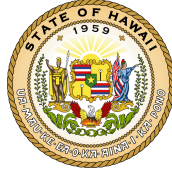


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI  
CHAIRPERSON

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

**Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Thursday, March 19, 2026  
3:05 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225**

**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 Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and Members of the Committees:

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 where 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.



March 18, 2026

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

To: Senators Angus L.K. McKelvey and Carol Fukunaga, Chairs  
Senators Mike Gabbard and Chris Lee, Vice Chairs  
Members of the Senate Committees on Government Operations, and on Public Safety and Military Affairs

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 19, 2026, 3:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, 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 services.

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.



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

**Date:** 03/19/2026

**Time:** 03:05 PM

**Location:** CR 225 & Videoconference

**Committee:** PSM/GVO

**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, is 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.

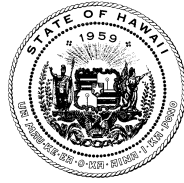
The Department respectfully notes that implementation of the bill may require additional operational guidance, particularly regarding the definition of a "protected perimeter," which extends one thousand feet beyond the boundaries of a protected community location and may include areas such as streets, 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 B. GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH  
STATE LIBRARIAN  
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
'ŌI HANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN  
44 MERCHANT STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
(808) 586-3704

**Senate Committee on Government Operations  
And  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
March 19, 2026, 3:05 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225**

**HB 1870 HD2 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**

To: Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports HB1870 HD2 which 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. It also requires all organizations in this bill to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections.

Free access to the public library is essential to ensuring that all people can fully participate in civic life. Libraries provide equitable access to the internet and technology that many residents rely on to communicate with government agencies, complete required forms, meet legal obligations, and access services that support employment, housing, education, and family stability. As trusted public institutions, libraries are also firmly committed to protecting patron privacy and offering a safe and confidential space for individuals to seek information and assistance without fear or surveillance. In this way, public libraries uphold the democratic principle that access to information, opportunity, and privacy should be guaranteed to everyone, regardless of income or circumstance.

HB1870 HD2 will ensure that Hawai'i's public libraries, along with other protected community locations, can continue to be safe spaces for all people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1870 HD2 and for your continued support of the Hawai'i State Public Library System.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo



Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
and  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
March 19, 2026 at 3:05 p.m.

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

HB 1870 HD2 – RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

Chairs Fukunaga and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Lee and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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 19, 2026 at 3:05 pm**  
**Conference Room 225**

**Senate Committee on Government Operations**

To: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey  
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

**Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**

To: Chair Carol Fukunaga  
Vice Chair Chris Lee

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.



The Senate Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Government Operations  
March 19, 2026  
Room 225  
3:05 PM

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

Attention: Chairs Carol Fukunaga and Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chris Lee and Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Committees

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 appreciate that our previously requested amendments have been incorporated 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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fern'.

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 3:05 pm, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1870, HD2 - RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Lee, Senator Hashimoto 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', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Veronica Mendoza

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

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:52:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Guckenheimer	Testifying for Kona Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as the lead of Kona Indivisible. 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.**



**Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
March 19, 2026 at 3:05 PM  
Room 225**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

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Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committees:

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

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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/).

locations can continue to function as trusted, safe spaces where people can seek help without 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.



MARCH 19, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 1870 HD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: PSM/GVO

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

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:10:53 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estela Chao-Reza	Testifying for Faith Action for Community Equity	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Rev. Dr. Estela Chao-Reza

Executive Director, Faith Action for Community Equity (Faith Action)

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2

Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations (GVO) and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, GVO Chair | Senator Mike Gabbard, GVO Vice Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair | Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

My name is Rev. Dr. Estela Chao-Reza, and I serve as the Executive Director of Faith Action for Community Equity (Faith Action). I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870 HD2. Faith Action is a grassroots, faith-based organization that works alongside diverse communities across Hawai'i to advance justice, dignity, and equity. Our network includes many immigrant families who are deeply rooted in our islands and contribute to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of our state.

HB1870 HD2 is critical to ensuring that all people in Hawai'i can safely access essential services without fear. In our work with congregations and community partners, we consistently hear from families who are afraid to seek medical care, send their children to school, or report crimes because of concerns about civil immigration enforcement. This fear does not just harm immigrant families—it undermines the health, safety, and well-being of our entire community.

This measure provides clear, consistent statewide standards that limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near sensitive locations such as schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship. These protections are aligned with the values of compassion and care that our faith communities uphold. By requiring agencies to adopt publicly available written policies, provide annual staff training, and implement strong data privacy protections, HB1870 HD2

promotes transparency, accountability, and trust between communities and government institutions.

When people feel safe accessing services and engaging with public institutions, communities are stronger, healthier, and more resilient. This bill helps ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where families can live with dignity and where public systems serve everyone effectively and fairly.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committees to PASS HB1870 HD2 and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Estela



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Re: **HB1870 HD2 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**  
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
March 19, 2026, 3:05 PM

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, 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

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)

*Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor*



## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:05 PM

Room 016 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1870, HD2 - PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS**

Aloha e Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for almost three decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,646 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars<sup>1</sup> and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on March 2, 2026. We are always mindful that 797 of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful to share our **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 1870 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, this bill requires

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<sup>1</sup> DCR Weekly Population Report, March 2, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-03-02.pdf](#)

that 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. The bill also appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

The bill 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 have scared public 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.

Hawai'i is multi-cultural society and our history has always adhered to our cultural values of Aloha, E Komo Mai, Aloha Mai. This shows our respect for others and the welcoming atmosphere of Hawai'i nei that makes us unique. As a settler to Hawai'i myself, I can attest to the welcoming spirit that drew me here 40 years ago. Immigrants who came to Hawaii, including so-called undocumented immigrants, 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 Hawai'i residents.

HB 1870 HD2 limits the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. This is important because it reinforces that Hawai'i's public buildings should be places of safety and trust, not fear.

Community Alliance on Prisons applauds this bill for preventing 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. Our Constitution has strong protections that respect the privacy of our people.

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

For all these reasons, Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully urges the committees to pass this respectful and culturally-grounded bill.

Mahalo nui for affording us the chance to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for HB 1870 HD2!





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

**Committee on Government Operations**

Sen. Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026 | Letter Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and Members:

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



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

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill  
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2**

**LATE**

**Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations (GVO) and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)**

**Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, GVO Chair**

**Senator Mike Gabbard, GVO Vice Chair**

**Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair**

**Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: March 19, 2026**

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

My name is Liza Ryan-Gill, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD2, 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, requires agencies to adopt and post written policies by January 1, 2027, provide annual staff training, maintain data privacy protections, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

I am testifying on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR). HCIR is a coalition of more than 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.

HB1870 HD2 is necessary because families must be able to access schools, healthcare, shelters, libraries, and other essential services without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they avoid care, avoid school, and avoid seeking assistance in moments of crisis. That harms not only immigrant families, but the health, safety, and well-being of entire communities.

These institutions must remain safe, welcoming places where children can learn, patients can receive care, and families can seek services and support without fear that they or their loved ones 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.



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

Recent events in Kona illustrate why these protections are urgently needed. 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 caused widespread concern among educators, parents, and community members across Hawai‘i Island. Families reported that students were afraid to attend school, attendance dropped, and children altered their daily routines out of fear of encountering immigration agents. No child should be afraid to go to school.

The harms also extend beyond schools. Public reporting since the rollback of federal protected-area guidance has documented immigration agents appearing more frequently at hospitals and medical facilities, including emergency rooms, lobbies, and patient-care settings. Healthcare workers have described these incidents as deeply destabilizing for both patients and staff and have warned that they deter people from seeking medical care at all.

HB1870 HD2 is also supported by a growing national policy consensus. The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) have tracked a broad and growing landscape of state and local action to protect access to essential institutions and services from civil immigration enforcement. Their materials identify enacted local measures in places such as San Diego, Bridgeport, and Chicago, model policies covering public-serving facilities including K–12 schools, healthcare facilities, public libraries, shelters, courts, colleges and universities, and labor-related agencies, multiple state guidance actions in 2025, signed state-level measures across numerous states, and additional introduced bills across the country, including in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i is not acting alone. It would be joining a broad and growing effort nationwide to protect access to essential public institutions and services.

That national trend has accelerated because the federal government has changed course. On January 20, 2025, DHS rescinded the 2021 protected-areas guidance, and ICE’s current framework now leaves enforcement decisions in or near protected areas to case-by-case determinations rather than a clear federal rule of restraint. At the same time, ICE is expanding local-federal cooperation through the 287(g) program under Executive Order 14159, which directs the agency to authorize state and local participation to the maximum extent permitted by law.

This broader enforcement posture is not theoretical. It is part of an aggressive national expansion of immigration enforcement. ICE detention has now surpassed 70,000 people for the first time in the agency’s history, and the administration has made clear that it intends to expand detention capacity even further.



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

In this environment, Hawai‘i cannot rely on federal policy alone to protect students, patients, and families. State law must provide clear standards so that agencies, employees, and contractors know exactly how to respond, and so community members know what to expect. HB1870 HD2 does that. It creates clear, uniform statewide rules; requires written public-facing policies; mandates annual staff training; and strengthens data privacy protections. Those are practical, responsible safeguards that improve consistency, accountability, and trust.

This bill also supports educators, healthcare workers, librarians, shelter staff, and service providers, who should never be forced to choose between their professional duties and the safety of the people they serve. Public institutions function best when people trust that they can walk through the door without risking family separation, detention, or deportation.

HB1870 HD2 passed the House with strong support and now comes before the Senate, where these two committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage and ensure it is meaningfully implemented.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Liza Ryan Gill

Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

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

**Senator Angus L.K. Mckelvey** Chair  
**Senator Mike Gabbord** ,Vice Chair  
**Committee on Public Safety**



**Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair**  
**Senator Chris Lee Vice Chair**

**Committee on Government Operations**

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, and Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

My name is **Barbara Tom** and I am a member of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working statewide to advance policies that keep immigrant communities safe, healthy, and included. I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870 HD2**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

HB1870 HD2 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai'i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay care, avoid school engagement, and skip emergency support. That harms not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire state.

HB1870 HD2 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

Importantly, HB1870 HD2 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.

Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center was established as a safe gathering place for resources and education to support our immigrant and migrant families to become successful contributing members of the Waipahu Community. The community needs to feel safe and reassured that they are in a safe space to conduct services to access resources and educational activities.

For these reasons, we urge you to **pass HB1870** HD2 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

**Barbara Tom, Director  
Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center  
Waipahu, HI. 96797**

**Barbara.yukie@gmail.com**

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



TO: Committee on Government Operations  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

**LATE**

DATE: Thursday, March 19, 2026  
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol CR 225

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)

Committee: Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 19, 2026 3:05 pm  
Place: Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 1870, HD2, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Dear Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

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:**

- **Limits 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.
- **Requires 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.*

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:59:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing today in strong support of HB 1870. Our state and local agencies must create barriers for federal fascism to face obstacles in Hawaii. Minimally what we can do is prevent our local agencies from helping so called federal agents with their tasks of brutal human trafficking. I am in strong support of this bill because it would limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations across the state, and establish standards to follow. This bill will help keep our communities safe, please support it.

Mahalo

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:41:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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 consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:57:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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 writing in strong support of HB1870 which 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. We must 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.

Thank you.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:38:39 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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: 3/17/2026 1:05:03 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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!  
Aimee McCullough

Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:30:59 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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 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.

Kate Dickson, Waikiki

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:12:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB1870 HD2 – DANIELLE GOREN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

**Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and Committee members:

My name is Danielle Goren and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1870 HD2 as a member of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), and a member of Indivisible Hawai‘i.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

For these reasons, we urge you to **pass HB1870, HD2** and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:16:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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: 3/17/2026 11:28:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

It is unfortunate that we now have to formally define places from which ICE is restricted due to ICE's own overreach.

Thank you for accepting my testimony supporting HB1870.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:30:17 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870, HD2,**

**Relating to Protected Community Locations**

**Senator McKelvey, Chair**

**Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair**

**Committee on Government Operations**

**Senator Fukunaga, Chair**

**Senator Lee, Vice Chair**

**Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs**

**Hearing Date: March 19**

**Hearing Time/Room: 3:05Pm Conference Room 225**

**Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and Committee members:**

**My name is Andrew Perez, and I am a member of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working statewide to advance policies that keep immigrant communities safe, healthy, and included. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, HD2 relating to Protected Community Locations.**

**HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai'i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay care, avoid school engagement, and skip**

emergency support. That harms not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire state.

**HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:**

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

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

**For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1870, HD2 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Respectfully,  
Andrew Perez**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:46:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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). I wish this bill was not necessary, but we've seen the horrendous impacts when federal forces are wielded by an autocrat without regard for the law or for basic human decency. Clearly, additional guardrails are required to mitigate the effects of federal overreach in our our state.

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 Collat, Honolulu

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:57:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, HD2 relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:16:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB1870 HD2 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

**Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and Committee members:

My name is Jason Lewis and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1870 HD2 as a member of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), and a member of Indivisible Hawai‘i.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist **civil immigration enforcement** in or near protected community locations;
- Require a **judicial warrant**—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to **nonpublic areas**;

- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;
- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

For these reasons, we urge you to **pass HB1870, HD2** and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, HI

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:24:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 1870 because the bill:

- **Creates statewide standards that apply to state/county agencies and recipients of No state assistance with civil immigration enforcement** in a protected community location or within 1,000 feet, including:
  - No access to **nonpublic areas** for immigration enforcement purposes
  - No collecting/retaining/sharing **personal or identifying information** (e.g., schedules, enrollment, patient data, worship schedules, release alerts) for civil immigration enforcement
  - No facilitating interviews or surveillance for civil immigration enforcement
- **Judicial warrant standard:** Access to nonpublic areas is allowed **only with a valid judicial warrant** (not an administrative warrant or detainer), verified by a designated administrator/counsel.

Please pass HB 1870.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:45:27 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**RE: Testimony in support of HB1870**

**I am writing to support HB1870 which would keep essential community spaces—schools, health care settings, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and certain state-funded services at places of worship—safe and accessible by limiting state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement in and near those locations.**

**I support HB 1870 because it:**

- Creates statewide standards that apply to state/county agencies and employees and recipients of state funds (“state actors”) when providing state-funded services.
- Defines “protected community locations” to include:
  - Public schools/charters/DOE offices & buses; licensed childcare; UH campuses
  - Health care facilities/clinics, ERs, community health centers, testing/vaccine sites
  - Libraries, shelters, food banks/pantries, and other state-funded social services
  - Portions of places of worship used to provide state-funded services
- Establishes a “protected perimeter” of 1,000 feet around these locations.
- No collecting/retaining/sharing personal or identifying information (e.g., schedules, enrollment, patient data, worship schedules, release alerts) for civil immigration

enforcement

- Judicial warrant standard: Access to nonpublic areas is allowed only with a valid judicial warrant (not an administrative warrant or detainer), verified by a designated administrator/counsel.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Pamela Elders

Laupahoehoe HI 96764

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:56:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen A Valasek	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.**

**Karen Valasek**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:02:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this Bill,

Larry Smith

Indivisible member

HD 27

808 286 2958

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:10:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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: 3/17/2026 2:17:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr retired Navy Veteran, who took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, and that oath didn't expire when I retired. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL HB-1870 HD2.

Federal, state, and local cooperation is essential in many areas: disaster response, terrorism and counterintelligence, drug and human trafficking, military support, and critical infrastructure protection. HB-1870 HD2 is expressly written to "limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations," which include any state or county facility plus a 1,000-foot "protected perimeter." When a state chooses, in statute, to systematically restrict cooperation in one major federal law-enforcement mission, federal agencies may understandably become less willing to invest time, resources, and trust in that state in other missions.

Veterans know that trust between partners is built on consistent support, not selective cooperation. If Hawai'i is seen as actively discouraging its agencies and contractors from assisting in lawful immigration enforcement, federal authorities could perceive Hawai'i as an unreliable partner and recalibrate their priorities and presence here.

HB-1870 HD2 bars state actors and major state contractors from using personnel, facilities, equipment, or funds to assist with "civil immigration enforcement" in protected locations except under very narrow circumstances. It prohibits access to nonpublic areas, information collection, interviews, and surveillance for immigration purposes unless there is a "judicial warrant," and it specifically excludes common federal tools like administrative warrants and immigration detainers from that definition.

That is a clear statutory signal that Hawai'i is not interested in partnership on immigration enforcement where it matters most, on the ground, in real time. Over time, federal authorities may decide their efforts and limited resources are better focused on states and localities that support, rather than resist, coordinated enforcement.

The bill requires every state and county agency operating a protected community location to adopt policies, training, and procedures that emphasize limiting participation in civil immigration enforcement. It also mandates documentation and reporting of immigration-related requests, creating an internal process built around scrutinizing and recording federal engagement.

This kind of structural skepticism toward one area of federal law enforcement can spill over into other domains. Federal partners may become more cautious in sharing intelligence, slower to deploy specialized teams, or less inclined to pilot new initiatives in a state that has, by law, constrained cooperation in a key area. For a strategically important state like Hawai‘i, with its military presence, Pacific location, and reliance on federal disaster and security support, that reputational damage could have serious consequences.

Although the bill says it shall not “obstruct federal officers acting within their lawful authority” and is framed as regulating only state actors and contractors, the practical effect is to surround federal immigration enforcement with red tape and hesitation. Frontline employees are told to route requests through designated administrators, verify judicial warrants, avoid certain data collection, and anticipate possible complaints and investigations.

From a veteran’s standpoint, this sends a confusing and contradictory message: *“We welcome your help when it benefits us, but we will legally limit our help when it benefits your mission.”* Federal agencies that receive that message again and again may decide to scale back cooperative efforts, leaving Hawai‘i with less federal engagement not only on immigration, but potentially in other critical areas where rapid, trusted partnership is vital.

As someone who has served under a unified chain of command and seen what true interagency cooperation can achieve, I am deeply concerned that HB-1870 HD2 will erode the trust and willingness of federal authorities to work closely with Hawai‘i. By codifying broad limits on cooperation in civil immigration enforcement, the bill risks signaling that our state is not a dependable partner, which could ultimately reduce federal support in other areas where we need it most.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB-1870 HD2.

Mahalo,

Brett Kulbis  
U.S. Navy Retired

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:18:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert I Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the City & County of Honolulu and support this Bill.

Please approve the Bill

Mahalo

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:19:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

If we learned anything from Trump's actions, including murder, lies, etc. in Minnesota it is that this measure must become law. He needs to be stopped at every turn.

Lynne Matusow

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:12:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and all Committee Members:

My name is Carla Allison, and I **strongly support HB1870, HD2** because it is a common-sense public safety and public health measure.

I am a Hawai'i resident and voter, deeply concerned for the care and treatment of our immigrant communities as well as the public safety and civil liberties of all the people of Hawai'i.

Our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines, and we must ensure these community locations remain places where everyone can access care and services safely.

When people fear that seeking help could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they delay care, avoid schools, and skip emergency support. That harms not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire state.

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards so that federal officers, acting within lawful authority, are not obstructed in carrying out their duties.

Please support and **pass HB1870, HD2**.

Mahalo.

Carla Allison - Honolulu

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:55:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

thank you,

Mimi

## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

### HEARING:

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 3:05 pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Lee, Senator Hashimoto for my Maui district, 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, 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; by January 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; and appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

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, and health care facilities. The current U.S. President 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, and 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, or the hospital, because of fear of overzealous federal agents.

As a volunteer Know Your Rights educator, I offer my services to assist state and county agencies with compliance with the measure. I am able to provide training in-person and remotely and have a wealth of resources I will gladly share for the benefit of our community.

Mahalo for your support of this measure and the communities you serve

Christine Andrews, JD  
Wailuku, Maui

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:33:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Re: HB 1870, HD2

Aloha!

I strongly **support HB1870\_HD2** re: protected community locations and civil immigration enforcement. It is unfortunate that we need to codify something that is common sense, but here we are. People should be free to learn, worship, and receive medical care without the fear of being accosted or endangering their loved ones. This bill does not interfere with federal officers doing their duty which is also important.

Please pass HB1870\_HD2.

Mahalo,

Melanie Lau, MD

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:46:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:52:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and Committee members:

My name is Sara Harris, and I am an OBGYN on Oahu. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, HD2 relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

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

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1870, HD2 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,  
Sara C Harris MD

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:54:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David S Cotner	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.**

**Respectfully,**

**David S. Cotner**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:43:58 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Everything we can do to throw sand in the evil machinery of ICE is needed and this is one important move in that direction. Please support the bill.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:18:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you!

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:41:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

The safety and health of Hawai'i's residents are adversely affected if we 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 or being racially profiled.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:46:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I very strongly support HB1870.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:56:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair Fukunaga, and Committee members,

As a Hawai‘i resident concerned with the safety of my community, I write in **strong support of HB1870 HD2** relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai‘i, our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. As we have seen from recent storms in our state, people need safe places for disaster response. This bill would help ensure that people feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

Please **pass HB1870 HD2** and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:15:01 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:53:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please help protect our neighborhood by creating safe spaces. Show Aloha.

Mahalo, Maile from Honolulu

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:47:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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, Indivisible**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:28:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally. 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 locations frequented by Hawaii's residents. Our health and welfare 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.

Although the state cannot fully restore the former federal protections, 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

Andrea Schmidt

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:18:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:38:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). The safety and health of Hawaii's residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. This bill would help to reduce the fear and increase the functioning of our residents impacted by fear of ICE, and by those who care for them. Please support this bill and help to counteract the unnecessary fear and dysfunction created by the Trump administration's unwarranted, highly aggressive version of immigration enforcement.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:14:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

- Tina Marie Even  
Indivisible Member

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:14:46 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for reading my testimony.

I support HB1870 because it carves out protected spaces for immigrants having unsettled status to more safely go about the necessary functions of living.

I do have an issue with the State Contractor definition giving monetary amount of \$1,000,000. This provides a loophole where State Contractors are exempted simply by providing services of up to \$999,999. I would like to see the monetary ceiling, if there must be one at all, to \$10,000.

Hawai'i, and not the federal government, knows what's best for Hawai'i.

David Cuthbert, Pahoa

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:57:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:09:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:14:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denize Machit	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 for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Protect families from federal overreach.

Denize Machit

## Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2

Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations (GVO) and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, GVO Chair | Senator Mike Gabbard, GVO Vice Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair | Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

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: 3/18/2026 1:24:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Nancy J. Budd

1337 Puuopae Rd.

Kapa`a, Kaua`i, Hawai`i 96746

March 13, 2026

Testimony In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Time: 3:05 pm

To: Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations (GVO) and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, GVO Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, GVO Vice Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair

Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong **support of HB1870 HD2**, 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, requires agencies 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 have been a resident of Kaua`i since 1979 and have spent many years as a parent, volunteer, and attorney working with and advocating for public schools in Hawai`i. I served on the Hawai`i State Board of Education from 2011 through 2015 and continue to mentor and volunteer in elementary schools on Kaua`i, currently assisting with the Keiki Wa`a program.

We must support Hawaii's diverse families and the schools and other community services upon which they depend. We need to assure that families are able to freely access schools, health care, shelters and emergency services without fear of exposing themselves or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement.

We must create consistency, accountability, and trust by establishing these uniform statewide standards and written policies and requiring annual training and strong data privacy protections. It is heartbreaking to see so many across the country avoiding leaving their homes in fear.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Budd

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:42:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yuko Ida	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.**

**Yuko Ida**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:49:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

DHS/ICE is out of control, we need limits on their actions.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 2:01:54 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I strongly support this measure. Its passage and enactment cannot happen quickly enough to protect vulnerable individuals from federal "enforcers" in our State.

Mahalo for giving your hard work to secure the possibility of refuge in Hawai'i, where the tradition of refuge is long and honored.

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 2:06:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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:

Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations (GVO) and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)

Aloha Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, GVO Chair; Senator Mike Gabbard, GVO Vice Chair; and Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair; and Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

I am a retired physician, a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawai`i Statewide Network. I am writing to submit testimony in strong support for HB1870 HD2, 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, requires agencies 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 schools, healthcare, shelters, and other essential services without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they avoid care, avoid schools, and avoid calling for help in emergencies. This harms public health and safety for everyone, not just immigrant families. This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff know what to do, and communities know what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies, annual training, and strong data privacy protections improves consistency, accountability, and trust. This bill passed the House with strong support and now comes to the Senate — where these two committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage and fund its implementation.

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

Sincerely,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
March 18, 2026

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair,  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice-Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Aloha, Senators,

**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



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

Senate Joint Committee on Government Operations (GVO) and Public Safety and Military Affairs (PSM)

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, GVO Chair | Senator Mike Gabbard, GVO Vice Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, PSM Chair | Senator Chris Lee, PSM Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**, 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, requires agencies 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.

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. They hide from federal agencies like ICE and Customs and Border Patrol who do not seek to protect, but terrorize our community, immigrants and citizens alike.

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access schools, healthcare, shelters, and other essential services without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they avoid care, avoid schools, and avoid calling for help in emergencies. This harms public health and safety for everyone — not just immigrant families. This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff know what to do, and communities know what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies, annual training, and strong data privacy protections improves consistency, accountability, and trust. This bill passed the House with strong support and now comes to the

Senate — where these two committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage and fund its implementation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees **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

**LATE**

March 18, 2026

To: Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of Senate Committee on Government Operations

AND

To: Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Re: SUPPORT HB 1870D2

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2026 — 3:05PM

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and Members of Bot Committees.

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 House 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

**LATE**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:31:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2 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 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 or private business owners. 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.

Stephen Munkelt

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**LATE**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:34:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quentin L. Ryan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**HB1870**

**I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1870, HD2 relating to Protected Community Locations. This Act creates a common-sense public health and public safety measure. The rescinding of prior guidance by the United States Department of Homeland Security of formerly “sensitive” community spaces. This puts further strain on these vital and already limited resources. Additionally, it engenders a sense that no space is safe from the overreach of the federal government. It has been reported and well documented that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have repeatedly misserved warrants and detained the wrong individuals, including American citizens. Furthermore, many detained individuals have been denied their Fifth and Fourteenth amendment rights. Limiting the access to these non-public areas benefits all residents of Hawaii, protecting their pursuit of life, liberty, and justice.**

**According to the Hawaii ACLU,**

**“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.”**

**Notably- this act does not impede federal employees or contractors from performing their duties; it further clarifies the responsibilities for state funded spaces, and employees and contractors.**

**With this, I urge you to adopt HB 1870, HD2, and prevent undue burdens from being placed on our strained systems of community care.**

**LATE**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:36:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 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

**LATE**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:16:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**LATE**

**HB-1870-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:47:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/19/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Lee, and members of the Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs,

My name is Badia Muhammad, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2**.

HB1870 HD2 is important because families must be able to access schools, healthcare, shelters, and other essential services without fear. When people worry that seeking help could expose themselves or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they avoid care, avoid schools, and avoid calling for help in emergencies. This harms public health and safety for everyone — not just immigrant families. This bill creates clear, uniform statewide standards so agencies and staff know what to do, and communities know what to expect. Requiring publicly posted written policies, annual training, and strong data privacy protections improves consistency, accountability, and trust. This bill passed the House with strong support and now comes to the Senate — where these two committees are well-positioned to advance it toward final passage and fund its implementation.

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

Sincerely,

Badia Muhammad

Honolulu, Hawaii