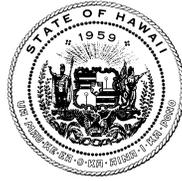


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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

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

House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
February 6, 2026, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 423

HB 1870 – Relating to Protected Community Locations

To: Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports HB1870 which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, and employees, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship. It also requires all organizations in this bill to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections.

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

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

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
KAHU HO'OMALU PŪULIA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1870,
RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 6, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENT** testimony on House Bill 1870, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations.

While HIEMA supports the intent behind this measure, we must express our opposition to designating the Hawaii'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) as a named entity in this bill. HIEMA's primary mission, as outlined in HRS Chapter 127A, is focused on emergency management and disaster response. Integrating immigration enforcement compliance obligations into HIEMA's statutory responsibilities could lead to operational conflicts and divert vital resources away from life-safety priorities during emergencies. It is also important to note that the provisions of shelters during crises fall under the mission of county government, further emphasizing the need to keep HIEMA's focus on its essential role in protecting public safety and well-being.

While HIEMA fully supports the principle of protecting vulnerable populations, its role is fundamentally different from agencies that provide direct public services like education, health care, or libraries.

Emergency management often requires rapid deployment and coordination across multiple jurisdictions; imposing additional administrative requirements, such as warrant verification, signage, and annual training. During a disaster response, this could significantly hinder timely action and compromise public safety.

HIEMA is committed to supporting initiatives that enhance resiliency in Hawai'i, provided they do not adversely impact the Governor's Executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1870.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
February 6, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Debora Halbert

Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1870 – RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.

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

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

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

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

While UH will not opine on the interaction between the bill and federal law, it would appear that additional analysis may be necessary. 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MAKALAPUA ALENCASTRE, ED. D.
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: HB 1870 RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS
DATE: February 6, 2026
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Economic Development and Technology
ROOM: Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony **with COMMENTS on HB 1870** which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, and employees, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship. **HB 1870** also requires the Department of Education, State Public Charter School Commission, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hawaii State Public Library System, and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections.

The State Public Charter School Commission authorizes forty public charter schools across the state of Hawai‘i serving students from grades preK through 12. The Commission asks language be added that **“each public charter school” to page 6, line 5.** The Commission will work with other agencies named in this measure to ensure consistent language across the adopted policies by each public charter school. The Commission is available to work with this committee, the DOE, and our public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

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

Date: 02/06/2026

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: 423 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: ECD

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

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

Purpose of Bill: Establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, and employees, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship. Requires the Department of Education, State Public Charter School Commission, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Hawaii State Public Library System, and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections. Appropriates funds for implementation by the Attorney General.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony and offers comments on HB 1870 – Relating To Protected Community Locations, which would establish standards limiting state participation in civil immigration enforcement activities near facilities providing essential services, including public schools. The Department recognizes the Legislature's intention to maintain schools as safe and accessible learning environments for all students.

In this proposed measure, K-12 public schools are identified as protected community locations under this measure, establishing uniform procedures for campus access, warrant verification processes, and designation of appropriate contact personnel 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 observes 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.

The measure's provisions requiring adoption of written policies, staff training, and data privacy protocols would establish uniform expectations for Department personnel. Clear guidance regarding roles, responsibilities, and appropriate responses helps ensure consistent practice across schools and supports staff in maintaining learning environments where students feel secure and able to focus on their education. However, the Department notes that developing such comprehensive policies and training programs in this area may require additional technical expertise and resources to ensure alignment with both federal immigration law and educational privacy requirements.

Finally, regarding the relationship between state and federal authority in this area may warrant further legal review. The Department would encourage thorough analysis to confirm that implementation of this measure can proceed in a manner consistent with federal statutes and constitutional requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1870.

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

Rep. Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

Hearing Time/Room:

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

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino, and we are members of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working statewide to advance policies that keep immigrant communities safe, healthy, and included. I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

As owners **of a longstanding gathering place for the Latino community on Oahu and across Hawai'i**, we know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities. After the Lahaina fires, we were witness to the crippling fear and confusion that spread across the Latino community affected by the fires. Many did not seek disaster aid, medical care, or much needed social services because of legal status concerns.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino

Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza

Oahu

808.593.2226

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:51:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

**Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:**

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

My name is Matt Johnson and I am the Executive Director for Pacific Gateway Center, and we are a member of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working statewide to advance policies that keep immigrant communities safe, healthy, and included. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

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

- **I/people I work with have seen families avoid health clinics, schools and even our offices because they are afraid of immigration enforcement.**
- **Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Respectfully,
Matthew B. Johnson
Pacific Gateway Center**



**House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
February 6, 2026 at 8:30 AM
Room 423**

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, I would like to offer our comments in **support of HB1870**, 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 and include nonprofits that provide immigration legal services, health care navigation, housing and food assistance, early childhood supports, and culturally responsive community-based programs. For many of these organizations, HB1870 has been identified as a priority bill this session because of its importance to community trust, safety, and access to services.

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

Nonprofit organizations rely on trust to do their work. When people fear that accessing services could expose them or their loved ones to immigration enforcement, they delay care, withdraw from programs, and avoid institutions that are meant to support stability and wellbeing. HB1870 helps ensure that nonprofits, schools, health care facilities, churches, and other community locations can continue to function as trusted, safe spaces where people can seek help without fear. These protections are essential not only for immigrant families, but for public health, educational outcomes, and community resilience across Hawai'i.

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

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

HANO also respectfully urges the Legislature to **amend the bill and add voting locations, such as facilities that serve as polling places**, as protected, sensitive locations under HB1870. Civic participation should never be undermined by fear or intimidation. Many nonprofits assist community members with voter education, registration, and turnout, including naturalized citizens who may already feel uncertain about engaging with government systems. Explicitly protecting voting locations would reinforce Hawai'i's commitment to democratic participation and ensure that eligible voters can exercise their rights freely and safely.

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.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:15:21 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Honolulu Hawaii NAACP	NAACP	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1. NAACP supports this measure to protect the people of Hawai'i against unlawful civil immigration enforcement and violations of due process by ensuring that a 1000-foot perimeter is in place. measure provides written policies on immigration protocols for all State actors with clarity of roles and responsibilities. Additionally, it establishes civil penalties that can serve as a deterrent to violating these policies.

The State has a duty to ensure that everyone is protected from practices and behaviors that interfere with the people of Hawai'i living in a safe, thriving, and healthy environment. When these violations occur, they erode the principles of "*Aloha*," diminish community trust, and may lead to broader civil rights discrimination. This Bill mitigates those barriers by providing reasonable protocols for engaging with immigration enforcement personnel.

We recognize the importance of having clear and enforceable statewide guidance for State actors responding to law enforcement in an appropriate manner through sufficient training and proper notification. For these reasons, the NAACP supports HB 1870 and appreciates the Legislature's continued commitment to protect diversity, equity, and inclusion in Hawai'i'.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1870.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:16:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Wesley United Methodist Church	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870
Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai‘i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:

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

My name is Rev. Amy Chieko Wake from Wesley United Methodist Church in Kahala. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;

- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

We must make sure everyone feels free to seek medical care, education for their children and help from churches.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Rev. Amy Chieko Wake
Wesley United Methodist Church
Oahu
pastoramywake@gmail.com



February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am
Conference Room 423

House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

To: Chair Greggor Ilagan
Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1870, 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.

To: House Committee Economic Development & Technology
Re: **HB1870 – Relating to Protected Community Locations**
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 6, 2026; 8:30 AM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing **in SUPPORT of HB1870**, which establishes statewide standards to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship.

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

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



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

DATE: Friday, February 6, 2026

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol

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

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

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

From a physician's perspective, the ability to provide timely, confidential, and uninterrupted care is fundamental to ethical medical practice. Patients must feel secure that the act of seeking care will not place them at additional risk. By reinforcing protected community locations and strengthening data privacy standards, HB1870 helps preserve the integrity of the clinician-patient relationship and promotes earlier engagement with preventive and primary care — outcomes that benefit individual patients, families, and the broader health system alike.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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



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

Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill
In SUPPORT of HB1870 RELATED TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

Representative Ilagan, Chair
Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

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

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

My name is **Liza Ryan-Gill**, testifying on behalf of the **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)**. HCIR is a coalition of **30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations** across the pae ‘āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai‘i as a place where all families can thrive.

We strongly support **HB1870**, a bill to prohibit federal immigration officers from conducting immigration enforcement in schools, hospitals, health care facilities, and places of worship.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Liza Ryan Gill

Executive Director

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

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

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

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

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

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

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:52:54 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

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

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 1870.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)



Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey
Friday, February 6, 2026
Room 423

HB1870 – RELATED TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS

TESTIMONY

Judith Mills Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB1870.

This bill would add a new Chapter to the HRS to establish statewide standards for agencies, officials, employees, and recipients of state funds to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts medical facilities and other sensitive locations which was the policy of federal agencies until recently.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB1870 - RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS
and
HB2445 – RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY**

House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

February 5, 2026

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

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports HB1870 and HB2445, two complementary measures that restore protections for sensitive community locations and ensure safe access to essential services amid escalating federal immigration enforcement activities. TLC is a nonprofit organization that works to advance immigrant justice statewide through immigration legal services, community education, and policy advocacy.

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

HB1870 restores safeguards for sensitive community locations by limiting participation by state and county officials, agencies, employees, and recipients of state funds in civil immigration enforcement at or near these spaces. The bill also requires written policies, staff training, designated points of contact, and data privacy protections to help ensure residents can safely access critical public services without fear of exposure to immigration enforcement.

HB2445 complements these protections by requiring the Department of Education to develop emergency response plans addressing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools. Clear protocols will help educators, students, and families understand their rights and maintain schools as safe learning environments.

TLC urges passage of these measures that together strengthen community safety and recognize that access to essential services benefits everyone.

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

Christina Sablan
Community & Policy Advocate

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:26:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelina Mercado	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) mission is to unite Hawai'i to end all forms of domestic violence. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters. On behalf of HSCADV and our 20 member programs statewide, we are in support of HB1870.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Support for HB 1870 – Relating to Protected Community Locations
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Friday, February 6, 2026, at 8:30AM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 1870**, which would establish clear, statewide standards limiting participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide essential, state-funded services, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and food assistance sites.

HB 1870 helps ensure that all community members can safely access essential services, including food assistance, regardless of immigration status. Many of the locations covered by this bill—such as food banks, schools, and social service agencies—are critical access points for nutrition programs and emergency food support. Food assistance programs like SNAP and WIC are critical lifelines for our communities—over 155,000 Hawai‘i residents¹ and 25,000 pregnant people, infants, and young children, respectively.² Yet many families who remain eligible hesitate to apply due to increased surveillance, harsh rhetoric, and fear of deportation. This “chilling effect” means that families—especially ones with mixed statuses—often forgo benefits, even when their children or household members qualify.

In many communities, food banks and pantries are proactively welcoming immigrants, removing barriers and ensuring families can access food without fear.³ These preemptive efforts such as removing barriers and providing language services can make a real difference in reducing fear and ensuring families have access to food. When families feel safe accessing public services, they are better able to meet basic needs, including putting food on the table.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB 1870**. We are pleased that the Legislature is paying attention to measures that protect access to essential services in Hawai‘i.

¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, “SNAP Data Tables: National and/or State Level Monthly and/or Annual Data,” Food and Nutrition Service, 2025. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

² U.S. Department of Agriculture, “WIC Data Tables: Monthly Data – State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs,” Food and Nutrition Service, 2025.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>

³ Mumma, Genevieve, and Daniela Spoto, “The Chilling Effect: How Federal Cuts and Immigration Crackdowns Threaten Food Security in Hawai‘i,” Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, August 21, 2025. <https://hiappleseed.org/blog/the-chilling-effect-how-federal-cuts-and-immigration-crackdowns-threaten-food-security-in-hawaii>



House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB1870

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

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

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

HB1870 is a practical step to protect public safety and health. In Hawai'i, places like schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, and food pantries are vital, especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. If people worry that seeking help could put them or their loved ones at risk of civil immigration enforcement, they may delay medical care, avoid schools, or avoid emergency services. This affects immigrant families, as well as the health and safety of all residents

Hawai'i relies on these safe places, especially during emergencies and natural disasters. People need to be able to get shelter, food, medical care, and help with recovery without fear or pressure. Protecting these spaces makes our state safer, improves health, and helps make sure everyone gets support when they need it.

Ensuring people can access necessary services without fear is an important step toward justice, dignity, and the well-being of our communities.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1870.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

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

Anne Frederick, Executive Director



FEBRUARY 6, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1870

CURRENT REFERRAL: ECD

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

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1870, relating to protected community locations, which establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, and employees, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship; requires the Department of Education, State Public Charter School Commission, University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Hawai'i State Public Library System, and Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency 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 immigration programs. Under the anti-commandeering doctrine, reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Printz v. United States* (1997), the federal government may not compel state or local officials to carry out federal enforcement. Courts have also recognized limits on state involvement in immigration enforcement, including in *Arizona v. United States* (2012). HB 1870 lawfully exercises Hawai'i's authority to set boundaries that protect public safety and civil rights.

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

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

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

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

HEARING:

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

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

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, 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 HB1870**, 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 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 HB1870**.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', written in a cursive style.

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



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

Friday, February 6, 2026
8:30AM - Conference Room 423
HB1838 - Relating to Visas - Support

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

HULI PAC strongly supports HB 1838, which establishes uniform statewide requirements for the issuance of U and T visa certifications for noncitizen victims of crime, consistent with federal law. U and T visas are crimefighting tools that help survivors access temporary status and employment authorization, and may allow survivors to apply for lawful permanent resident status.

Right now, certifying entities are not required by federal law to complete or sign these certifications, and the bill identifies that some entities are resistant due to lack of understanding or resources. Without uniform standards, victims statewide face inconsistent access to justice. HB 1838 addresses this by requiring state and county certifying entities to adopt publicly available written policies and processes, designate certifying officials, and follow clear response timelines.

HB 1838 also establishes important process protections, including written notice of denial with reasons and an option to submit additional evidence, confidentiality of immigration status and personal identifying information, and language access protocols. The bill further provides for training through the Department of the Attorney General and appropriates \$100,000 for fiscal year 2026–2027 to support that training.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support passage of HB 1838.

Mahalo.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:42:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice chair Hussenbux, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we stand in VERY Strong Support of HB1870 to maintain protected community locations for all of our community members. We are all human beings no one should be made to feel lesser than anyone else. We need to ensure families feel safe sending their children to school, to health care facilities, places of worship, and shelters if needed. No one wants to live in a fear based society, we are better than that.

The Green Party of Hawai'i supports establishing statewide standards, training, and privacy protections to prevent harm and confusion should ICE come into our neighborhoods. We need to be ready to stand strong together and support our most fragile communities.

Thank you for supporting HB1870.

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Hawai'i

Committee: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 am
Place: Conference Room #423 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 1870, Relating to Protected Community Locations**

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

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

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

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

- **Limiting State Resources:** The bill limits the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. This reinforces the idea that our public buildings should be places of safety and trust, not fear.
- **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, 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, I respectfully ask the committee to support H.B. 1870.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:33:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:51:39 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support protection of immigrants in protected areas. Those of questionable immigrant status shouldn't be taken from public places like schools or hospitals.

As we've seen, ICE has also used public celebratory events like graduation ceremonies to take parents of students. I support this also because it gives money to the AG's office to enforce.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:59:04 AM

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

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

Comments:

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.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:37:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I appreciate this bill for its decency and humanity. Please approve.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:07:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Hintzen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly encourage you to pass this bill as an important access to protecting families access to education and medical services without fear. Especially for children being able to access schools, hospitals, libraries, clinics, and food assistance is critically important. The way we care for our children is the way we care for our community. Please take steps to protect these services for the most vulnerable in our society.

Thank you,

Katy Hintzen

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:09:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly oppose this Bill. The state and counties should not override federal laws and mandates.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:21:36 PM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:57:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alec Marentic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of the big island, and work in schools. I strongly support strengthening and clarifying these protections. I have had to share my spouses information with colleagues because we are worried about getting arrested and lost the system due to protecting children and standing in the way of unlawful activity. I believe the State should act quickly to protect publicly funded and available spaces.

Mahalo,
Alec Marentic

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:43:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:14:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. If immigrant members of our community, out of fear, fail to access state services, this degrades the health and welfare of all of us. Locations and officials providing these services must keep them safe and protect them for everyone. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:16:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jana U	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support setting explicit boundaries to protect our people in protected community locations. We cannot assume immigration enforcement will maintain their distance as they continue to rampage through US cities, into schools, following food donation centers, public transit and healthcare centers bringing violence and traumatizing persons or worse.

Protect our people by defining these spaces and ensure quick enforcement and penalties for those who violate them.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870- Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:35:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:

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

My name is Muhtadia Rice, and I am a resident of Kailua, Hawaii. I support the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), a coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working statewide to advance policies that keep immigrant communities safe, healthy, and included.

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;

Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;

Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;

Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

I have seen families avoid government buildings and educational facilities because they are afraid of immigration enforcement.

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

Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Muhtadia Rice

Kailua, Hawaii

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:27:15 PM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB1870.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:37:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Ashley de Coligny

Kaneohe resident

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:31:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Some impressive study has indicated that authoritarian regimes fall when as few as 3.5% of people act to stop their abuses. Demonstration are important but alone they don't do the job! This bill is a useful step in that it throws sand in the evil machinery of oppression by groups like ICE. We need to strongly support it and similar measures like forbidding masking of ICE goons.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:24:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a UH Commiunity College professor, I fully support this measure because I see the threat to our diverse students and families. Their fears are real. Having state standards for protected community locations is an absolute must for the sake of students and schools, etc.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:03:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I write in strong support of HB1870.

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.

Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:29:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Lynn Otaguro, and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

As a former teacher, I understand the importance of keeping schools as a safe place, so that our children will come to school, and can learn without fear.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:32:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:44:11 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB1870.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:22:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 1870.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

- **I work with have seen families avoid [clinic/school/library/shelter] because they are afraid of immigration enforcement.**
- **As a health worker, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.**

- **Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Joanne amberg

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:25:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelia Kirkhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship should be protected from immigration enforcement activity.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:16:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Borgman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you, Gina Borgman

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:19:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Larsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Mia Larsen

Honolulu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:10:06 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB1870. We have all seen shocking reports of abuses by ICE. While Hawaii has not had problems as severe as other places - so far - we should take proactive steps to protect everyone here.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:19:43 AM

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

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

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:30:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:37:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Huffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I support this bill not only as a resident of Hawai‘i, but as a professor and a librarian who works directly with students and community members seeking knowledge, support, and access to essential public services.

In my professional roles, I regularly interact with individuals who rely on schools, libraries, and other public institutions as safe, trusted spaces. Libraries and classrooms are often the first places people turn when they need information about health care, housing, food assistance, disaster resources, or legal rights. For many students and families—particularly those from immigrant and mixed-status households—these spaces may be the only accessible point of contact with public services.

When fear of civil immigration enforcement enters these environments, it fundamentally undermines their purpose. Students disengage from learning. Community members avoid libraries, health clinics, and legal services. People delay seeking help until problems escalate into crises. As an educator and librarian, I have seen how fear silences participation and blocks access to information that is critical to individual and community well-being.

This bill affirms what educators and librarians already know: access to education, information, health care, and justice depends on trust. Clear statewide standards, staff training, and strong data privacy protections help ensure that public institutions can fulfill their missions without inadvertently placing the people they serve at risk. They also provide clarity for staff, who should not be forced to navigate ambiguous or inconsistent expectations while doing their jobs.

I believe deeply that publicly funded institutions must remain focused on their core responsibilities—to educate, to inform, to heal, and to serve. This bill protects those functions and helps ensure that everyone in our communities can access essential services without fear.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Brian Huffman

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:56:10 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

**Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:**

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;

- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

- I/people I work with have seen families avoid clinics, schools, libraries and shelters because they are afraid of immigration enforcement.
- As a grandparent, educator, health worker and community volunteer, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.
- Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Kayo Malik

Maui

kayoda7@hotmail.com

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:40:23 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina De Leon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870
Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:

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

My name is Cristina De Leon, and I am a concerned Hawai'i Resident. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;

- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Cristina De Leon (Maui)

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:47:11 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill .

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:01:24 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:17:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I support HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations, because our schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, and food pantries must remain accessible and trusted spaces for all residents to seek essential services without hesitation.

HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai'i, our community-based services are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. When people are concerned that seeking help could lead to civil immigration enforcement actions, they may delay medical care, limit school engagement, and avoid emergency support. This affects not only immigrant families, but the wellbeing of our entire community.

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.

- It's have been observed families hesitating to access [clinic/school/library/shelter] due to concerns about immigration enforcement.

- As a parent, I understand that families need to feel secure using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.

- Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; residents must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid during times of crisis.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Ezgi Green

Waialua, O'ahu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:49:55 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:02:33 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

**Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:**

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

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

- **Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Respectfully,
Nancy Convard
nconvard@gmail.com**

202-288-8822

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:08:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing as a member of Indivisible Hawaii in support of HB1870. The intent of HB1870 is to restore the protection from immigration enforcement in schools, churches, courts, hospitals and other sensitive locations. People, regardless of status, should not be afraid to go to school, get medical care, worship. Immigration enforcement has turned into a terror operation. We should do everything we can to protect community members and ensure community safety. This means establishing clear guidelines as to where immigration authorities can be refused entry into public spaces.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:28:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1870 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, Hawai'i

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:32:30 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870

Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

Hearing Time/Room:

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

[Optional personal/community paragraph — choose one or write your own]

- I/people I work with have seen families avoid [clinic/school/library/shelter] because they are afraid of immigration enforcement.
- As a community volunteer, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.
- Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Respectfully,

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:36:37 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1870, which would establish statewide standards for limiting participation by state and county agencies, officers, employees, and recipients of state funds in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations. Protected community locations include schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, places of worship, and other settings where people access essential services.

1. Ensuring Safe Access to Essential Services

Research and best practices in public health and education show that when individuals fear enforcement actions in places where they or their children receive services, they are less likely to access those services — even when eligible. Fear of immigration enforcement has been linked to reduced use of health care, public benefits, and school engagement, which can lead to worse health and educational outcomes for children and families. Limiting enforcement activities near schools and health settings protects public health and learning. (See, e.g., migrationpolicy.org research on chilling effects of enforcement on public service use.)

HB1870 helps ensure that children feel safe attending school and families feel safe seeking health care, food assistance, or shelter, regardless of immigration status.

2. Promoting Civil Rights and Privacy Protections

HB1870 explicitly prohibits state actors from collecting, retaining, or disclosing personal identifying information for immigration enforcement unless required by law or pursuant to a judicial warrant. This is consistent with privacy protections and prevents unauthorized use of sensitive personal data held by schools, health care facilities, and other service providers. Preserving data privacy not only aligns with civil rights principles but also supports trust between communities and public institutions.

3. Clarifying Lawful Standards and Reducing Confusion

Federal guidance previously identified “sensitive locations” where immigration enforcement should be limited, but that guidance was rescinded in 2025, creating uncertainty for community

members and public agencies. HB1870 replaces that uncertainty with clear statutory standards that protect access to education, health care, social services, and justice for all Hawai‘i residents.

4. Evidence from Local and National Contexts

Studies show that when schools and health facilities are designated as safe or protected spaces, families are more likely to participate fully in education and health programs. Policies that separate civil immigration enforcement from essential public services help maintain Hawai‘i’s inclusive and diverse social fabric, promoting better outcomes across communities.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support and pass HB1870. This bill helps Hawai‘i uphold principles of public safety, civil rights, privacy, and access to essential services for all residents and families.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha ‘āina,
Kēhau Lucas

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:39:32 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pollock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1870 PROTECTED LOCATIONS AND CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:02:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addie Berliner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1870

To the Honorable Chair and Committee Members, My name is Addie Berliner.

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

Addie Berliner

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:52:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870 and encourage you to do the same.

On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration rescinded the policy that protected sensitive locations like houses of worship, schools, and hospitals from immigration enforcement, allowing ICE (and other DHS agents) to conduct operations in these areas. This directive permits agents to use "common sense" and discretion for arrests without prior supervisor approval, reversing decades-old protections.

The horrors of Trump's actions are being seen across Hawaii and across the United States. Children are being picked up and detained for deportation from their schools (or on their way to school), including in pre-school! This is wholly unacceptable as it leaves long-lasting scars on their lives and the well-being of the communities from which they are taken.

I teach at UH Manoa, and on our campus, some students are afraid to attend campus events for fear of immigration enforcement agents being present and spiriting them away. This is unacceptable and diminishes not only their education but the university as a whole. We are deprived of their attendance and participation.

Many people in Hawaii are currently afraid of going to see their medical providers, for fear that immigration enforcement agents will nab them. This is also wholly unacceptable as it has enormous and negative public health consequences.

Of course, it is not only houses of worship, schools, and healthcare clinics that immigration enforcement agents are also showing up at. They are also present at our protests, libraries, food pantries and more. HB1870 recognizes that and creates HI statewide standards that apply to state/county agencies and employees and recipients of state funds when providing state-funded service.

From my vantage point as an educator and as a resident of HI concerned with the high-level of fear that I see in the people I encounter, HB 1870 is critical to given a sense of peace and freedom of movement that Trump's "mass deportation" campaign is actively attempting to squash.

As our legislators, I fully understand that for you to stand with us takes courage. Trump has created a climate of deep fear, in part due to his promises of retribution. However, courage is

defined by taking action that is not guaranteed to be "safe." But, may I remind you that none of us is "safe" in a system where people do things they otherwise may not do because they are afraid. That is an authoritarian system, and I call on you all to stand against it and with people instead.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:34:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Karen Valasek

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:35:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1870.

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:39:37 PM

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

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

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support this measure to establish **protected community locations** to disallow altogether any state and county participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near places where children and vulnerable residents must feel safe accessing essential services.

Schools, child care facilities, libraries, health care centers, shelters, and places of worship exist to protect health, learning, safety, and dignity. When families fear that seeking medical care, enrolling a child in school, attending counseling, or accessing food assistance could expose them to immigration enforcement, the result is predictable and dangerous: children go untreated, education is disrupted, abuse and neglect go unreported, and entire communities withdraw from lifesaving services. This bill directly addresses that harm.

By clearly prohibiting civil immigration enforcement activity in protected community locations—absent a **judicial warrant or imminent threat**—this measure restores certainty and stability for families, service providers, educators, and health professionals. It ensures that children can attend school, families can seek medical care, survivors can access shelters, and communities can worship without fear or intimidation, consistent with constitutional protections for education, public health, and religious freedom.

The bill’s emphasis on **data privacy, warrant verification, training, and clear written policies** is especially important for protecting minors and other vulnerable individuals. Children should never be placed at risk because of information-sharing practices unrelated to safety or service delivery. Likewise, staff should not be put in the position of making on-the-spot legal determinations without proper guidance. This legislation provides the structure and training necessary to protect both families and frontline workers.

Importantly, this measure does **not** interfere with lawful federal authority. It respects federal law while exercising the State’s police powers to ensure that Hawai‘i’s schools, hospitals, libraries, shelters, and faith-based service providers remain places of care—not fear.

Protecting children and vulnerable people is what we do here in Hawai‘i and requires clear rules, consistent statewide standards, with a commitment to human dignity. This bill does exactly that. I urge your strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:10:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary santa maria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on ECD,

I support the bill related to protected community locations. It will keep us all safe, and without fear.

M. Santa Maria

retired public health educator

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:24:11 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:32:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:39:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANNE WINTER BROOKINS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Dianne Winter Brookins, and I am a member of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Civil Rights (HCCR). I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

For these reasons, we urge you to **pass HB1870** 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,

Dianne Winter Brookins

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:49:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Trovinger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870
Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai‘i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes;

- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

- As a parent, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.
- Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Ana Trovinger
O‘ahu
anatrovinger@gmail.com

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:54:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

Protect community locations

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:18:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:42:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

**Mahalo,
Julie Uyeno-Pidot**

HB-1870

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

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne Loren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room: 8:30 am Rm. 423**

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

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

- **As a community volunteer, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.**
- **Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Respectfully,
Daphne Loren
O‘ahu
tea.loren.456@gmail.com**

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:51:47 PM

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

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

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:53:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inge Detlefsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People need to be safe accessing health care and other essential services. Horror stories of ICE arresting people in front of the emergency room and clinics abound. This is against humanity rights, decency, and common sense. We need sensitive areas to be off limits.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:29:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1870 because it protects access to care and education facilities. Families should be able to go to school, clinics, libraries, shelters, 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.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:10:33 PM

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

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

Comments:

- Ensures families can access schools, health care, shelters, and services without fear.
- Establishes statewide standards, training, and privacy protections to prevent harm and confusion.
- Thank you!

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:16:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal Barnett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep our residents safe.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:25:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rose Chismar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support.

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

My name is Afraah Hassan, and I am a student at Waiākea High School. I am writing in strong support of HB 1870, relating to protected community spaces.

This bill would ensure that state-funded community spaces remain safe and accessible for everyone. Schools, healthcare facilities, and other public spaces should be places of learning, care, and support, not fear.

As a student, this issue is deeply personal to me. I care about my education, and I know many others do too. But when students, even young children, risk detention simply for attending school or accessing services, their right to education is threatened. A threat to one student's education becomes a threat to all of us. Fear does not belong in classrooms.

Passing this bill would help students and families feel secure when accessing schools and other community spaces. It would allow us to focus on learning, growing, and building our futures without constant anxiety. Protected community spaces are about protecting opportunity and basic rights.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Afraah Hassan

Waiākea High School

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:43:58 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

My name is Nancy J. Budd and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540**. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process and transparency. It is critical that our state provide these protections so all of our citizens, including vulnerable immigrant and mixed-status families in particular, can access essential services without fear and survivors can seek help and safely cooperate with authorities.

State and county participation in civil immigration enforcement near sensitive locations such as schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and courts must be prohibited. People must be able to safely access education, health care, emergency services and courts without fear. Every day we see masked and violent federal “agents” attacking and abducting people, including minors, on streets, at schools and as they enter court buildings to attend hearings. This must stop.

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

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

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

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

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

Together, these bills

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

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

Sincerely,
Nancy J. Budd

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:56:04 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB1870. Protect our children and people all over Hawaii.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:02:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870

Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

Hearing Time/Room:

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, Hawai'i

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:48:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Genevieve Mumma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

Immigrants are pillars of our community in Hawai'i and have been an upstanding part of our history and economy for years. These bills are extremely important to:

- Ensure families can access schools, health care, shelters, and services without fear;
- Establish statewide standards, training, and privacy protections to prevent harm and confusion; and
- Require visible identification and policies that promote accountability and community trust.

We respectfully urge you to pass these essential measures to protect out immigrant neighbors. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Mumma
Resident of O'ahu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:51:40 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

D. K. Lynn
Honolulu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:55:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monisha Das Gupta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Monisha Das Gupta. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1870, which proposes to establish protective zones around schools, hospitals, courts, places of worship, and other locations that deliver services to vulnerable communities so that they are protected from immigration enforcement agents at and near these locations.

Over the last year, we have seen the devastating effects of immigration enforcement ordered by the Trump Administration at these sensitive locations. They have led to arrests in courtrooms, and the arrests of school children, teachers, and day care workers. Immigrants are terrified to send their children to school, access services, report for their court dates, and attend religious services. No place is safe for them.

We have seen the effects of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests of minors at or near their school in the Kona belt. I urge you to recognize that these ICE actions are happening here in Hawai'i.

As an educator, I hear from students who are genuinely afraid of ICE turning up in the classroom and on our campuses. Every day, I witness the chilling effects on students whose education is being impacted because they live in fear and are afraid to seek help.

I am particularly encouraged to see that the bill calls upon the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i system to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections. This is long overdue and will go a long way for us to offer a modicum of safety and security to our immigrant students.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:14:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:42:54 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Clark
O'ahu
gabbynclark@gmail.com / clarkgn@hawaii.edu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:55:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Kencho Gurung, Hilo

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:35:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee-Won Fulbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:45:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

As a citizen and member of Indivisible Hawaii, I strongly support this bill. ICE's methods are overly aggressive and have resulted in the killing of two American citizens as well as deaths of detainees in their custody. They have also detained and in some cases deported American citizens and legal residents. This bill establishes statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, and employees, and recipients of state funds, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations that provide state-funded services related to education, physical or mental health, social services such as shelter care or food assistance, or access to justice, including schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and places of worship. These locations should be sacrosanct and unavailable to ICE enforcement actions.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:45:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoon-Hi Fulbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:50:18 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express **STRONG SUPPORT** for the bill. We, and our neighbors and community members deserve to be protected in all of these places. No one in our community, immigrant or non-immigrant, child or adult, should live in fear of seeking medical care, going to places of worship, attending school. Cruelty is not our kuleana!

Thank you,

Marie Iding



The House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
February 6, 2026
Room 423
8:30 AM

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

Attention: Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey and members of the
Committee

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

We believe that 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 defining these protected perimeters and establishing clear protocols, this measure ensures that our students, faculty, and the broader community can pursue education without the chilling effect caused by uncertainty regarding federal enforcement presence. Furthermore, UHPA supports the bill's provisions regarding data privacy and the establishment of clear guidelines for state employees concerning the collection and disclosure of sensitive information. Requiring written policies and training for state actors provides necessary clarity on how to handle inquiries and verify judicial warrants, ensuring that state resources are not inappropriately used to assist in civil immigration enforcement.

Concerns Regarding Individual Liability. While we support the bill's goals, UHPA must raise a significant concern regarding the liability provisions in Section -6, which exposes individual state actors—including faculty members—to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation.

Our members are educators and researchers, not legal experts. They may face high-pressure situations involving intimidation or confusion when confronted by federal agents demanding access to nonpublic areas. We are concerned that under the current language, a faculty member who mistakenly grants access or provides information in a good faith belief that they are complying with a warrant—or who acts out of fear under duress—could be held personally and financially liable for that mistake.

Furthermore, while our collective bargaining agreement generally provides legal representation for actions taken within the scope of employment, this bill imposes a direct statutory penalty on the *individual*. We believe that the burden of liability for compliance failures should rest with the Employer or the institution, rather than falling personally upon frontline public employees who are navigating complex conflicts between state and federal directives.

University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly

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



We respectfully ask the committee to consider these liability implications and ensure that the measure protects educators who are acting in good faith before moving this bill forward.

With these considerations, UHPA supports HB 1870.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:39:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1870.

Tina Marie Even
Waikoloa Village

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:42:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1870 and ask for your support of HB1870.

Support HB1870 to ensure families can access schools, health care, shelters, and services without fear or harm.

Support HB1870 because it establishes statewide standards, training, and privacy protections to prevent harm and confusion.

Support HB1870 for our keiki (children), our 'ohana (families), and our kaialulu (communities).

'O wau iho no,

Lorrie Ann Santos, Kane'ohe, O'ahu

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

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

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

My name is Joey Badua, and I am a concerned resident of Hawai'i. I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to Protected Community Locations.

Being aware of immigration enforcement spilling into environments such as courthouses and schools, HB1870 provides a common-sense measure to keep the public safe. Establishing procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements for frontline workers in schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services profoundly adheres to the law because requiring a judicial warrant, not an administrative warrant or detainer, before granting access to nonpublic areas *is* the law.

The phrase “the fox guarding the henhouse” is relevant here.

HB1870 fills the terrifying void of preventing the collapse of the Fourth Amendment and the potential unfettered use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement if we do not protect these spaces. Clarifying what state actors and recipients of state funds may and may not do, ensuring our public institutions remain accessible and trusted.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:25:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

- Ensures families can access schools, health care, shelters, and services without fear.
- Establishes statewide standards, training, and privacy protections to prevent harm and confusion.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter!

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:44:56 PM

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

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

Comments:

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB1870 which ensures that community spaces offering education, health care, social services, shelter, or access to justice remain safe for all residents. This is a critical public safety and public health measure because when some members of our community feel unsafe to access basic needs, it harms us all.

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:45:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

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

My name is **Doreen Akamine** and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure. In Hawai'i, our schools, health facilities, places of religious practice, 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 or prohibit **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 our state and the Creipients of state funds may and may not do, ensuring our public institutions remain accessible and trusted.

- I am aware of families in Hawaii who avoid **school and seeking health services** because they are afraid of immigration enforcement.
- I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during illness, injuries, and school-related activities.
- Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Respectfully,
Doreen Akamine

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:49:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J Block	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

I have been deep in the trenches, helping the immigrant community through direct representation, advocacy and policy work for over a decade. It is hard to imagine anything more destructive to a community than to have Federal enforcement in safe places such as schools, churches, hospitals and courts. As we witnessed after the fire, our community includes our immigrants and EVERYONE benefits when they participate in civic life. It is pro family and pro community to make sure that your constituents feel safe to go to church and to send their children to school.

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

Kevin Block, Attorney at Law

Maui Immigration Law, LLC

Email: kevin@immigrationlawmaui.com

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:27:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support HB1870 as written, but suggest making two additions.

1. Please consider adding courts of law as protected places. There have been reports of ICE agents barging in and disrupting court proceedings.

2. Provisions are needed to prevent a group of military-attired, armed agents disrupting classes, worship services, medical activities, etc. once they show a court order. I would like to see something added to the bill to ensure that agents can carry out their duties without disruption. Perhaps require that the person who verified the court order would find the person, or accompany the agents, or otherwise protect from disruption the on-going operations of the site and the people not involved.

I urge you to consider these additions, but to pass HB1879 with or without these changes.

Thank you.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:28:22 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai‘i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

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

My name is Alyce Dodge, and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**. As an **educator**, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.

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** 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,

Alyce Dodge

Oahu, Honolulu

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:48:14 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I support HB1870. Immigration enforcement should be prohibited at schools, healthcare facilities and clinics, libraries, shelters, food banks, state-funded social service locations and places of worship. Requiring certain agencies to adopt and post written policies, provide annual staff training, and maintain data privacy protections.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:55:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Larson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill seems like a no brainer but necessary.

Of course we do NOT want immigration agents in or near places like schools or hospitals.

Please pass this bill!

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:08:03 AM

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

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

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1870
Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature

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

My name is Peter Matlock, and I am testifying to strongly support HB 1870. I am a Hawai'i resident living on Hawai'i Island, and am extremely concerned about DHS encroachment on what are traditionally and appropriately considered safe spaces.

HB1870 is a common-sense public safety and public health measure to protect critical schools, clinics, libraries, shelters, food pantries, and other community-based services. These spaces are lifelines—especially for families with children, kūpuna, and people recovering from crises or disasters. We need to keep these spaces safe for the benefit of everyone.

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit 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.

Please note that 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 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,
Peter Matlock

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:11:22 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha,

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 all people in Hawai'i 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 everyone in our entire state.

Note hat this bill's language does not obstruct federal officers performing lawful duties.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock

Kailua Kona

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:17:02 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiara Womack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I teach art on O‘ahu. I am a proud descendent of Mexican immigrants. I am an alum of Konawaena High School in Kealahou, South Kona, on Big Island. I have family members who still live in the South Kona coffee belt (so I go back often). My alma mater, Konawaena High School, is one school of many that is missing students as a result of immigration raids in the area. As many of you may know South Kona has been targeted due to the high, mostly Latine, immigrant population, many of whom work on coffee farms. Every time I go home I worry a family friend may have been disappeared. My testimony is coming from a highly privileged point-of-view, and I personally don’t live in constant fear the way so many Latine folks do right now.

I worry about relatives of mine who appear more Latine than I do in the white American imagination. I worry about keiki in the family going to school even though they are natural born citizens. I worry about kūpuna in my family who have been traumatized by decades of xenophobia and hate just so their children and great grandchildren and grandchildren and great nieces and nephew continue to be hated.

As an educator, this bill is important to me. Many students, even citizens, are afraid of going to school. Many are in hiding. We need bills like this so that students feel that they can safely go to school, to the doctor, places of worship. Please support this bill to protect our communities.

Mahalo palena ‘ole for taking the time to read my testimony.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:22:12 AM

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

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

Comments:

Clearly, "safe spaces' are consistent with aloha and our laws. Strongly support

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:29:32 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Puakea Busby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Christina Busby. I am a resident of Honolulu, a former public school teacher, and a PhD Candidate in the Educational Foundations department at UH Manoa, and I am urging you to pass HB1870. As a teacher, I previously taught in public schools in Washington state where a significant portion of the population identified as refugees and immigrants, some of whom were undocumented. And in Hawaii, I have lived my life surrounded by immigrants and the descendants of immigrants. Although I am Native Hawaiian, I, too, have immigrant ancestors who came to Hawaii from China, Puerto Rico, and the United States. As I've witnessed the terror being committed by ICE and Dept. of Homeland Security against the people of Minnesota, Illinois, and California, I am fearful that this same level of terror will come here. ICE has already been operating in Hawaii and has wrongfully detained people with legal status, as we saw last year with teachers on special visas in Maui who were dragged out of their homes with their children in the middle of the night due to an error by ICE. It is so important that we here in Hawaii continue to be proactive and protect the dignity and rights of ALL people here, regardless of their legal or citizenship status -- as this is assured to us by the US constitution. We must bar ICE from entering sensitive places such as schools and churches. We have seen countless videos of teachers being dragged out of their schools by ICE in front of their students. We have seen videos of ICE deploying chemical weapons against students in Minneapolis. We all witnessed young child Liam being held as bait by ICE. All of these actions, though they may claim are "legal" are unconstitutional. We must safeguard our rights here in Hawaii. This bill is so incredibly urgent. We must take action NOW. Please consider supporting this bill. Mahalo

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:33:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support protected locations from ICE

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:34:32 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janille Casabar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:**

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

My name is Janille Casabar I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

- **Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.**

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

AS an educator, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services-especially during emergencies and school-related activities.

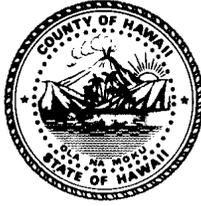
For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB1870 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Respectfully,
Janille Casabar**

**Konawaena Elementary School
Big Island/Kealakekua**

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 4, 2026
TO: House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB1870

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and 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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:47:53 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:12:27 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Khan-Gates	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

I support HB1870 because it:

- Ensures families can access schools, health care, shelters, and services without fear.
- Establishes statewide standards, training, and privacy protections to prevent harm and confusion.

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

Sincerely,

Jenna Khan-Gates

O'ahu resident

jennakhan7@gmail.com

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:25:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is so important to the health and safety of our community members. I have heard countless stories of immigrants in Hawaii who are afraid to take their kids to the hospital because of fear of immigration enforcement, regardless of legal status. Frankly it doesn't go far enough; after bearing witness to the horrors in Minneapolis I would support restricting cooperation with immigration law enforcement *anywhere*, not just in these spaces, but these spaces are obviously the most critical.

Establishing safety at the hospital is obviously important to ensure that people can receive proper care. Establishing safety at school is also critically important, and it doesn't seem like an accident that schools become a target. On average, for every day of school that children miss, earning potential in adulthood is reduced. This is always problematic but it is particularly insidious in this case because selecting a group of usually non-white people and scaring them away from school will only serve to further racial economic disparities fan the flames racism and discrimination in a vicious cycle.

No child should be afraid to attend school. No human should be afraid to seek medical care.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:51:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
- Require a judicial warrant—not an administrative warrant or detainer—before granting access to nonpublic areas;
- Prevent the collection or disclosure of sensitive personal information for civil immigration enforcement purposes; and
- 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.

In my work with community members, I have seen families hesitate to seek services at clinics, schools, and shelters because they fear immigration enforcement. As a community advocate, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies, disaster response, and school-related activities. Our communities rely on trusted spaces in times of crisis, and people must be able to access help without intimidation or fear.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1870 and ensure protected community locations remain places where everyone in Hawai'i can access education, health care, and basic services safely.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826
Member, Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:23:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass this!!!!

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

Rep. Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Hawai'i State Legislature

Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

Hearing Time/Room:

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

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

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center was established as a safe gathering place for resources and education to support our immigrant and migrant families to become

successful contributing members of the Waipahu Community. The community needs to feel safe and reassured that they are in a safe space to conduct services to access resources and educational activities.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

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

Barbara.yukie@gmail.com

Feb. 5, 2026

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

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

Apologies for somewhat belated testimony – household emergencies yesterday.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

John M. Knox
Waimānalo
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:06:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hyo Jung Kwon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Hyo Jung Kwon, and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

As a parent and member of our community, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities. Our communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Respectfully,
Hyo Jung Kwon**

Oahu, Manoa

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:07:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Tjoeng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, & Committee members,

I stand in strong support of establishing safe spaces, especially after what we are seeing unfold in Minnesota. Please vote yes on this bill!

Mahalo,
Rachel

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:38:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Groves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

YES!

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

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

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

I currently volunteer as a Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide. I have helped train teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, parents and senior citizens on what their constitutional rights are, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and how to ensure these rights are not violated. I have also trained them how to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work, their schools and community service locations for interactions with federal agents.

I begin my training presentations with an overview of why knowing our rights is important:

- **AWARENESS:** Many people in our communities simply do not know their rights, so they also do not know when their rights are being violated. Federal agents can take advantage of our ignorance about our constitutional protections as a mechanism to deprive us of them.
- **EMPOWERMENT TO EXERCISE RIGHTS:** Know Your Rights education, in the school context for example, empowers people to be able to exercise their rights to protect themselves, their school, and their employees, students, and communities.
- **BUILD COLLECTIVE POWER:** The more people know their rights and how to exercise them, the more power they have when faced with immigration agents. Knowing your rights is the first step to collective safety.

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

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

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

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:45:02 PM

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

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

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawai'i Island I strongly support HB1870

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:58:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Phillips Ramsvig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kyle Phillips and I live in Kailua. I am writing today in support of this bill to protect the rights of all people in this country to safe access to health facilities, schools, etc regardless of their immigration status. We are a country of immigrants, indigenous people, and the descendants of both. It is our duty, as such, and as upholders of the Constitution, to engage in civil immigration processes that limit harm, uphold dignity, and protect the most vulnerable among us, most notably children. Hawaii should be leading the way nationwide for benevolent treatment of all people on our islands. Thank you.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:24:42 PM

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

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

Comments:

keep america free

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:18:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

**Rep. Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th
Hearing Time/Room:**

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

My name is Andrew Isoda (Lahaina, Mau'i), I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

- **Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.**

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

- **Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:52:26 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I urge you to support HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

- Limit the use of state and county resources to assist civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations;
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- 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.

- families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.

- Hawai'i's communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Thank you

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:57:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Amy Jindra, and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1870**, relating to **Protected Community Locations**.

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

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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

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

As a parent and active community member I know the importance of creating safety, care and clarity in our community.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Amy Jindra

Kapa'a, Kauai

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:34:59 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Meadow Dawn Stassens, and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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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.

Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Meadow Dawn Stassens

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:28:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jahnavi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jahnavi Richter Stassens, and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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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.

Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Jahnvi Richter Stassens

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:38:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Welvaert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support HB1870 in keeping community spaces safe from ICE.

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:48:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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- 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 stactors and recipients of state funds may and may not do, ensuring our public institutions remain accessible and trusted.

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

MaryLu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

Mkelley323@gmail.com

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:41:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KRISTIN AIONA	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Kristin Aiona

Regarding HB 1870

February 5, 2026

My name is Kristin Aiona, and I am an educator, school counselor, parent of public school children, and an MSW student at UH Mānoa. I am testifying in support of HB 1870 and I'd like to explain the impact this bill would have on an adolescent's feeling of safety and ability to access essential services without fear.

Adolescence can be a challenging time. Teenagers are figuring out their identity, their influence, their personality, their strengths and challenges. Life in school can be even more challenging due to the different demands of the school day. Some teens in schools don't speak English as their first language. Some have an extremely difficult time opening up to anyone, including teachers or counselors. I've known students who sit on one staircase for the whole school year because they are terrified of venturing into common areas or classrooms where other teens congregate. And this is all without the presence of civil immigration enforcement. I cannot imagine how terrified some students will be if civil immigration enforcement officers could walk onto campus to enforce immigration laws. This would fundamentally disrupt students' sense of safety, their mental health, and their sense of security.

I feel the need to testify in support of this bill because the adolescents I work with deserve safety, security, and they deserve to learn and grow in a protected environment. I feel the need to testify because most of the adolescents I work with do not even realize this topic is up for discussion. I feel the need to testify because we need to use every available tool to protect our youth. In schools, we do active shooter drills, earthquake drills, lockdown drills, and I would do whatever is necessary to protect the adolescents I work with, including testifying in support of this bill.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill. Please consider protecting our keiki and teens in as many community locations as we can. They deserve to be safe in our beloved community.

Kristin Aiona

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:43:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Manglallan-Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a physician, I completely support this bill. Patients and healthcare providers should not have to be in fear of ICE or immigration officers while trying to manage healthcare. Healthcare is a human right and protects life, regardless of migration or citizenship status, and no one should interfere with access to healthcare

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:22:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1870 sets clear statewide standards that:

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- Establish procedures, training, documentation, and multilingual notice requirements so frontline workers know how to respond lawfully and consistently.

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

- As a healthcare provider, I know that families need to feel safe using essential services—especially during emergencies and school-related activities.
- Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Annie Chung

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:24:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect our communities!

Show aloha

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:50:11 AM

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

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

Comments:

My name is Jason Nakano. I strongly support HB1870 relating to Protected Community Locations. I feel it is important to implement measures to clearly protect essential public services from arbitrary or unlawful harrassment by civil immigration enforcement. This bill does not interfere with the lawful duties of Federal agents and only requires them to act within their lawful authority. HB 1870 is an important step toward strengthening people's trust and safety when accessing essential services that keep everyone in our State healthier and safer.

Thank you,

Jason Nakano

HB-1870

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:28:37 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Haynes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Rebecca Haynes, and I am Hawai‘i resident (96789) concerned about protecting the rights of immigrants. I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1870, relating to Protected Community Locations.

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

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Hawai‘i’s communities rely on trusted spaces for disaster response; people must feel safe going to shelters and accessing aid without intimidation.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Respectfully,
Rebecca Haynes
(Mililani, O'ahu)**

beccah.haynes@gmail.com