

JON N. IKENAGA  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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

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

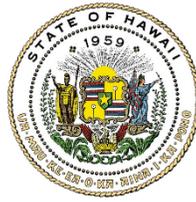
**APPELLATE DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2080

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

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

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

**FACSIMILE**  
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAII  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

HAYLEY Y. C. CHENG  
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

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

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

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

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

**March 4, 2026**

**HB 1870 HD 2: RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS**

**Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on Finance:**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports** HB 1870 HD 2 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 requiring a judicial warrant for access to nonpublic areas and reinforcing safeguards around the collection of immigration-related information, the measure supports constitutional protections and promotes public trust in public institutions

For these reasons, the OPD **supports** HB 1870 HD 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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

**Date:** 03/05/2026

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** FIN

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB1870, HD2, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors, 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. (HD2)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to respectfully provide comments for HB 1870, HD 2.

The Department recognizes the Legislature's intention to maintain schools as safe and accessible learning environments for all students. In this proposed measure, any facility operated by the state, such as K-12 public schools, are identified as "protected community locations," 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 notes that several of the safety and access measures described in the bill are already reflected in existing Department procedures and guidance.

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.

With respect to interactions with law enforcement on campus, the Department

maintains guidance that designates the school principal, or a designee, as the point of contact for law enforcement requests. These procedures also provide for notification through the principal's chain of command and coordination with the Department of the Attorney General when appropriate. In addition, the Department maintains counseling and behavioral health resources to respond to and mitigate potential impacts on students if law enforcement activities occur at or near school campuses.

The Department respectfully notes that implementation of the bill may require additional operational guidance, particularly regarding the definition of a "protected perimeter," which extends one thousand feet beyond the boundaries of a protected community location and may include areas such as streets, sidewalks, and other public spaces that are outside the Department's jurisdiction or control. Clarification regarding the scope of responsibilities for state agencies within these areas may assist with consistent implementation across school campuses statewide.

Finally, the Department defers to the Attorney General's office for guidance as to the implementation of this measure, including the verification of judicial warrants and documentation procedures referenced in the bill. Coordination with the Attorney General's office will help ensure that any required policies, training, and reporting processes are implemented consistently across the Department's schools and offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to HB 1870, HD 2.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI  
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**House Committee on Finance**  
**Thursday, March 5, 2026**  
2:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

**Measure: House Bill 1870 HD2, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

**Purpose of Measure:**

Establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors, 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.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Education (Board) greatly appreciates the Legislature's concern regarding the safety of our students, and supports House Bill 1870 HD2, noting that the Hawaii Department of Education currently has procedures and guidance in place to respond to law enforcement activity, including that of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE officials have been regularly conducting activities in and around school campuses throughout the country, which has created an atmosphere of fear and anxiety in public spaces within which children should feel safest. Such activities are also having a devastating impact on teachers and their ability to do their jobs at these schools, as described in testimony through an emergency motion filed in federal court by the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers.

Having recognized the ramifications early on, the Board passed a resolution at its April 10, 2025, general business meeting, declaring that Department schools “should be places where its students can learn and thrive free of fear, conflict, and stress.” The resolution also states the Board’s:

- Denouncement of “immigration and enforcement activity at Department schools unless exigent circumstances exist, such as those that relate to preservation of life or prevention of catastrophic outcomes, as has been defined by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or applicable state and federal law”; and
- Recognition and support of the Department's current policy to not ask families for their immigration status and to not record such information in student records, as it has no bearing on the responsibility to keep all of our students safe and empower them to innovate, serve, and lead,

which align with the measure’s current purpose and intent.

The Board defers to the Department regarding its procedures and guidance that addresses conduct at schools by all law enforcement agencies.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Board.



# 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 Finance  
March 5, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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

#### HB 1870 HD2 – RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) would like to provide comments on HB 1870 HD2 – 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.

UH appreciates the inclusion of language in Section -2(b)(4) clarifying that the measure does not restrict the University of Hawai'i from "[a]cting as otherwise required by federal or state law." This new section allows UH and other state agencies to comply with mandatory federal contractor certifications or other conditions tied to federal funding. This clarification also allows UH and other state agencies to comply with federal employment laws, participate in I-9 audits, and provide documentation supporting non-immigrant visas. Despite this, we hope that the language can be further expanded.

To make clear that "civil immigration enforcement" does not include the normal, regulatory functions of federal immigration authorities, a specific carve-out or caveat could be added to the definition of the term. 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. Despite the catchall exception added in Section -2(b)(4), UH respectfully requests 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.

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. As we have noted in past testimony, 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.

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.



March 3, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1870 HD2**, Relating to Protected Community Locations

**To:** Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

**Re:** Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1870 HD2**, Relating to Protected Community Locations

Hearing: Thursday, March 5, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308, 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 HD2.**

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 medical care, educational opportunities, and protection from violence, due to concerns about immigration status. This is particularly impactful for women, who may be disproportionately affected by barriers to accessing reproductive health care, domestic or sexual violence support, and other critical resources.

By requiring agencies to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, the bill takes important steps to foster trust between service providers and the communities they serve. **These measures align with the Commission’s goals to eliminate barriers to safety and empowerment for all women, regardless of 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 HD2.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



The House Committee on Finance  
March 5, 2026  
Room 308  
2:00 PM

RE: **HB 1870 HD2, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Attention: Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, 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 HD2.**

We extend our appreciation to the prior committee for incorporating our requested amendments into the HD2 draft. We are pleased that Section -6 now removes undefined "penalties" and explicitly establishes a "good faith" safe harbor. This protection is critical as our members are educators and researchers, not legal experts trained to distinguish between administrative and judicial warrants while facing armed federal agents. The amended language in HD2 rightfully ensures that faculty will not face personal liability for honest mistakes or for prioritizing the safety of their students during high-pressure encounters.

Ultimately, educational environments must remain safe, accessible spaces where all residents can seek services without the fear or intimidation that often accompanies immigration enforcement actions. By establishing clear protocols and protecting the workers tasked with implementing them, this measure ensures that our students, faculty, and the broader community can pursue education without a chilling effect.

**UHPA supports the passage of HB 1870 HD2.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



Committee: House Committee on Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 5, 2026 2:00 pm  
Place: Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 1870, HD2, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") I write in strong support of H.B. 1870, HD2, which sets protective standards for immigration enforcement in community areas that are especially sensitive.

HB1870, HD2 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.
- **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.
- **Protects 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.
- **Establishes 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, this measure 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, HD2.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mandy Fernandes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

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.*



March 5, 2026 at 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 308

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Chair Chris Todd  
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1870 HD 2, 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 BILL 1870, HD2, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

MARCH 5, 2026 · FIN HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 1870, HD2, relating to protected community locations, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors, 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 protections.

All students, regardless of immigration status, should be able to access education safely, without fear, and in alignment with longstanding constitutional and civil rights protections. A growing body of research shows that immigration enforcement actions—including raids and arrests in communities surrounding schools—have direct and measurable impacts on student attendance, academic performance, and mental health. According to a 2025 study by Stanford University researcher Thomas Dee, immigration raids in California's Central Valley were associated with a 22 percent increase in student absences, with even larger increases among younger students, demonstrating the immediate educational disruption caused by enforcement actions.

Additional national research confirms that these effects are not isolated. According to a November 2025 analysis published by The Journalist's Resource, immigration enforcement crackdowns in

Kris Coffield, Chairperson • Camron Hurt, Vice Chairperson •  
Amy Perruso and Justin Hughey, SCC Members

2025 led to spikes in student absenteeism in California and measurable declines in student test scores in Florida, indicating that enforcement actions affect academic performance across multiple states. These impacts extend beyond students directly targeted by ICE enforcement. According to research summarized by Chalkbeat in 2025, increases in immigration arrests caused test score declines even among U.S. citizen students in affected communities, particularly in high-poverty schools, demonstrating a broad “spillover effect” where fear and instability disrupt learning for entire classrooms.

School leaders across the country are reporting these consequences in real time. According to a 2025 EdWeek Research Center survey, nearly half of educators working with immigrant families reported that students expressed fear or anxiety due to immigration enforcement, and about one-quarter reported reduced attendance and student disengagement in the classroom. The effects on school communities are also visible in large-scale attendance disruptions following high-profile enforcement actions. According to reporting by ABC News and other outlets, immigration enforcement operations in major cities have been linked to declines in school enrollment and attendance, including thousands of students missing school due to fear of immigration arrests in their communities.

Recent news coverage highlights the severity of these disruptions. For example, in 2025, immigration raids in Charlotte, North Carolina led to more than 30,000 students missing school in a single district, while enforcement activity near schools has triggered lockdowns, community panic, and long-term trauma for students and families. Research also shows that the psychological toll on students is significant. According to child development experts writing in Greater Good Magazine in 2026, immigration raids are inflicting “a terrible toll on children’s mental health and education,” with families creating contingency plans in case parents are detained and students experiencing sustained stress that affects their ability to learn.

These outcomes are consistent with broader findings that immigration enforcement can create a “chilling effect” on school participation. According to the American Immigration Council in 2025, families in affected communities have pulled children out of school out of fear that a parent or child could be detained, illustrating how enforcement actions undermine access to education on a national scale. Importantly, these harms occur even when enforcement actions do not take

place directly on school campuses. The proximity of enforcement to school environments, or the fear that it could occur, is sufficient to disrupt attendance, learning, and well-being. Federal policy changes in 2025 rescinded prior guidance discouraging immigration enforcement in “sensitive locations” such as schools and churches, increasing anxiety among school communities.

This measure addresses these harms by affirming that Hawai‘i schools must remain safe, welcoming spaces dedicated to learning, not sites of enforcement actions that disrupt students’ education and well-being. The bill aligns with constitutional principles, including the Supreme Court’s decision in *Plyler v. Doe*, which affirmed that all children—regardless of immigration status—have the right to access public education.

Protecting students from the harms of immigration enforcement is not only a matter of civil rights, but also of sound educational policy. Students cannot learn effectively when they are afraid, distracted, or absent from school. Teachers cannot teach effectively when classrooms are destabilized by trauma and uncertainty. Communities cannot thrive when children are denied consistent access to a quality education.

**Contact: [educationcaucusdph@gmail.com](mailto:educationcaucusdph@gmail.com) · 808-679-7454**



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB1870, HD2 RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS**

**REP. CHRIS TODD, CHAIR  
REP. JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE-CHAIR**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**SHAWN BENTON  
WILLIAM KANEKO  
CO-CHAIRS**

**HAWAII COALITION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Hearing Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026, 2:00 pm**

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Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Coalition for Civil Rights (HCCR) is a coalition of over 100+ leading social justice, civil rights, and immigration organizations and individuals, including the ACLU of Hawai'i, Japanese American Citizens League, J20+, The Legal Clinic, NAPABA Hawai'i, and others. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of HB1870, HD2 Relating to Protected Community Locations.

**The Need for Protected Community Locations**

Protected community locations—including schools, healthcare facilities, courthouses, and other essential public service sites—play a critical role in the daily lives of all Hawai'i residents. When community members fear potential immigration enforcement at these locations, they may avoid seeking essential services, which can result in serious public health and safety consequences for individuals and our broader communities.

Hawai'i is home to large Filipino, Micronesian, Marshallese, and other Pacific Islander immigrant communities who rely on state and county services. Fear of enforcement at protected locations causes measurable, real-world harm—families avoiding medical care, children kept home from school, survivors of violence who stay away from shelters. This bill directly addresses that harm by ensuring that accessing essential services does not come with the risk of immigration enforcement.

**Clarifying State and Local Roles**

HB1870, HD2 provides much-needed clarity for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors regarding their roles and responsibilities. By establishing statewide standards and requiring written policies and training, this measure ensures consistent practices across all jurisdictions and reduces confusion and potential liability for our public servants.

The bill appropriately recognizes the distinction between civil immigration enforcement—a federal responsibility—and state and local functions related to public safety, health, education, and other essential services. It does not impede federal immigration authorities from carrying out their duties but rather establishes appropriate limits on state and local participation in civil enforcement activities.

HB1870, HD2 reflects Hawai'i's commitment to ensuring that all residents can safely access essential public services and that our state and local agencies can effectively carry out their missions. By establishing clear standards for protected community locations, this legislation promotes public health, safety, and trust while providing necessary clarity and resources for our public servants.

We respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1870, HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1870, HD2  
RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.**

**Committee on Finance**  
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026 | Letter Date: March 3, 2026

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) strongly supports HB1870, HD2, 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 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, HD2 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 HD2 amendments improve the bill's clarity and implementation by establishing consistent compliance requirements across state and county agencies, refining the scope of covered entities and providing additional guidance regarding enforcement and good faith compliance. These provisions help ensure fair and effective implementation statewide.

HB 1870, HD2 strengthens community safety and recognizes that access to essential services benefits all residents. We urge the Committee to pass this bill.

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

Christina Sablan  
Community & Policy Advocate

*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, Member

**Re: HB1870 Relating to Protected Community Locations: AG; DOE; SPCSC; UH; HHSC; HSPLS; HIEMA;  
Civil Immigration Enforcement; Protected Community Locations  
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 HD2.

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 HD2 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 HD2 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)



**House Committee on Finance**  
**March 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM**  
**Room 308**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

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Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 HD2**, 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,<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> "Immigrants in Hawaii." *American Immigration Council*, 2026, [map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/hawaii/](https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/hawaii/). Accessed 3 Feb. 2026.

<sup>2</sup> 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/](https://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.



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

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

Representative Todd, Chair  
Representative Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026, 2pm Room 308

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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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[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

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.



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto: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-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:25:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Munkelt	Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2 for the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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 HD2 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 HD2 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.

**Testimony of Megahn Chun & Alejandro Villarino  
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

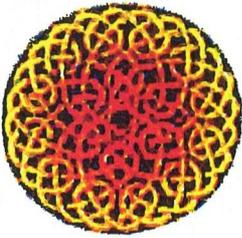
We are partners in life and in community work, and co-founders of Mercado de la Raza, a space created to uplift and support Hawai'i's Latino community. Beyond operating a small business, we have worked together to connect families with critical resources during times of crisis — including helping Latino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

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



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

*1100 Alakea Street, FL 20, STE B*

*Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026, 2:00 PM Conf. Rm. 308

### Re: FUJIWARA & ROSENBAUM Testimony in Strong Support with Proposed Amendments of H.B. 1870, H.D. 2, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takemouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C., a civil rights law firm originally established in 1986, submits this testimony in **strong support** of HB 1870 HD2, **with proposed amendments to strengthen the bill's protections**. We have seen firsthand how fear of government authority silences the most vulnerable members of our community, and we recognize this bill as a meaningful step toward ensuring that all residents of Hawai'i can access essential services without that fear.

#### **The Bill Addresses a Real and Urgent Threat**

HB 1870 HD2 responds directly to the January 2025 rescission of federal guidance that had previously designated schools, hospitals, and houses of worship as "sensitive" locations shielded from civil immigration enforcement. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs correctly found that "recent changes in federal guidance regarding civil immigration enforcement have created uncertainty for state and county agencies" and that clear statewide standards are needed "to protect public health, safety, welfare, and civil rights." We agree. When Hawai'i residents fear that seeking medical care or enrolling their children in school could lead to detention, the entire community suffers. **Hawai'i's Constitution, with its express guarantees of privacy under Article I, Section 6, and its broad equal protection provisions**, demands that our State act where the federal government has retreated.

The **bill's core protections are sound**. It prohibits state actors and state contractors from providing "access to nonpublic areas of a protected community location for civil immigration enforcement purposes," from collecting "personal or identifying information for civil immigration enforcement purposes," and from facilitating "interviews or surveillance for civil immigration enforcement purposes." The bill's requirement that agencies adopt written policies, train staff annually, and post multilingual notices stating that "services are provided regardless of immigration status" will bring clarity to frontline workers and reassurance to community members.

The bill is also carefully constructed to avoid federal preemption. It regulates only "the conduct of state actors and state contractors" and explicitly does not "obstruct federal officers acting within their lawful authority." It preserves the ability to respond to imminent threats to life or safety, execute judicial warrants, and perform duties unrelated to immigration enforcement.

#### **Proposed Amendments to Strengthen the Bill**

Despite these strengths, several provisions require amendment to ensure the bill delivers on its promise:

1. **The effective date must be changed.** Section 8 sets an effective date of "July 1, 3000," a standard legislative placeholder indicating the date has not yet been set. Given the urgency of the federal policy changes that prompted this bill, we urge the Committee to set a meaningful effective date of July 1, 2026, so that protections are in place before the start of the next school year.
2. **The state contractor threshold is too high; reduce substantially or eliminate entirely.** The bill defines "state contractor" as an entity with a contract "in excess of \$1,000,000 per year." Many smaller nonprofits and social service providers that deliver critical services to immigrant communities, including domestic violence shelters, legal aid organizations, and community health clinics, operate on contracts well below that figure. These are precisely the locations where residents are most vulnerable. We recommend **reducing the threshold to less than \$60,000, or eliminating the dollar threshold entirely** and **covering all entities providing services on behalf of the State.**
3. **The enforcement provision lacks teeth.** The Committee amended the bill to remove the requirement to issue penalties for violations and added a broad good faith defense for state actors who rely on "what appears to be a valid judicial warrant" or who act "under duress or a reasonable fear for the state actor's safety." ***Without meaningful consequences, this bill risks becoming aspirational rather than enforceable.*** We urge the Committee —
  - To restore a **graduated penalty framework** and
  - Add a **private right of action for individuals harmed by violations**, consistent with Hawai'i's tradition of empowering residents to vindicate their own civil rights.
  - **Narrowly define** the good faith and duress exceptions to prevent them from swallowing the rule.
4. **The data privacy provision should be strengthened.** Section 5 prohibits inquiry into immigration or citizenship status "except as required by law or as necessary to provide the requested service." The Committee removed the original prohibition on maintaining such information. This creates a **gap**: agencies may not ask about status, but if they acquire status information incidentally, nothing prevents them from retaining or sharing it. We recommend **restoring protections against retention and adding an explicit prohibition on disclosing immigration-status information to federal authorities absent a judicial warrant.**

## Conclusion

HB 1870 HD2 reflects Hawai'i's longstanding commitment to protecting the dignity and rights of every person within our borders. The broad coalition of support confirms that this bill reflects the will and values of our community. **With the amendments** we propose, this bill can move from a statement of principle to **a truly functioning shield for the residents who need it most.** We respectfully urge this Committee to pass HB 1870 HD2 with these amendments. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



MARCH 5, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 1870, HD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: FIN

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

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Imua Alliance supports HB 1870, HD2, relating to protected community locations, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors, 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 protections.

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

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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 FINANCE  
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HEARING:  
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:00 pm

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 1870, HD2, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Reps. Miyake and Yamashita 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, HD2**, 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, HD2**, 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 1870, HD2**.

Sinceramente,

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

Veronica Mendoza  
Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*  
El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: **HB1870 HD2 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**  
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
March 5, 2026, 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, contractors, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. It 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 and appropriate funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

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

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:37:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB1870 HD2

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:39:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870. 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:40:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of 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.

Gail Morrison, Honolulu 96815

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:41:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:23:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Carolyn Eaton. I am a resident of Honolulu, and I wish to express my strong support for this measure.

Civil immigration enforcement by federal agents has been front and center in other states and the District of Columbia in the past months. Your support of this measure will help protect residents in Hawai'i from the brutality of the quota-driven roundups, accompanied in Minneapolis by killing citizen observers. Those in detention we have seen shipped far from their families and communities to uncaring, commercial jailers in distant locations, some to be tortured or to languish and die. All without due process.

This measure will become law quickly, I hope, to spare Hawai'i this horror. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony in this matter.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:46:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aimee E McCullough	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.

Aimee McCullough, PsyD



**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:16:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for HB1870 (PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT)**

**It is crucial that HI state legislators do the right thing, even if they are scared to do so. That is the definition of bravery: doing something that is not considered safe. The state of HI must do everything it can to restore our protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts, medical facilities, and other sensitive locations, which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.**

**The removal of "sensitive locations" by the Trump administration has already led to people staying away from their doctors, hospitals, places of worship, and schools. This is absolutely unacceptable. Not only is it terrifying for those directly targeted, it is also destructive for the fabric of our connections to one another.**

**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, however, this Bill will restore as much as we can, and require training on implementation with state and county agencies.**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:07:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and House Finance Committee Members - May I please urge this committee to expedite approval of this bill (HD2) - the amendments that have occurred are appropriate and strengthen implementation. This bill providing "safe spaces" for our community - especially undocumented residents but in fact, all residents - is critical this session due to the extraordinary funding provided to DHS/HSI/ICE etc for immigration enforcement by Congress and the ruthless actions of federal leadership and agents that ignore rule of law. Mahalo for your time and consideration. These are not ordinary times and Hawai'i has and is experiencing federal overreach, resulting in arrests, removals, disappearances, incarcerations and deportations that are also sending shock waves of fear and severe family and economic disruption right here in Hawai'i, not just Minnesota, etc.

Patti Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:56:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY SUUPPORT HB1870 HD2

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:47:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill!

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:15:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting this essential effort to limit the negative impact of ICE in our communities as all people, regardless of immigration status, must feel safe accessing such places. The state must back organizations that are looking for this kind of public support -- now, not later; proactively, not after harm is done.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:31:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Gollin	Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gollin

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:20:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! I very strongly support HB1870. As a retired police officer, I am disgusted at how ICE and CBP agents have carried out their duties. The blatant crimes, rights violations, and police procedure violations committed by these unprofessionals is appalling. They more resemble thugs than professional police officers, so their authority should be limited as much as possible. They should not be able to enforce the law in vulnerable locations such as hospitals and schools. Mahalo!

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 5:48:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:14:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Legislators, My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI. I support HB1870 HD2 that establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors, 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.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:39:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Collat	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.

Aloha, Michael

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:47:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	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.**

**Jane Aquino**

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
March 3, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Representative Jenna Takenouch, Vice-Chair,  
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Aloha, Representatives,

**I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1870 HD2, 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. Non-public areas must be protected.

As this bill indicates, law enforcement activities by State employees and contractors 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 HD2**.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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



**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:29:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1870.

I'm a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:44:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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.

Mahalo!.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:50:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jaymen Laupola	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.

Jaymen Laupola

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:51:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristy Gund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1870 both as a private citizen of Hawaii as well as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). ICE actions in protected community locations should be met with informed and standard responses from state and local officials. Schools, churches, medical facilities and other sensitive locations should be protected from immigration enforcement to preserve the health and safety of Hawaii's residents and to allow noncitizen residents to get food, medical care, go to school, appear in court and access other fundamental services without fear of deportation. All persons have rights under our federal constitution and yet these are aggressively and irresponsibly being ignored by ICE and other federal agents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:00:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony of Kevin Block**

**In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

**Committee on Finance,**

**Representative Chris Todd, Chair**

**Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: March 5, 2026**

**Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,**

**My name is Kevin Block, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD2, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations.**

**I have been an attorney in private practice with a focus on immigration for over a decade. I have seen first hand the devastation caused by the repeated trauma's that our community has endured including COVID and the fire and now this enforcement in safe locations. If there is no respect for the sanctity of churches, schools, hispitals and courthouses then a huge swath of our community will withdraw from participation in civic life and we will all suffer. Enforcement at churches is immoral and enforcement at hospitals and schools is inhumane.**

**This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD2 and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Kevin Block, Attorney at Law**

**Maui Immigration Law, LLC**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:15:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takanouchi and members of the Committee on Finance

My name is Francis Nakamoto and I support HB1870 HD2, 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, HD2.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:31:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Samuel Mitchell, and I support preventing ICE from arresting persons in Hawaii who are attending protests, farmers' markets, churches, hospitals, hardware stores, supermarkets, doctors' and medical offices, drug stores, police stations, courts, etc.

ICE needs to stop wearing masks, show their name and badge number, and when arresting someone, they need to have a valid arrest warrant signed by a judge, and post where the person is being held, for how long, and how to get in touch with them.

Samuel Mitchell

Makiki NB-10

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:38:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Lynn Otaguro and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

As a former teacher, I understand the importance of keeping schools as a safe place for learning for children and for gathering for families. HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:40:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mona Eisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write you today in strong support of HB1870 HD2 as it relates to protected community locations.

People must be able to access schools, healthcare, shelters, and essential services without fear. This bill creates consistent statewide standards so agencies know what to do—and families know they can seek help safely.

This matters because when immigrant and mixed-status families fear civil immigration enforcement near essential services, they avoid care, school engagement, and help-seeking. That increases harm, undermines public health and safety, and weakens community trust. Clear rules and training reduce confusion and inconsistent practices.

It is for these reasons that I strongly support HB1870 HD2 and ask that you do the same.

Mahalo,

Mona Eisa, Honolulu HI

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:09:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christian Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,**

**My name is Christian Marquez, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD2, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.**

**HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.**

**This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1870 HD2 and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Christian Marquez**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:43:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and Members of the House Finance Committee:

**I SUPPORT** HB 1870, H.D. 2, relating to Protected Community Locations.

In January 2025, the federal government rescinded longstanding guidance protecting sensitive locations from immigration enforcement. HB 1870 restores that protection in Hawai‘i state law, ensuring that schools, health clinics, libraries, shelters, and places of worship remain safe and accessible to all residents regardless of immigration status.

Fear of immigration enforcement at these locations causes real harm--children kept home from school, families avoiding medical care, survivors of violence staying away from shelters. This bill directly addresses that harm. The bill regulates only state actors and contractors, does not obstruct federal officers acting within their lawful authority, and requires a valid judicial warrant for access to nonpublic areas. I urge the Committee to pass HB 1870, H.D. 2.

Mahalo,

Melanie Lau, MD

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 7:47:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Alyce Dodge, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

I am an educator and resident of Honolulu.

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2** and fully fund its implementation.

Mahalo,

Alyce Dodge

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:49:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a very important bill which protects community locations.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:49:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 2:11:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1870, both personally and as a member of Indivisible Hawai'i State Network. This bill would add a new chapter to the HRS to establish state wide standards to agencies, officials, employees and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigrant enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigrant 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 Hawai'i's residents is adversely effected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE & 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.

HB 1870 would require state & county agents and employees to implement the protected location requirements by refusing entry of immigration authorities into non-public spaces. The state can not 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**Testimony of Terrina Wong  
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Terrina Wong, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

I am the retired Deputy Director of Immigration Services at Pacific Gateway Center. I am testifying as an individual who has worked for close to 15 years providing direct client assistance and language access to the foreign born in our state. I know first-hand the importance of helping immigrant communities rebuild their lives in Hawaii and the necessity of working directly with schools, healthcare, shelters, to ensure their safety and well-being to give this vulnerable sector a strong sense of belonging to our community.

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Terrina Wong

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 5:39:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Belinda Pate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i'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.

Belinda Pate, Nurse Practitioner

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 7:09:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870. 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.

Kate Dickson

Waikiki

## Testimony of In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I am a teacher at Waipahu High School. I submit this testimony as an individual and in **support of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

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.

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:41:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:51:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1870 HD2

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:57:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani**  
**In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires state and county agencies that operate protected community locations to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

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, and now volunteer at, a community health center in Kalihi caring for vulnerable underserved populations, primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant families. We provide wraparound social as well as clinical services for community youth and elders, coordinating closely with local schools.

Our patients and their families now live in fear of deportation and being torn from their families here, and many often stay home from work, from school and their medical appointments.

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:01:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is John Williamson. I live in House District 22, Precinct 3, and am a long-time member of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB1870 HD2 to keep protected community locations and those they serve safe and free from the threat of harmful, unnecessary and unlawful activities by any government entity or employees of such government entities, especially agents of DHS, DOJ and the FBI.

Mahalo nui for your support of this important legislation and for providing me the opportunity to testify on it.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:13:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing 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.

Robert Justice, M.D., Kapolei

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:19:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Micaela Hines and I encourage you to please support HB1870 HD2. Mahalo.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:34:47 AM

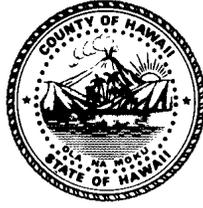
Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denize Machit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for letting me express my full support for bill HB1870.

All persons have rights in this country. For me, how we treat our most vulnerable people is a direct consequence of who we are. We can't allow what is happening in other states to happen here. Ohana is one of our most sacred words. We don't tear families apart. Please vote yes and protect our Ohana from these pointless attacks. Protect the places where ohana's exist.



## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: March 4, 2026  
TO: House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: HB1870

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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

March 4, 2026

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of House Finance Committee

Re: SUPPORT HB 1870D2

Hearing: Thursday, March 5, 2026 — 2PM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members

My name is John M. Knox, a retired socio-economic consultant and longtime Waimānalo resident. I am also a member of both the Hawai'i Indivisible and Hawai'i ACLU organizations.

I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1870D2.

The report of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs on this bill perfectly and succinctly captured the core reason for my support: "... community spaces must remain safe and accessible so that residents can obtain essential services without fear or hesitation." I also appreciated that Committee's amendments in D2, especially the one "Requiring the Attorney General to publish model policies for adoption by all state and county agencies that operate protected community locations"

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

Sincerely,

John M. Knox  
Waimānalo  
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:23:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

please support this to keep some places ssfe

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:52:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1870 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.

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

### HEARING:

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 1870, HD2, RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Rep. Miyake representing my district, Rep. Yamashita of Upcountry 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, HD2**, relating to protected community locations. House Bill 1870, HD2 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, HD2 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 am a volunteer Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide. I have trained 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 few months, 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 activity 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 I help participants take their newly-learned understanding of our constitutional rights and engage with it practically in the real world to integrate asserting these rights in our roles 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, HD2** 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 2:39:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 2:54:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aliza Gebin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha,**

**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.**

**Mahalo,**

**Aliza Gebin**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/5/2026 7:45:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elena Arinaga	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.

Elena Arinaga

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/5/2026 8:01:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a teacher, I need my students to feel safe. If I have an emergency, I should feel safe in the hospital or clinic that I go to. If my neighbor wants to go to worship with their community, they should feel protected. The current administration has taken all of these safety protections away.

As a state, we can restore these safe spaces. Please support HB1870 and show us that you care about the people of THIS land over the terror of the US government.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/5/2026 9:10:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident, a registered voter, and a member of IndivisibleHawaii.

I am strongly in support of HP1970 HD2. It is imperative that we limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, such as schools, churches, courts, medical facilities and other sensitive locations. 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.

Please provide the non-public area protections that HP 1970 HD2 would provide.

Thank you.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/5/2026 11:41:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CAMILLE CHUN-HOON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Late Testimony of Camille Chun-Hoon

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Camille Chun-Hoon and I submit this testimony as an individual in **support of HB1870 HD2.**

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access essential services—like schools, healthcare, shelters, and other critical supports—without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they may avoid care, avoid school engagement, and avoid calling for help. This harms public health and safety for everyone.

This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff understand what to do, and communities understand what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies and

annual training improves consistency and accountability, and strong data privacy protections reduce the risk of harm for people accessing services. By funding implementation through the Attorney General, HB1870 HD2 supports statewide coordination and effective, lawful practices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Camille Chun-Hoon