

"Fearful amid ICE Crackdowns, Some Immigrants Are Skipping Health Care." *Transcript*. NPR. NPR.

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/nx-s1-5290063>.

¹⁵ New American Economy. 2021. "Immigrants and the U.S. Educational System." *New American Economy Research Fund*. August 16, 2021. <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/immigrants-america-educational-system/>;

Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. "Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How

study during the first Trump Administration interviewing child care and early education teachers, among other providers, that found that these providers were struggling to support children and families who were under additional stress, including some who had experienced the detention or deportation of a parent.¹⁶ Workers reported anxiety about increased incidents of racism and xenophobia and were additionally concerned about the legal status of their own family members and friends. They were required to navigate complex immigration policies, provide mental health support to children, and inform parents about resources, all with limited time and money while still trying to do the day-to-day work of caring for and educating young children. The threat of immigration enforcement puts undue burden on those who work and care for all our nation's children. In interviews with providers over the past year, CLASP has found that ICE's increased presence near child care centers has led to disruptions in service and increased uncertainty over how to best protect children, families, and staff in an environment where agents are increasingly carrying out raids with limited regards to minimizing harm to children and bystanders.

Immigration enforcement impacts the child care industry as a whole. Studies have found that increased immigration enforcement reduces children's participation in Head Start, center-based child care programs, lowers the supply and wages of immigrant and native workers in the center-based sector, and reduces the number of center-based facilities overall.¹⁷ The decrease in center-based child care availability and participation means more children are pushed to lower-quality child care settings, which may slow their cognitive and developmental progress.¹⁸ In essence, increased immigration enforcement can further destabilize an already precarious industry, threatening child care supply and increasing costs for all parents.

Additionally, there is robust evidence that heightened immigration enforcement results in decreases in K-12 school enrollment among Hispanic children and harms academic performance and engagement among minority students.¹⁹ Following the 2019 Mississippi

Secure Is the Child Care Market?" *Journal of Public Economics* 233 (April): 105101–1.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105101>.

¹⁶ Matthews, Hannah, Rebecca Ullrich, and Wendy Cervantes. 2018. "Immigration Policy's Harmful Impacts on Early Care and Education." CLASP. March 2018.

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/immigration-policy-s-harmful-impacts-early-care-and-education/>;

Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear."

¹⁷ Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. "Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How

Secure Is the Child Care Market?" *Journal of Public Economics* 233 (April): 105101–1.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105101>.; Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018.

"Our Children's Fear."; Children Thrive Action Network. 2021. "Research Brief: How a Pathway to Citizenship Can

Help Children Thrive - Children Thrive Action Network." Children Thrive Action Network. October 28, 2021.

<https://childrethrivethriveaction.org/2021/10/research-brief-how-a-pathway-to-citizenship-can-help-children-thrive/>.

¹⁸ Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. "Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How

Secure Is the Child Care Market?"

¹⁹ Dee, Thomas S., and Mark Murphy. 2018. "How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms Schoolchildren." Stanford

Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). Stanford University. October 2018.

<https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/how-strict-immigration-enforcement-harms-schoolchildren>.; Ee,

Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. "The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation's Schools." *American*

Educational Research Journal 57 (2): 000283121986299. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831219862998>.; Bellows,

worksite raid, children were absent from schools for several days, with some families hiding in their homes for weeks with curtains pulled over their windows.²⁰ Providers in K-12 settings have reported that Latino students directly expressed fear and concern over immigration enforcement, negatively affecting their academic performance.²¹ In a survey of educators during the first Trump Administration, one high school administrator said that children in immigrant families “are not thinking about college, or the test next week, or what is being taught in the classroom today. They are thinking about their family and whether they will still be a family; whether their family will remain intact.”²² Moreover, immigration enforcement impacts all students, not just those in immigrant families; researchers have found that absences affect overall school achievement scores and school funding, resulting in a “vicious cycle of underachievement.”²³

Health Impacts

Even when the protected areas policy was in place, there were instances of ICE detaining immigrants visiting loved ones at hospitals or at a bus stop outside a hospital.²⁴ These actions serve to spread fear among immigrant families and prevent them from enrolling in health care programs.²⁵ As a result, immigrants and their children delay or avoid obtaining health care, which may exacerbate health conditions that could have been ameliorated or avoided altogether through preventive health care screenings. This results in increased complex health emergencies, increased emergency room visits, and increased societal costs for uncompensated care.²⁶ This reluctance to seek care also poses risks to public health should people not seek preventative care or treatment for communicable diseases.

Laura. 2021. “The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on School Engagement: Evidence from 287(G) Programs in North Carolina.” *AERA Open* 7 (1): 233285842110394. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584211039467>.

²⁰ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Vanessa Meraz. 2020. “The Day That ICE Came: How Worksite Raids Are Once Again Harming Children and Families.” CLASP. June 13, 2020. <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/day-ice-came-how-worksite-raids-are-once-again-harming-children-and/>.

²¹ Ruskin, Emily. 2020. “A Generation at Risk: The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on UnidosUS-Affiliated Classrooms and Educators.” UnidosUS. March 2020. <https://unidosus.org/publications/2024-a-generation-at-risk-the-impact-of-immigration-enforcement-on-unidosus-affiliated-classrooms-and-educators/>.

²² Ee, Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation’s Schools.” *American Educational Research Journal* 57 (2): 000283121986299. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831219862998>.

²³ Ee, Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation’s Schools.”

²⁴ Physicians for Human Rights. 2018. “Physicians for Human Rights Establishing Sanctuary Hospitals: Protecting the Right to Access Health Care Physicians for Human Rights Fact Sheet.”

<https://phr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PHR-Sanctuary-Hospitals-Fact-Sheet-FINAL.pdf>; Shepherd, Katie . 2017. “ICE Arrested an Undocumented Immigrant Just Outside a Portland Hospital.” *Willamette Week*. October 31, 2017. <https://www.wweek.com/news/courts/2017/10/31/ice-arrested-an-undocumented-immigrant-just-outside-a-portland-hospital/>.

²⁵ Watson, Tara. 2014. “Inside the Refrigerator: Immigration Enforcement and Chilling Effects in Medicaid Participation.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 6 (3): 313–38. <https://doi.org/10.1257/pol.6.3.313>.

²⁶ Mutanuka, Mambwe. 2020. “The Intersection of Health Policy and Immigration: Consequences of Immigrants’ Fear of Arrests in U.S. Hospitals.” *Annals Of Health Law Advance Directive* Vol 30 (1): 217-222.

<https://heinonline-org.prx.law.columbia.edu/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/anlsadced30&div=35&id=&page=&collection=journals>.

During site visits conducted by CLASP in 2017, parents were scared to take their children to doctors or clinics for critical health services. For example, parents in rural Pennsylvania shared their reluctance to take their children to the emergency room at night because it was known that ICE patrolled the highway to the nearest hospital.²⁷ One worksite raid in 2018 in Tennessee occurred at the same time as a community health event, which meant that Hispanic families too afraid to venture out of their homes missed out on vaccinations, basic health screenings, and information offered to community members attending the event. Many Hispanic families subsequently stopped attending other health-related appointments with their children altogether.²⁸ With immigration authorities having zero limitations on where they can apprehend and arrest people they suspect to be in the country illegally, the likelihood that children will become isolated from the larger community and miss critical health care milestones like vaccinations and well-child visits is amplified, threatening the immediate and long-term health of children, their families, and communities.²⁹ A similar study conducted by CLASP in six states in 2025 (reports forthcoming) found that unprecedented rates of detention and deportation and the purposely terrifying tactics being employed by ICE agents are leading to even more acute harms to children and families, immigrant and non-immigrant alike.

Child Mental Health Impacts

Numerous studies demonstrate the connection of both the threat of immigration enforcement as well as the detention and deportation of a family member to adverse mental health, behavioral problems, and health issues for children in immigrant families. CLASP's 2017 six-state study found that children as young as three years old were expressing fear about losing a parent to deportation and demonstrating those fears through words and troubling behaviors; one child was described as biting his fingertips to the point of bleeding.³⁰ Even children whose parents have lawful immigration status expressed fear and concern about parent separation, because they are too young to understand the nuances of immigration policy or may not be aware of their parents' status. Research consistently shows that hardship and distress in children's early years can particularly compromise their healthy development and growth in the short and long term.³¹

²⁷ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear"

²⁸ Heinrich, Carolyn, Mónica Hernández, and Mason Shero. 2022. "Repercussions of a Raid: Health and Education Outcomes of Children Entangled in Immigration Enforcement." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 42 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443>.

²⁹ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear"

³⁰ Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear"

³¹ National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. 2010. "Persistent Fear and Anxiety Can Affect Young Children." Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. May 28, 2010.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/working-paper/persistent-fear-and-anxiety-can-affect-young-childrens-learning-and-development/>; National Scientific Council on the Developing Child. 2007. "The Science of Early Childhood Development: Closing the Gap between What We Know and What We Do." *Developing Child*. 2007.

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/report/the-science-of-early-childhood-development-closing-the-gap-between-what-we-know-and-what-we-do/>; Shonkoff, Jack P., and Deborah A. Phillips. 2000. "From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development." *PubMed*. 2000.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25077268/>; Teicher, Martin H., Susan L. Andersen, Ann Polcari, Carl M. Anderson, Carryl P. Navalta, and Dennis M. Kim. 2003. "The Neurobiological Consequences of Early Stress and Childhood

The threats to children’s mental health have devastating consequences. News reports last year in Texas described the suicide of an 11-year-old child, due to bullying at school about her family’s immigration status, including threats from peers to call ICE on her family.³² Rumors about ICE coming to the school likely came after an email sent to parents that addressed President Trump’s new immigration policies, including the removal of the protected areas policy. Unfortunately, few mental health resources exist specifically for impacted children.

Conclusion

CLASP supports HB 1870 HD 1, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, contractors, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations and requires all state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections. This bill could serve as a protective factor for children in immigrant families, including the more than 1 in 4 children in Hawai’i who live with at least one immigrant parent,³³ and mitigate the harms associated with immigration enforcement.

CLASP has worked for years to advocate for national, state, and local policies that ensure people are able to access the services they need to thrive. Heightened immigration enforcement efforts undermine access to critical programs, putting families' health and well-being at risk, including for U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families. In light of the Trump Administration’s action to rescind the protected areas policy at the federal level, we urge states and local governments to advance legislation and protected areas policies that limit immigration enforcement actions in these critical places, such as HB 1870 HD 1.

Please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Cervantes, director of immigration and immigrant families, at wcervantes@clasp.org if you have any questions or need any further information.

Maltreatment.” *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews* 27 (1-2): 33–44.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/s0149-7634\(03\)00007-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0149-7634(03)00007-1).

³² Killough, Ashley, and Ed Lavandera. 2025. “Chatter and Rumors about ICE Went on for Days at School of Texas Girl Who Died by Suicide.” CNN. February 21, 2025.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/20/us/texas-ice-jocelynn-rojo-carranza/index.html>.

³³ The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the American Community Survey.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:41:39 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 4:23:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1870, to ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely. This bill will limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations; require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas; prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes; and establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently. Notably, the bill does not obstruct federal officers acting within lawful authority.

I have been incredibly alarmed at the dangerous excesses of the ICE and CBP operations on the mainland and want to protect our Hawaii community from those excesses.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 1870, HD1, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

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

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui – The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1870, HD1**, relating to protected community locations. House Bill 1870 establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, and employees, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship. House Bill 1870 also requires the Department of Education, State Public Charter School Commission, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hawaii State Public Library System, and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections.

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.

There had been a longstanding policy that federal agents would not engage in enforcement activity at “sensitive locations,” spaces so vital to human dignity, so significant to our universal values, that enforcement activity at them violated our collective conscience. Spaces such as school, churches, health and care facilities. The current Republican Executive and his representatives in the executive branch have overturned that longstanding policy of protection. In my experience as a know your rights educator and a constitutional observer, I have witnessed the impacts of that policy change. I have conducted rapidly convened training for staff at schools where federal agents have appeared looking for children and their families. I have received phone calls from teachers traumatized by federal agents coming to their home in the pre-dawn hours and subjecting them to questioning in their night clothes and blankets. At the request of school administrators I have facilitated virtual Know Your Rights training in Spanish for Spanish-speaking families of school children in communities traumatized by federal agents. Just in

the past week, I have provided know your rights training to health care organizations and churches statewide as part of a calendar of trainings scheduled in response to federal agents at a church in Kihei, Maui in January.

My Know Your Rights trainings have expanded over the course of the last year to include a Prevention and Protection Plan, a process by which we take our understanding of our constitutional rights and engage with them practically in the real world to integrate them in our role as community leaders (school administrators, health care facilities, faith leaders) and into the spaces we lead so we can protect our students, patients, congregants, our friends and neighbors. Our communities are scared, students talk about friends afraid to attend school, doctors have patients who no longer come to appointments for chronic conditions, friends tell me of friends unable to go to Oahu to get cancer screenings. The change in federal policy related to sensitive locations is impacting all of us. I request your **support of HB 1870, HD1** as one mechanism to engage in community protection. People should not be afraid to go to school, church, the hospital, because of fear of overzealous federal agents.

Thank you for standing up with your community on this issue,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:17:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

Let's do better than the continental US than to snatch alleged "illegal immigrants" in community locations.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:31:20 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

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

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

Aloha, Representatives,

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, Relating to Protected Community Locations.

We citizens need a law that protects us from intrusion by immigration agents into our schools, houses of worship, and hospitals. Houses of worship need to continue to be off-limits to immigration agents as people engage in religious practices, which is their right under the First Amendment of the Constitution. Children need to be safe at their schools. They must not be used as "bait" to draw their parents into a vulnerable position. Libraries need to be secure and free places of learning. People who are ill and receiving health care, including those who are hospitalized, need to be protected, too.

As this bill indicates, law enforcement activities must be limited to those that are "consistent with the State's police powers, civil rights laws, and constitutional protections for education, public health, and the free exercise of religion">

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

I urge you to protect us all by voting for **HB1870 HD1**.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Eileen Cain,
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu

**Testimony of Jeremiah Brown
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I am a teacher at Waipahu High School. I submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1870**, relating to Protected Community Locations.

ICE and Border Patrol have targeted schools for immigration enforcement, most recently in Minneapolis, and Chicago and Los Angeles before that. Agents have detained parents and children at pick-up and drop-off times, staked out areas close to schools, and have even used school property as staging locations. Teachers have worked with families to transport their children to and from school, to organize community patrols near schools, and have taken other measures to ensure student safety. In locations of aggressive immigration enforcement, students have stopped going to school out of fear. This is completely unacceptable and there is no reason to think it can't happen here in Hawai'i.

This bill will protect sensitive locations, such as schools, from ICE and Border Patrol agents who have been acting with impunity. It will protect access to education for our immigrant and migrant neighbors, who already face challenges accessing vital services. It protects the trust that the community places in us as educators.

I urge you to pass HB1870 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Respectfully,

Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:05:17 PM

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

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

Comments:

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB 1870 HD 1 which ensures that community spaces offering education, health care, social services, shelter, or access to justice remain safe for all residents. This is a critical public safety and public health measure because when some members of our community feel unsafe to access basic needs, it harms us all.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of HB 1870 HD 1.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:08:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Uyeno-Pidot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I'm submitting testimony in strong support of establishing protected community locations where civil immigration enforcement is prohibited. Recently, we have witnessed horrifying images of such enforcement activities taking place at schools, court houses, health care facilities, and churches. What is especially jarring about these images is that they are set in places that have traditionally served as sanctuaries for our communities.

Roughly 75% of our state's population consists of ethnic minority groups. Since the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its affiliated agencies have shown little discernment between who they should and should not be arresting, an increasing number of people here feel uncomfortable going about their daily business. If we could at least make it safe to go to school, seek medical care, check out books, obtain social services, and visit places of worship, this would go a long way toward rebuilding a collective sense of safety.

It would also be helpful to provide policies, procedures, and training sessions to employees of these protected community locations, so they know how to handle attempted civil immigration enforcement activities. Currently, employees at these locations are unsure of what they can and cannot do when approached by members of DHS or its partner agencies. Clarity on how to appropriately respond protects our community.

For all of these reasons, I request that you vote in favor of this measure.

**Mahalo,
Julie Uyeno-Pidot**

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:18:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Lynn Otaguro and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

As a former teacher, I understand the need to keep our schools safe for children and families. Children should be able to learn without fear.

This measure protects access to essential services, such as schools. Families should be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:18:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1870.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:44:28 PM

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

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

Comments:

Very strong support for this measure. Thank you.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:13:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB1870 HD1, which among other things, prevents immigration detentions and arrests in sensitive locations like health care facilities, schools and churches, require *judicial* search and arrest warrants and prohibits certain State cooperation with federal agents while they engaging in immigration deportation activities that violate state law and the constitutional rights of our residents.

We should not forget the importance of immigrants to the State of Hawaii, including so-called undocumented immigrants, many of whom have earned their inclusion into Hawaiian society. According to the American Immigration Council, 258,000 Hawaii residents are foreign-born, 18% of the population. They make up 22.3% of our labor force and contribute \$11.6 billion to the economy and pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes and \$2.1 billion in federal taxes, \$1.0 billion in social security and \$265 million in Medicare contributions, benefiting all Hawaii residents.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, an estimated 42,000 undocumented or “unauthorized” immigrants reside in Hawaii, 28,000 of who have lived in Hawaii and built lives and families for ten or more years; 16,000 for 20 or more years.

Fourteen thousand own their own homes. All are in jeopardy of imminent and inhumane removal from their homes and families.

As we have seen in the media, undocumented immigrants (and those who look and speak like them in the minds of federal agents) are being treated like criminals, as we have witnessed Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) and Custom and Border Protection (CBP) agents cruelly assault and detain immigrants and citizens alike in Minneapolis and elsewhere on the mainland.

At the very least, every person in the US, citizens and non-citizens alike, are entitled to due process of law. That includes not being arrested without probable cause and their homes and vehicles invaded without constitutionally-mandated *judicial* warrants. That includes a fair hearing before a neutral judge to determine whether an arrestee is indeed illegally here or not a misidentified US citizen or authorized resident.

That means respecting the sanctity of churches and the security health care facilities and schools. There should be no invasions of schools, churches, health care facilities and other sensitive locations to haul out students, teachers, worshipers, patients and health care workers in the midst of performing vital functions of our society. The unchecked invasion of the sanctity of these places without judicial approval will certainly result in frightened children and young adults from attending school, sick and injured persons from seeking critical medical care before its too late and deny worshipers from seeking spiritual comfort in times of severe stress and moral dislocation. The very purposes of the existence of these special places will be denied the targets of immigration enforcement if they are vulnerable to invasion.

In light of the horrendous history of unlawful, abusive, violent and unconstitutional behavior of ICE, CBP and other federal immigration enforcement agencies, the State of Hawaii can never be allowed to aid, abet or be accomplices with those agents in the violation of the persons, property and constitutional rights of Hawai'i residents.

Any appearance, if not actual commission, of State personnel assisting federal agent in depriving Hawai'i residents, whether citizen or not, of their constitutional and civil rights is morally wrong and will irreparably undermine the trust between State personnel and local law enforcement and the People they serve and protect

For the reasons stated above, I urge your support for HB1870, HD1.

Francis M. Nakamoto, Moanalua Valley

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:21:15 PM

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

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

Comments:

HB1870 restores the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts, medical facilities, and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents are adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations, and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:45:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Bill 1870!

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 12:12:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Eisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee, I write you today in strong support of HB1870 as it relates to protected community locations.

This bill will protect access to schools, healthcare, shelters, and essential services without fear.

Builds trust so immigrant families can seek help, report crime, and access services.

Requires clear policies + annual training, improving consistency and accountability.

Strengthens data privacy protections for people accessing state-funded services.

No one should skip a doctor's appointment or school because they are scared of their own government kidnapping and/or harming them. We must protect these locations and make sure they remain safe spaces for immigrants and undocumented persons. Many times, the immigrants that ICE is picking up at these sensitive locations are going through the system the right way or here on asylum and are still being unlawfully snatched off the streets and put in detention camps with horrendous conditions. Please do something to put a stop to this inhumane treatment. I urge you to support HB1870.

Mahalo,

Mona Eisa, Honolulu, HI

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:04:38 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 5:52:20 AM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony of Gerald Montano

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is Gerald Montano, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

I am a pediatrician on Maui who cares for all children, including those with immigrant backgrounds. I am testifying as an individual

This measure protects access to essential services. Families should be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement. Related to my practice, if children do not receive health care due to fear of being detained, diseases can spread unchecked, creating a public health crisis.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gerald Montano, DO

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:23:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

ICE OUT NOW.

ICE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN ACCESS TO OUR SHARED, COMMUNAL, SAFE SPACES. THEY ARE THUGS AND SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED AT ALL, BUT ESPECIALLY NOT IN OUR COMMUNITY SPACES.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:38:09 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:39:50 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii’s residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JJ Wassell

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:42:52 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB1870 PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locatioins which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii’s residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Kelly Carranza Callan

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:46:05 AM

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

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

Comments:

The safety and health of Hawaii’s residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

I'm a member of East Hawaii indivisible

HB-1870-HD-1

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

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:04:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I write in strong support of HB1870 HD1.

HB1870 HD1 ensures that people can safely access schools, healthcare, shelters, and other essential services without fear of civil immigration enforcement. When families are afraid to seek help, everyone’s safety and wellbeing suffer.

This measure builds trust by setting clear statewide standards, requiring agency policies and training, and strengthening data privacy protections for people accessing state-funded services. These safeguards allow immigrant families to report crimes, seek care, and stabilize their lives without unnecessary fear or avoidance.

HB1870 HD1 promotes dignity, safety, and public health across Hawai‘i. I respectfully urge your support.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:07:18 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, with any amendments that strengthen and expand protections for children and families.

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support **HB 1870 HD1**, which establishes statewide standards to limit civil immigration enforcement in and near protected community locations and requires written policies, annual staff training, and data privacy protections for agencies operating these sites. These locations — including schools, healthcare facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship — must be places where families and children can access essential services without fear or harm.

To truly protect our keiki and families, I urge the Committee to **expand the bill’s definition of safe spaces** to explicitly include *after-school programs, community centers, youth shelters, and family support hubs*, and to **clarify designated hours of safety** so that protections extend during evenings, weekends, and school holidays when families and youth are most vulnerable. Clear, statewide guidance on safety hours ensures consistency across counties and services.

Importantly, comprehensive **training for all staff working at protected community locations** — not just administrative officials — is essential to *reduce community harm*. Training should include trauma-informed care, de-escalation techniques, anti-bias instruction, and culturally responsive practices that help staff support families experiencing stress, discrimination, or immigration-related fear. This furthers the intent of HB 1870 HD1 by promoting environments where children can learn, grow, and thrive without intimidation or danger.

Mahalo for considering these enhancements and for supporting community safety, inclusion, and wellbeing.

Respectfully,
Dana Fulton
Makawao, Maui

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:10:18 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB1870 PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. **The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.**

The safety and health of Hawaii’s residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. **In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.**

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Elizabeth Kamida

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:11:09 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this measure.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:22:35 AM

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

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

Comments:

HB1870 HD1 to create safe zones in essential. The egregious behavior of ICE is an attack on all people in communities. It should be absolute that schools, hospitals, mosques, churches, temples, clinics should be safe zones from the violence of stealing humans under immigration agencies. The shared humanity of health both intellectually, and spiritually should be a shared right. Protections must be set up and enforced to sheild community traumatization of immigration and law enforcement. What we see in the violence that seems to keep happening at our schools, churches, and health care facilities are American citizen by large. It is not immigrants that are the issue it is a corrupted systems of white supremacy that demonizes humanity that is the problem. Please pass HB 1870 to set the statewide rules to limit civil immigration enforcement at protected community locations. Agencies should be trained with community agencies of advocate at the table. Protect the long term trauma but protecting safe spaces. Be on the ethical and right side of humanity.
Thank you Pahnelopi McKenzie

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:34:32 AM

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

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

Comments:

I, Judith Mura Strongly Support HB1870

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:37:57 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:08:48 AM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI and I support HB1870.

I support this bill because:

- Protects access to schools, healthcare, shelters, and essential services without fear.
- Builds trust so immigrant families can seek help, report crime, and access services.
- Requires clear policies + annual training, improving consistency and accountability.
- Strengthens data privacy protections for people accessing state-funded services.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:15:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill, which is humane, greatly needed, and also throws sand in the machinery of oppression of the tyrannical Trump regime.

I support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:17:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:18:28 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts, medical facilities, and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa Valley

Testimony of Patrick Switzer
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing Date Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is Patrick Switzer and I submit this testimony in support of HB 1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

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

This measure protects human dignity by allowing our community members to access vital services without fear of exposure to civil immigration enforcement. If people avoid schools or healthcare facilities, their kids are going to end up ill-educated and more likely to suffer preventable poor health outcomes, which is not what we need, for those individuals, or for our community.

In my work as a nurse I have seen terrible health outcomes caused by delays of care because people can't afford to be treated, or can't get access to a primary doctor. We need to reduce barriers to care, not increase them.

I respectfully request that the Committee pass HB1870 HD1.

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

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:30:52 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am a member of the Hawai'i island community. I have a background in early childhood, birth work and currently serve the 'ōpio māhū/lgbtqia+ youth on this island.

ICE is a paramilitary force which doesn't follow laws, and is terrorizing communities across the continent and now also in Hawai'i Nei. Everyone is being traumatized, but with no exception the children. There ought to be places we clearly prohibit their presence. We look to you to use your full powers to stop this.

Mahalo nui.

Me Ke aloha,

Allison Shiozaki

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:31:45 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:36:11 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

Please vote yes and move the bill forward.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:40:56 AM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony of Nancy Convard, Community Member

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is Nancy Convard, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

I am a community member concerned about the excesses of the current federal administration in violation of constitutional protections. I am testifying as an individual with immigrant family members.

This measure protects access to essential services. Families should be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nancy Convard

nconvard@gmail.com; 202-288-8822

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:41:06 AM

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

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

Comments:

In support

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:11:46 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii’s residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 would require state and county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter,

Christopher Davis

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:47:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I submit testimony in strong support of HB 1870. This bill ensures that schools, health care facilities, libraries, places of worship, and other essential community spaces remain safe and accessible to all residents of Hawai‘i.

By establishing clear statewide standards that limit state and county participation in civil immigration enforcement in and around protected community locations, this measure helps prevent fear from interfering with access to education, health care, public services, and the free exercise of religion. These protections are especially important following the rescission of federal guidance that previously recognized sensitive locations.

HB 1870 strikes an appropriate balance by respecting federal authority while clearly defining the responsibilities of state actors and contractors. In doing so, it strengthens public trust, supports public health and safety, and upholds Hawai‘i’s values of dignity, equity, and inclusion.

I respectfully urge your support for this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:04:35 AM

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

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

Comments:

Strongly support limitations on ICE ability to deport, including safe spaces and non-cooperation of HI police

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:30:17 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in support of HB1870, setting statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. Our schools, healthcare facilities, churches, and other support services need to be seen as safe and accessible for all residents, regardless of documentation or citizenship. This is simple aloha.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock, Kailua Kona

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:42:53 AM

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

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

Comments:

Please expedite approval of HB1870 - it's one of our most urgent priorities this session to protect "safe spaces" from federal immigration enforcement overreach and disregard for rule of law, human dignity, and spirit of aloha. Mahalo, Patti Cook

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:44:02 AM

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

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

Comments:

Please pass!

Judith White, Kapaa

Member Kauai Indivisible

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:53:30 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1870 HD1

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 12:00:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

We lost fFederal protection here. But we can , unde the 10th Amendment, restore it. I strongly support this bill.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 12:03:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

Larry Smith

Nuuanu

Member Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 12:45:39 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony of Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is Ellen R. Caringer, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

I am a clinical psychologist and I am testifying as an individual. This measure protects access to essential services. Families should be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

drcaringer@gmail.com

808-281-7463

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:27:53 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony of Peter Matlock

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1 to establish statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

I am a resident of Hawai'i Island and do not want to see our protected community spaces be threatened and invaded by what is effectively DHS secret police.

Please protect our families and individuals by enabling them to seek medical care, education, and social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter Matlock

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:32:44 PM

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

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

Comments:

no one should be afraid to go to school or hospitsl

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:38:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locatioins which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, as it does not have direct authority over federal agents. This Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
DATE: Friday February 13
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325
FROM: Elaine Chan, MD

Re: PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Position: SUPPORT

I am a practicing OB-GYN physician in Hawai'i. I want to express my support for HB1870 related to Protected Community Locations.

HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai'i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay medical care, avoid school engagement, and skip emergency support. That harms not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire state.

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;
- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

Importantly, HB1870 does not obstruct federal officers acting within lawful authority. Instead, it clarifies what state actors and recipients of state funds may and may not do, ensuring our public institutions remain accessible and trusted.

As a physician I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1870 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Elaine Chan, MD

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:49:08 PM

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

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

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, I strongly support protecting our children from ICE abuse via this bill

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:49:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ricardo Molero Bravo. HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai‘i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay care, avoid school engagement, and skip emergency support. That harms not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire state.

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;
- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

Importantly, HB1870 does not obstruct federal officers acting within lawful authority. Instead, it clarifies what state actors and recipients of state funds may and may not do, ensuring our public institutions remain accessible and trusted.

I urge you to pass HB1870

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing Date: Feb 13, 2026

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

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD1, which establishes statewide standards for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide education, health, and social services.

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

I strongly support HB1870 because this measure protects access to essential services. Families must be able to take children to school, seek medical care, and access social services without fear that simply entering a state-funded location will expose them to civil immigration enforcement.

When people avoid schools or clinics because of fear, the consequences ripple across Hawai'i: worse public health outcomes, disrupted education, and increased vulnerability to exploitation. Setting clear statewide standards also helps state-funded providers by giving them guidance and consistency.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD1, to keep all persons who call Hawai'i home safe and protected under the law. In Hawai'i we are more than neighbors, we are 'ohana. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wendy Naomi Sodetani

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

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 1:57:41 PM

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

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

Comments:

To: HOUSE JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Hon. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Hon. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

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

Hearing: Friday, Feb 13, 2026 — 2 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Budd

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

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 2:03:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1870 HD1 because I believe it is a vital common-sense public safety and public health measure for the people of our island home. Mahalo for your consideration.

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

Testimony of Joey Badua

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD1

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

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

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

I strongly support this bill because setting statewide standard procedures for agencies and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations is necessary in the state of the times. The state has to be proactive in how it thinks of its policies and training, making sure they are clear for the employees so they can be applied consistently. Having clear standards also increase public trust for the community who can hold them accountable if practices stray away from the standard.

As a community member, protecting access to schools, healthcare, shelters and essential services must include protecting private data for those who access them. Funding for training and enforcement is necessary to ensure community members are afforded the education, health and social services that are much needed.

Fear during these times is justified given what is happening. However, the Aloha state can keep essential services functioning for everyone by supporting this bill. This adds stability to our families, and healthy children who will grow up knowing that you had their back during these tumultuous times. Do not turn your back on them.

Thus,

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 3:33:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts, medical facilities, and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations, and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 6:52:14 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB 1780

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:05:12 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB 1870

please if needed make safe protected areas be courthouse property

church property

school property

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:15:00 PM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Melissa Baylor and I support this bill.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:37:42 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, it is important to community wellbeing for there to exist safe places, without disruption, violation of privacy and safety from brutality.

Appreciate your favorable action on this Bill, which i strongly support.

thank you.

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 11:00:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am a long term resident of Oahu and a local attorney, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of proposed bill HB1870 HD1 to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, such as, but not limited to schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship. Protected community locations or "safe spaces" exist to ensure that every member of our community can seek education, medical and mental healthcare, justice, and spiritual guidance without fear. Allowing warrantless and/or other enforcement actions in these sensitive locations erodes our fundamental Constitutional rights of freedom of association, worship, and travel; discourages families and hardworking individuals from accessing essential services; and undermines public health and safety for everyone. Requiring a judicial warrant does not prevent lawful enforcement; it simply ensures accountability, oversight, and adherence to constitutional protections. By passing this bill, Hawaii will affirm its commitment to preservation of federal and state Constitutional rights which exist to protect all persons present in the United States, regardless of citizenship status, community stability, the fundamental principle that essential institutions must remain accessible to all, and the dignity of all human beings regardless of race, color, language or immigration status.

Mahalo,

Ann McIntire

HB-1870-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 11:50:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT