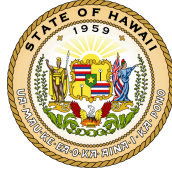


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI  
CHAIRPERSON

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

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
10:15 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211**

**Measure: House Bill 1870 HD2 SD1,  
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 Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The Board of Education (Board) greatly appreciates the Legislature's concern regarding the safety and well-being of our students, and supports House Bill 1870 SD1, 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).

On January 20, 2025, the current presidential administration rescinded a policy that protected certain areas, including schools, from immigration enforcement activities. Since then, ICE officials have been regularly detaining and apprehending students and parents as they arrive at or leave public school campuses throughout the country,

creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety in the very public spaces within which children should feel safest. In many cases, this has resulted in children feeling too unsafe to even attend school.

Such activities are also having a devastating impact on teachers and their ability to do their jobs. In September 2025, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association joined an ongoing lawsuit challenging the rescission of the policy around protected areas. Court filing included testimony from teachers across 18 states describing the disruption, including increased absenteeism, disruption to approvals for special education services for fear that signing documents would draw ICE attention, and being unable to console the fears and anxieties students are bringing with them into the classroom.

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:

- Denounces “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
- Recognizes and supports the Department's existing policy of not asking families for their immigration status and not recording 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 purpose and intent.

The Board wishes to note that the Department does not have jurisdiction over areas within a thousand feet of school campuses if they are outside school property. The Committees may wish to amend this measure accordingly, such that the standardized emergency response plan governs immigration enforcement activity on campus grounds only.

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

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

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

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
and  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
April 8, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

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

HB 1870 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) would like to provide comments on HB 1870 HD2 SD1 – 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.

As drafted, the University of Hawai'i believes 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. UH previously requested 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. Another possible solution is clarification of the definition of "civil immigration enforcement." 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.

The stated purpose of the bill is to fill the gap left when in January 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescinded its prior guidance on enforcement activity in sensitive or protected areas and the resulting potential to chill access to

critical services. The rescinded memo from October 27, 2021, entitled [Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas](#), also discusses a separate DHS memo from April 27, 2021, entitled [Civil Immigration Enforcement Actions in or near Courthouses](#). Neither memo defined "civil immigration enforcement", but both offered examples. The latter memo explained: "[The memo] applies to any civil immigration enforcement action in or near a courthouse that involves an enforcement encounter between ICE or CBP personnel and an individual in the courthouse *other than a courthouse official or employee*." (emphasis added) The more general memo from October, 2021 explained that "[e]nforcement actions that are within the scope of this guidance include, but are not limited to, such actions as arrests, civil apprehensions, searches, inspections, seizures, service of charging documents or subpoenas, interviews, and immigration enforcement surveillance."

The goal of the memos which this bill seeks to replace is to prevent in-person enforcement encounters **between agents and individuals** in sensitive areas, not regular interactions with officials or employees. To account for this, the definition of "civil enforcement action" could be changed to: "...means any enforcement encounter between federal immigration personnel (or their designee) and an individual including arrests, civil apprehensions, searches, inspections, seizures, service of charging documents or subpoenas, interviews, and immigration enforcement surveillance."

Under this proposed definition it would be clear that the University's normal, regulatory obligations are not between federal agents and individuals - they are between the University and the federal authorities. By clarifying "civil immigration enforcement" and providing examples, the definition should make clear what sort of enforcement activity it regulates. UH would still be prohibited from assisting in enforcement encounters between agents and individuals in protected or sensitive locations (anywhere on campus), which is the goal of the bill.

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.



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

**Date:** 04/08/2026

**Time:** 10:15 AM

**Location:** CR 211 & Videoconference

**Committee:** JDC/WAM

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB1870, SD1, 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. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to respectfully provide comments for HB 1870, HD 2, SD 1.

The Department recognizes the Legislature's intention to maintain schools as safe and accessible learning environments for all students. This bill identifies any facility operated by the state, such as K-12 public schools, as "protected community locations." It requires 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.

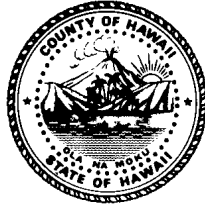
With respect to interactions with law enforcement on campus, the Department

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, SD 1.



## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: April 7, 2026  
TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means & Judiciary  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: HB1870 HD2 SD1

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

Mahalo,

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

Jenn Kagiwada



**April 8, 2026 at 10:15 am**  
**Conference Room 211**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

To: Chair Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1870 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

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



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

Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol CR 225

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

**Re: HB1870 Relating to Protected Community Locations**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, 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 SD1.

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 SD1 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 SD1 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)



**Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
April 8, 2026 at 10:15 AM  
Room 211**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2 SD1**

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, 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 SD1**, 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.



Committees on Judiciary and Ways & Means  
Judiciary Chair Karl Rhodes, Ways & Means Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

4/8/26 @ 10:15, CR211 and Videoconference  
HB1870 HD2 SD1

#### TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhodes, Chair Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

#### **The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1870.**

The League of Women Voters supports immigration policies which support the economic and employment needs of the community, provide due process for all persons, and support fair treatment under the law. 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 SD1 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 SD1 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 submit testimony.

Stephen Munkelt

To: Senate Committees on Ways and Means and on Judiciary  
Re: **HB1870 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**  
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
April 8, 2026 10:15 AM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing **in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2 SD1**, 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



APRIL 8, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 1870 HD2 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: WAM/JDC

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 SD1, 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

**Testimony of HAWAII FILIPINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HFLA)  
In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2 SD1**

Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary

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

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

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

My name is Wilfredo Tungol, HFLA Advocacy Committee Chair, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2 SD1**, which establishes statewide standards limiting state and county agency participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires agencies operating protected locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections by January 1, 2027, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Department of the Attorney General. HFLA supports protecting our immigrants' due process rights when they are in a safe space.

When civil immigration enforcement occurs at or near schools, hospitals, churches, shelters, and social services agencies, families stop using the services they need to stay safe, healthy, and housed. These chilling effects are not theoretical — they are documented across the country: delayed vaccinations and emergency care, children missing school, domestic violence survivors not seeking help, crime victims refusing to cooperate with law enforcement. HB1870 HD2 SD1 addresses this directly by establishing statewide standards protecting these essential community spaces and requiring every agency that operates them to publicly commit to those standards in writing.

The SD1 amendment's written policy mandate is the most significant addition: by January 1, 2027, every state and county agency operating a protected community location must adopt and post a policy, train staff annually, and maintain data privacy protections. This transforms the bill from guidance into a legally required, publicly verifiable framework. The AG implementation appropriation ensures statewide consistency rather than a patchwork of local interpretation. As the final part of Hawai'i's comprehensive immigrant rights and public safety package — alongside HB1768, HB1839, HB1886, and HB2540 — HB1870 ensures that community trust is protected at the places people need most. I urge the joint WAM/JDC committees to advance this bill to the floor.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committees **PASS HB1870 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Wilfredo Tungol  
HFLA Advocacy Chair  
88-387-7412



The Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary  
April 8, 2026  
Room 211  
10:15 AM

RE: **HB 1870 HD2 SD1, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Attention: Chairs Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Karl Rhoads, Vice Chairs Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
And Mike Gabbard, 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 SD1.**

**We appreciate that our previously requested amendments have been preserved in the HD2 SD1 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 previously amended language in HD2 SD1 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 SD1.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
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Apr 8, 2026

#### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

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The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** HB1870 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Protected Community Locations

Chairs and Members of the Committees:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) respectfully submits testimony in **support of HB1870 HD2 SD1**. AILH is a statewide Center for Independent Living serving rural Oahu and all neighbor islands. We are a cross-disability, consumer-controlled organization that supports disabled people to live in the communities of their choice, with the services and supports they need to remain independent.

HB1870 HD2 SD1 would establish statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and certain contractors to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near “protected community locations,” including facilities operated by the State or counties such as schools, health care settings, libraries, shelters, and similar public spaces. The bill requires written policies, training, and multilingual signage by January 1, 2027; sets clear rules for access to nonpublic areas, warrant verification, and data privacy; and appropriates funds for the Department of the Attorney General to provide model policies, training materials, and a reporting portal.

From an Independent Living perspective, these protections are important because disabled people—especially immigrants, migrants, refugees, Compact of Free Association (COFA) residents, and mixed-status



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families—rely on public schools, health centers, shelters, and other community locations to access education, health care, housing support, and safety. When there is a real or perceived risk that civil immigration enforcement may occur in or around these spaces, people may avoid needed services, skip medical appointments, keep children home from school, or stay away from shelters during emergencies. For disabled individuals, those decisions can quickly lead to worse health, loss of stability, and increased reliance on institutional or crisis systems.

HB1870 HD2 SD1 offers a measured, statewide approach that focuses on the conduct of state actors and state contractors while making clear that it does not obstruct federal officers acting within their lawful authority. It standardizes procedures for verifying judicial warrants, protects privacy by limiting the collection of immigration-status information, and requires basic training and signage so that staff and community members understand the protections in place. These are practical steps that help ensure schools, health care facilities, shelters, and other public locations remain accessible, welcoming, and safer for all residents, including disabled people and their families.

AILH respectfully urges the Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary to pass HB1870 HD2 SD1 to support equal access to essential community locations and services, regardless of immigration status.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2 SD1  
HB 1870 HD 2 SD 1 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**

**Hawai'i Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

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

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is submitting this testimony **in support of HB1870 HD2 SD1**, which establishes statewide standards limiting state and county agency participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires agencies operating protected locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections by January 1, 2027, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Department of the Attorney General. CLASP is pleased to see the Hawai'i House of Representatives undertake such critical action to protect children in immigrant families, including the more than 1 in 4 children in Hawai'i who live with at least one immigrant parent,<sup>1</sup> at a time of heightened immigration enforcement and instability. With the rescission of the former Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Protected Areas Guidance, immigrant families are living with uncertainty and fear that have made them hesitant to seek out medical attention and other critical services, drop off their children at school, and carry out everyday activities.

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

Without the federal protected areas policy in place, immigration agents have been and will continue to carry out enforcement actions without regard to the safety and well-being of children, which our own research has shown can result in arrests near child care programs and schools. As Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) presence near such locations becomes more common, the likelihood also increases that children could witness a parent's detention, arrest, or other encounters with ICE agents.<sup>2</sup> Research shows that children who

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

<sup>2</sup> Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear: Immigration Policy's Effects on Young Children." CLASP. March 1, 2018.  
<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/our-childrens-fear-immigration-policys-effects-young-children-2/>.

witness their parents' arrest are more likely to suffer severe impacts on their mental and physical health, negatively impacting their long-term development.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

## **Background and History of the Protected Areas Policy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Impact of Immigration Raids on Children**

The Trump Administration’s reckless and indiscriminate immigration enforcement has resulted in an increasing number of incidents in protected areas. In just the first few weeks of 2026, the Trump Administration has continued to disregard longstanding protections for protected areas. Schools in cities across the country have gone into lockdown<sup>9</sup> because of the presence of immigration agents, with the trauma extending beyond children<sup>10</sup> in immigrant families to all children in these communities. There are regular reports of ICE and CBP presence in protected areas. For example, immigration officers detained a family, including a seven-year-old,<sup>11</sup> outside a hospital where the family had gone to get emergency care for the child. And they intimidated community members outside of a church,<sup>12</sup> and ultimately deported a church worker.

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<sup>7</sup> Mayorkas, Alejandro N. 2021. “Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or near Protected Areas .” Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Homeland Security .  
[https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21\\_1027\\_opa\\_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1027_opa_guidelines-enforcement-actions-in-near-protected-areas.pdf).

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

<sup>9</sup> “Minneapolis schools cancel classes after Border Patrol clash disrupts dismissal at Roosevelt” MPR News, January 8, 2026  
<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/01/08/after-border-patrol-clash-at-roosevelt-minneapolis-schools-cancel-classes>.

<sup>10</sup> “How ICE Raids are Affecting Children – And What Schools Can Do” Greater Good Magazine, February 4, 2026,  
[https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how\\_ice\\_raids\\_are\\_affecting\\_children\\_and\\_what\\_schools\\_can\\_do](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_ice_raids_are_affecting_children_and_what_schools_can_do).

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

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

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

### *Early Care and Educational Impacts*

The prospect of immigration enforcement authorities in schools and child care centers threaten the safety of both people who work to educate and care for children as well as children and their families. Overall, more than 1 in 8 workers in the U.S. education sector is an immigrant, or over 2.1 million people, and nearly 1 in 5 child care workers is foreign-born.<sup>15</sup> CLASP led a six-state study during the first Trump Administration interviewing child care and early education teachers, among other providers, that found that these providers were struggling to support children and families who were under additional stress, including some who had experienced the detention or deportation of a parent.<sup>16</sup> Workers reported anxiety about increased incidents of racism and xenophobia and were additionally concerned about the legal status of their own family members and friends. They were required to navigate complex immigration policies, provide mental health support to children, and inform parents about resources, all with limited time and money while still trying to do the day-to-day work of caring for and educating young children. The threat of immigration enforcement puts undue burden on those who work and care for all our nation's children. In interviews with providers over the past year, CLASP has found that ICE's increased presence near child care centers has led to disruptions in service and increased uncertainty over how to best protect children, families, and staff in an environment where agents are increasingly carrying out raids with limited regards to minimizing harm to children and bystanders.

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

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

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

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/07/us-immigration-childcare-workers>; Schorsch, Kristen. 2025. "Fearful amid ICE Crackdowns, Some Immigrants Are Skipping Health Care." *Transcript*. NPR. NPR.

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

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

Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. "Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure Is the Child Care Market?" *Journal of Public Economics* 233 (April): 105101–1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105101>.

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

<https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/immigration-policy-s-harmful-impacts-early-care-and-education/>; Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. "Our Children's Fear."

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

Additionally, there is robust evidence that heightened immigration enforcement results in decreases in K-12 school enrollment among Hispanic children and harms academic performance and engagement among minority students.<sup>19</sup> Following the 2019 Mississippi worksite raid, children were absent from schools for several days, with some families hiding in their homes for weeks with curtains pulled over their windows.<sup>20</sup> Providers in K-12 settings have reported that Latino students directly expressed fear and concern over immigration enforcement, negatively affecting their academic performance.<sup>21</sup> In a survey of educators during the first Trump Administration, one high school administrator said that children in immigrant families “are not thinking about college, or the test next week, or what is being taught in the classroom today. They are thinking about their family and whether they will still be a family; whether their family will remain intact.”<sup>22</sup> Moreover, immigration enforcement impacts all students, not just those in immigrant families; researchers have found that absences affect overall school achievement scores and school funding, resulting in a “vicious cycle of underachievement.”<sup>23</sup>

### *Health Impacts*

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<sup>17</sup>Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. “Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure Is the Child Care Market?” *Journal of Public Economics* 233 (April): 105101–1. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105101>.; Cervantes, Wendy, Rebecca Ullrich, and Hannah Matthews. 2018. “Our Children’s Fear.”; Children Thrive Action Network. 2021. “Research Brief: How a Pathway to Citizenship Can Help Children Thrive - Children Thrive Action Network.” Children Thrive Action Network. October 28, 2021. <https://childrethriveaction.org/2021/10/research-brief-how-a-pathway-to-citizenship-can-help-children-thrive/>.

<sup>18</sup> Ali, Umair, Jessica H Brown, and Chris M Herbst. 2024. “Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure Is the Child Care Market?”

<sup>19</sup> Dee, Thomas S., and Mark Murphy. 2018. “How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms Schoolchildren.” Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR). Stanford University. October 2018. <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/how-strict-immigration-enforcement-harms-schoolchildren>.; Ee, Jongyeon, and Patricia Gándara. 2020. “The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on the Nation’s Schools.” *American Educational Research Journal* 57 (2): 000283121986299. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0002831219862998>.; Bellows, Laura. 2021. “The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on School Engagement: Evidence from 287(G) Programs in North Carolina.” *AERA Open* 7 (1): 233285842110394. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23328584211039467>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Child Mental Health Impacts*

Numerous studies demonstrate the connection of both the threat of immigration enforcement as well as the detention and deportation of a family member to adverse mental health, behavioral problems, and health issues for children in immigrant families. CLASP's 2017 six-state study

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<sup>24</sup> Physicians for Human Rights. 2018. "Physicians for Human Rights Establishing Sanctuary Hospitals: Protecting the Right to Access Health Care Physicians for Human Rights Fact Sheet."

<https://phr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PHR-Sanctuary-Hospitals-Fact-Sheet-FINAL.pdf>; Shepherd, Katie .

2017. "ICE Arrested an Undocumented Immigrant Just Outside a Portland Hospital." Willamette Week. October 31, 2017.

<https://www.wweek.com/news/courts/2017/10/31/ice-arrested-an-undocumented-immigrant-just-outside-a-portland-hospital/>.

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

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

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

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

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

<https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22443>.

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

found that children as young as three years old were expressing fear about losing a parent to deportation and demonstrating those fears through words and troubling behaviors; one child was described as biting his fingertips to the point of bleeding.<sup>30</sup> Even children whose parents have lawful immigration status expressed fear and concern about parent separation, because they are too young to understand the nuances of immigration policy or may not be aware of their parents' status. Research consistently shows that hardship and distress in children's early years can particularly compromise their healthy development and growth in the short and long term.<sup>31</sup>

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

## Conclusion

CLASP supports HB1870 HD2 SD1, which establishes statewide standards limiting state and county agency participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires agencies operating protected locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections by January 1, 2027, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Department of the Attorney General. This bill could serve as a protective factor for children in immigrant families, including the more than 1 in 4 children in Hawai'i who live with at least one immigrant parent,<sup>33</sup> and mitigate the harms associated with immigration enforcement.

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

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

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

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

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

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25077268/>; Teicher, Martin H., Susan L. Andersen, Ann Polcari, Carl M. Anderson, Carryl P. Navalta, and Dennis M. Kim. 2003. "The Neurobiological Consequences of Early Stress and Childhood Maltreatment." *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews* 27 (1-2): 33–44.

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

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

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

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

states and local governments to advance legislation and protected areas policies that limit immigration enforcement actions in these critical places, such as HB1870 HD2 SD1.

In response to the lack of protections for sensitive locations at the federal level, multiple states have enacted legislation since 2025 aimed at keeping families and children safe in settings such as schools, early childhood programs, health care facilities, and more. As of April 2026, multiple states, including Maryland, Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, and California, have enacted legislation on protected areas, and many localities have also passed ordinances to reassure their communities.

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



Committee: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 10:15 am

Place: Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference

Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 1870, HD2, SD 1 Relating to Protected Community Locations**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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, SD1**, which sets protective standards for immigration enforcement in community areas that are especially sensitive.

H.B.1870, HD2, SD1 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, SD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Leilani Stacy  
Immigrants' Rights Attorney  
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.*



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

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

TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF HB 1870, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

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

Roots Reborn 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, SD1**, 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, SD1**, 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, SD1**.

Sinceramente,

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

Veronica Mendoza

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



April 7, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1870 HD2 SD1**, Relating to Protected Community Locations

**To:** Senators Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Karl Rhoads, Chairs  
Senators Sharon Y. Moriwaki and Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairs  
Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and on Judiciary

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

**Re:** Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1870 HD2 SD1**, Relating to Protected Community Locations

Hearing: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 10:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, 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 SD1.**

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.

HB1870 HD2 SD1 aligns with our commitment to equity, inclusion, and the protection of women and girls from discrimination and violence. By requiring written policies, staff training, and data privacy protections, the bill **supports an environment where all individuals, regardless of immigration status, can access critical services without fear of civil immigration enforcement.** Such standards are consistent with best practices that promote community trust and public safety.

Continued collaboration with stakeholders will help maximize the positive impacts of this legislation and address any operational challenges. The Commission urges these Committees to **pass HB1870 HD2 SD1.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



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*Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Gemma G. Weinstein, President*

*Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President*

April 7, 2026

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

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

### **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1870**

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

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

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

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

Thank you.



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

Testimony of Liza Ryan Gill

In SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2 SD1, with a Requested Amendment

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

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

My name is [YOUR NAME], and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870 HD2 SD1, which establishes statewide standards limiting state and county agency participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, requires agencies operating protected locations to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections by January 1, 2027, and appropriates funds for implementation by the Department of the Attorney General.

### **About the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights**

I testify on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrants, immigrant-led and -serving organizations, and allies united in advocacy and education for equal justice and community inclusion for immigrants in Hawai‘i. Our members work daily alongside the families, workers, and keiki whose safety and well-being depend on access to schools, hospitals, shelters, and other community services — regardless of immigration status.

### **Why We Support HB1870 HD2 SD1**

When civil immigration enforcement occurs at or near schools, hospitals, churches, shelters, and social services agencies, families stop using the services they need to stay safe, healthy, and housed. These chilling effects are not theoretical — they are documented across the country and increasingly visible in Hawai‘i: delayed vaccinations and emergency care, children missing school, domestic violence survivors not seeking help, crime victims refusing to cooperate with law enforcement. Research shows that even the threat of enforcement causes harm. One sociologist studying immigration enforcement and children found an eight-year-old keeping a packed bag in his closet in case ICE came — without ever telling his parents.

In Hawai‘i, nearly one in five residents is an immigrant, and approximately 13,500 U.S.-citizen children live in households with at least one undocumented family member. These are our neighbors, our coworkers, and our keiki. Nationally, 85 percent of the more than 5.6 million U.S. citizen children at risk of a household deportation are under the age of fifteen. When parents fear



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[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

entering a clinic, a school, or a shelter, it is their children — American citizens — who pay the price in lost healthcare, lost learning, and lasting trauma.

HB1870 HD2 SD1 addresses this directly by establishing statewide standards protecting essential community spaces and requiring every agency that operates them to publicly commit to those standards in writing. The SD1 amendment's written policy mandate is the most significant addition: by January 1, 2027, every state and county agency operating a protected community location must adopt and post a policy, train staff annually, and maintain data privacy protections. This transforms the bill from guidance into a legally required, publicly verifiable framework. The Attorney General implementation appropriation ensures statewide consistency rather than a patchwork of local interpretation.

States and localities across the country have already moved to protect community locations. Massachusetts Governor Healey signed an Executive Order (No. 650, January 29, 2026) prohibiting ICE from making civil arrests in non-public areas of state facilities. New York City enacted an executive order prohibiting ICE from entering city property — including schools, shelters, and hospitals — without a judicial warrant. Seattle and King County, Washington, issued executive orders barring the use of city and county property as staging areas for civil immigration enforcement. California enacted SB 81, prohibiting immigration authorities from accessing the non-public areas of healthcare facilities without a valid judicial warrant, and AB 49 and SB 48 establishing equivalent protections for schools. Colorado's SB 25-276 prohibits local law enforcement from detaining individuals for ICE without a judicial warrant. Maryland's HB 1222 prohibits access to non-public areas of schools, libraries, and government facilities at sensitive locations. Virginia has enacted both SB 351 and HB 650, protecting courthouses and a range of state-owned facilities from civil immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. Hawai'i can and should join this growing national trend to protect immigrants and uphold civil rights.

As part of Hawai'i's comprehensive immigrant rights and public safety package — alongside HB1768, HB1839, HB1886, and HB2540 — HB1870 ensures that community trust is protected at the places people need most.

### **Requested Amendment: HI-EMA Applicability Carve-Out**

HCIR respectfully requests that the Committee adopt one targeted amendment: that the bill's protected-location restrictions apply to the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) only when the President of the United States has issued a major disaster declaration for Hawai'i under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.).



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[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

This is because during a federally declared disaster, HI-EMA facilities and staging areas often operate in coordination with federal agencies to protect and serve residents. It is important that they do so regardless of immigration status. Activating the bill's civil immigration enforcement restrictions during those extraordinary circumstances — when HI-EMA facilities may be serving as shelters or emergency coordination hubs — ensures that immigrant families, including the many undocumented individuals and mixed-status families in Hawai‘i's agricultural, hospitality, and healthcare workforces, can access emergency services without fear. Tying the carve-out to a presidential disaster declaration creates a clear, objective, and reviewable trigger rather than leaving the decision to administrative discretion.

This kind of conditional, trigger-based carve-out is consistent with how other jurisdictions have protected emergency-access rights for immigrants. California's SB 54 (the California Values Act) and its implementing guidance specifically address how state agencies should protect immigrant access to services even during emergencies. Several city and county executive orders, including Seattle's January 2026 Mayoral Directive and King County's February 2026 Executive Order, explicitly frame their protections as advancing public safety for all residents — a principle that is most critical during disasters. Conditioning the HI-EMA carve-out on a presidential disaster declaration would ensure that Hawai‘i's emergency management infrastructure remains fully accessible to all residents when it is needed most, while maintaining the bill's core protections at all other times.

## **Conclusion**

HB1870 HD2 SD1 is a carefully crafted, well-precedented measure that will make Hawai‘i's communities safer for everyone. By ensuring that schools, hospitals, shelters, and social service agencies remain accessible regardless of immigration status, the bill strengthens public health, public safety, and the trust that holds our communities together. With the requested amendment on HI-EMA applicability, the bill will also be fully resilient in times of disaster. We urge the joint WAM/JDC committees to advance this bill to the floor.

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully requests that the Committees PASS HB1870 HD2 SD1, with the requested HI-EMA amendment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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*Contact: [lryangill@hicir.org](mailto:lryangill@hicir.org)*

## Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870 HD2 SD1

Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary

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

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

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

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I am a teacher at Waipahu High School. I submit this testimony as an individual and in **support of HB1870 HD2 SD1**, 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 SD1 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.

The SD1 amendment's written policy mandate is the most significant addition: by January 1, 2027, every state and county agency operating a protected community location must adopt and post a policy, train staff annually, and maintain data privacy protections. This transforms the bill from guidance into a legally required, publicly verifiable framework. The AG implementation appropriation ensures statewide consistency rather than a patchwork of local interpretation. As the final part of Hawai'i's comprehensive immigrant rights and public safety package, alongside HB1768, HB1839, HB1886, and HB2540, HB1870 ensures that community trust is protected at the places people need most. I urge the joint WAM/JDC committees to advance this bill to the floor.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1870 HD2 SD1** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:25:02 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

As a Hawai‘i resident concerned with the safety of my community, I write in **strong support of HB1870 HD2 SD1** relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

This bill would help ensure that people feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation. As we have seen from recent storms in our state, people need safe places for disaster response. 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.

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 SD1** and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:32:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

1. SD1 added a written policy mandate: by 1/1/2027, every agency operating a protected location must adopt and post a policy, train staff annually, and maintain data privacy protections.
2. Protects essential services access: when families trust that schools, hospitals, shelters, and churches are safe spaces, they seek the care and services they need.
3. Covers all state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors: comprehensive scope prevents agencies from claiming they are not covered.
4. AG implementation appropriation: ensures statewide consistency rather than uneven local interpretation.
5. Public health, education, and safety impact: documented chilling effects on essential services access when immigration enforcement occurs near protected locations.
6. Joint WAM/JDC is the final Senate committee vote. Passed House and Senate PSM/GVO.

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

yvettekay\_99@yahoo.com

96740

415-706-9638

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:20:44 PM

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

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

Comments:

I submit this testimony in support of HB1870 HD2 SD1

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

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:40:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support of HB1870**, which establishes statewide standards limiting state and county participation in civil immigration enforcement at or near protected community locations.

**This bill is about keeping our communities safe and functional.**

Schools, hospitals, libraries, shelters, and places of worship must remain accessible to all residents without fear. When families fear immigration enforcement at a school gate, children stop attending class. When patients worry about ICE at a clinic entrance, they delay or forgo medical care. When survivors of domestic violence hesitate to seek shelter, they remain in dangerous situations. Over one in four children in Hawai'i live with at least one immigrant parent. The ripple effects of enforcement fear touch every corner of our community.

**This bill is carefully balanced and legally sound.**

HB1870 does not prevent compliance with federal or state law, nor does it impede execution of judicial warrants. It simply provides clear, uniform standards for state and county agencies at a time when federal policies are erratic and unpredictable. The Attorney General is tasked with developing model policies, training materials, and a reporting portal to ensure consistent implementation. Agencies have until January 1, 2027 to adopt written policies and provide annual staff training.

**This bill protects vulnerable populations without compromising public safety.**

The measure explicitly exempts actions required by federal or state law and protects state actors who rely in good faith on a valid judicial warrant. This is not about obstructing law enforcement—it is about ensuring that our public institutions remain places of trust, service, and care, not immigration enforcement zones.

**Opposition arguments misrepresent the bill.**

Some have claimed HB1870 creates a "safety net for murderers and rapists" or extends protection to private residences. Neither is true. The 1,000-foot radius applies to *public*

*spaces* near protected locations, not private homes, and does nothing to impede enforcement based on judicial warrants. Fearmongering distracts from the bill's actual purpose: ensuring families can access essential services without terror.

Hawai‘i has an opportunity to lead with clarity and compassion. HB1870 is the sober, necessary step of preserving trust in our public institutions while navigating a volatile federal landscape. I urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

April 6, 2026

RE: HB1870 HD2 SD1 Relating to Safe Community Spaces

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
TIME: 10:15 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

I am in full SUPPORT of House Bill 1870 HD2 SD1 and submit this testimony as an individual member of the League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County (LWVHC). The LWVHC has been an advocate for civil rights and liberties for all people in the United States for over a century.

This is why I support HB1870 because it directs all state and county departments to create a protocol and process in which to keep community spaces safe under their jurisdiction, making sure that vulnerable individuals will be properly protected from federal government overreach.

As a family member and community advocate for vulnerable persons, I encourage the Legislature to invest in safe community spaces, also to include state and county election offices, the state elections commission, voter service centers, polling sites, and ballot drop boxes throughout the state of Hawai'i. We should not be intimidated away from safely gathering or voting under our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Shana Kukila  
Hilo, Hawai'i

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:00:49 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

I am in support of, and respectfully urge you to also support, HB 1870.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:39:21 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:02:55 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB1870. Sanctuary is NEEDED

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:17:04 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2. It is absolutely essential that statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds are established to limit their participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. President Trump's anti-immigrant agenda has eliminated the protections against immigration enforcement raids at schools, churches, courts, medical facilities, and other sensitive locations, and allowed immigration enforcement agents to enter, even without judicial warrants, which is unlawful. These protections must be restored so that people once again feel safe going to these crucial places.

It is not only migrants who are affected. All of us, regardless of whether we're classified as "citizens" or not, are adversely affected if noncitizen residents are afraid to go to court, school or get medical care, food at food bank locations, and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation.

As the federal government is making people's lives in Hawaii less safe and secure, it is time for the state government to step in and step up to protect us all. As you know, federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with immigration enforcement activities, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances.

Please do the right thing and pass this Bill!

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:43:56 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:47:56 PM

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

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

Comments:

**HB1870 PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

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.

I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

Eileen Cain  
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
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April 6, 2026

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

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

Aloha, Senators,

**I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1870 HD2 SD1, "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 SD1**.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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



**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:18:15 PM

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

<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 HD2 SD1, 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:27:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

**HB1870 PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

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.

I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:32:21 PM

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

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1870 - limiting ICE in protected areas

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:46:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawai‘i State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 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 Hawai‘i’s residents is adversely affected if noncitizen residents cannot appear in court, go to school, get medical care, get food at food bank locations and access other fundamental services because they fear deportation. Federal law does not require state agencies to assist or cooperate with ICE and CBP, except in the execution of judicial warrants and other limited circumstances. In particular, immigration authorities have no right to enter non-public areas of businesses or venues unless they have a warrant supported by probable cause.

HB1870 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.

I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Tammy DeBernardi  
Ocean View, Ka'u



**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:23:44 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

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

Respectfully,

Aimee M

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:24:43 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please keep our special protected places protected. for hundreds of years especially here in Hawai'i there have been protected places like Pu uhonau Honaunau. Keep that in mind when making your votes

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:35:46 PM

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

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

Comments:

in support

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:41:14 PM

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

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

Comments:

As a retired police officer, I am disgusted at some of the actions taken by ICE agents. Why they haven't been arrested by local police for using excessive force is a mystery to me. Because it is a rogue agency, their authority and jurisdiction should be limited as much as possible for the protection of humanity. Prohibiting them from protected areas will help protect people from these rogue agents and therefore keep our communities safe. I support this bill and hope you do too. Mahalo.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:48:51 PM

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

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:58:49 PM

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

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

Comments:

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:17:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Moriwaki,

The reckless actions of this federal administration demand that we strive for absolute transparency and accountability from those pledged to enforce our laws. This bill has my strong support, and will only strengthen our community's faith and trust in our local law enforcement officers as well. Mahalo nui loa for your and the committee's strong support of good government, ethics, and accountability legislation throughout this session.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball

Waiālae-Kahala

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 5:39:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Sullam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

The bottom line is that due process applies to all inhabitants of the United States.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Steven A. Sullam

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 5:46:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1870 HD2 SD1.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 6:56:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	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.**

**I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Jane Aquino, Indivisible Hawaii**

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:03:30 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:24:46 AM

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

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

Comments:

**HB1870 PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT**

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.

I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

David Cuthbert, Pahoa

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:45:34 AM

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

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1870 HD2 SD1

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:46:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB1870. Keep ICE out of protected areas and accountable to the LAW.

Monty Clark

Hawaii Kai

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:30:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

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

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.

I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:34:03 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:44:24 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of 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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:59:17 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:12:03 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 HD2 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). I support requiring 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.

I urge you to Pass HB1870 HD2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:29:39 AM

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

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

Comments:

**I strongly support HB1870 HD2 SD1 because it protects access to health care, education facilities, and other sensitive community locations that provide essential services amid escalating federal immigration enforcement activities.** Families should be able to live their lives and go to school, clinics, libraries, shelters, places of worship, and food assistance without fear. This measure helps to regulate state actors' conduct which is a must given these times we are living in.

Please pass this important measure.

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

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1870, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

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

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui – The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1870, HD2, SD1**, 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, SD1**, 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 to protect the communities you serve.

Christine Andrews, JD  
Wailuku, Maui

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:29:33 AM

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

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

Comments:

As a pediatrician who works in a sensitive location and is acutely aware of the stress and fear that children and families already experience when coming to the hospital, I strongly support this bill to protect our keiki and families from additional harm and trauma in sensitive locations such as hospitals and schools. Mahalo.

**HB-1870-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:51:41 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:24:02 PM

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

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

Comments:

Support