

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 24, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1875, H.D. 1
Relating to Health Care

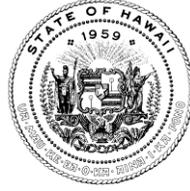
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would, among other things, amend protections for reproductive health care services to include gender-affirming health care services. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but supports the proposed amendment to section 323J-4, HRS, which would fix a potential conflict between the existing language of that section and chapter 92F, HRS, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA).

That section currently prohibits government agencies as defined in the UIPA and their employees from providing any information “in furtherance of any out-of-state or interstate investigation or proceeding seeking to impose civil or criminal liability” for the provision, use of, or assistance related to reproductive health care services. Since the definition of “agency” is explicitly based on that used in the UIPA, the prohibition is clearly intended to apply to UIPA requests. The problem is that the prohibition on disclosing information applies not just to patient health information or similarly confidential information but to information in general, and it is not limited to a situation in which the agency or employee furnishing

information actually knows that the record request was made in connection with an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability. An agency providing records as required under the UIPA could thereby find itself in violation of section 323J-4, HRS.

This bill (at page 13 line 8) would amend section 323J-4, HRS, to limit the prohibition to situations where an agency discloses nonpublic information under the UIPA in furtherance of an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability as described. This amendment makes clear that the general prohibition on disclosure does not bar an agency from disclosing public records, and OIP supports it.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 1-844-808-DCCA (3222)
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325 and via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1875, H.D. 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

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

My name is Scott K. Saiki and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to (1) expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations; (2) establish protections against abusive litigation; and (3) prohibit medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

The Department thanks the previous committees on Health and Consumer Protection and Commerce for adopting our recommendation into the H.D. 1. While the current language prohibiting rate increases that are "not based on sound actuarial

principles” addresses our concerns regarding market stability, the Department recognizes upon further reflection that we should have proposed specific technical language. We now request that paragraph (b)(4) be amended to prohibit rate increases that are “not supported by actuarial analysis conducted in accordance with the applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs) promulgated by the Actuarial Standards Board.” Referencing the ASOPs provides a professional benchmark to determine when an insurer is taking a prohibited action against a provider. Under this standard, if an insurer raises a provider's rates but cannot produce an analysis that meets ASOP guidelines, it serves as evidence that the increase is not based on legitimate risk and is instead being imposed for a prohibited reason.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
2:00 PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission is in **strong support** of **HB1875 HD1**.

HB1875 HD1 expands existing protections under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include patients, providers, and individuals who assist others in accessing gender-affirming health care services, shielding them from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions. Specifically, the measure ensures that Hawai‘i courts and state agencies do not cooperate with external abusive litigation—civil and criminal legal actions—targeting individuals for undertaking lawful health care services within our state. This clarification is necessary to prevent the adverse effect that interstate enforcement attempts, including subpoenas or civil liability claims, may have on both patients and providers.

Approximately 3.6% of Hawaii’s youth aged 13-17 identify as transgender, compared to approximately 3.3% nationally¹. Nationally, approximately 39%² of all transgender youth ages 13–17 live in one of the 26 states that have passed bans on gender-affirming care. Major medical organizations including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association recognize gender-affirming care as evidence-based treatment, and research associates access with improved mental health outcomes³. A 2024 national survey⁴ found that 39% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide that year alone, including 46% of transgender and non-binary youth, and that half of those who sought mental health services were unable to access them. Clear legal protections help safeguard continuity of care and reduce barriers for vulnerable youth.

Hawai‘i has consistently affirmed its commitment to protecting bodily autonomy and access to safe and legal health care services. Individuals should not face investigation, prosecution, or civil liability across state lines for seeking, providing, or assisting access to care in Hawaii. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **PASS HB1875 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission

hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

¹ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-adults-united-states/>

² <https://www.hrc.org/resources/attacks-on-gender-affirming-care-by-state-map>

³ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/political-minds/202201/the-evidence-trans-youth-gender-affirming-medical-care>

⁴ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2024/>



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

February 23, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: HB 1875-HD1-- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

HEARING: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 @ 2:00 pm; Conference Room 325

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA supports HB 1875-HD1, with comments.

This bill is intended to ensure that people in Hawai'i can access lawful reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care without fear that out-of-state political or legal efforts will be used to intimidate patients, providers, or those who assist them. The bill strengthens privacy and limits cooperation with out-of-state investigations or proceedings that target care that is legal here, while also providing clear civil remedies and protections against insurance or contract retaliation. As a result, this bill reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to patient safety, provider stability, and the right to make personal health care decisions under Hawai'i law.

This bill provides practical, on-the-ground protections that help keep Hawai'i's health care system stable and responsive. By limiting the misuse of subpoenas, court orders, and requests for records tied to out-of-state actions, the measure strengthens patient privacy and reduces administrative burden on providers. It also deters frivolous lawsuits by creating clear remedies and fee recovery, which can lower legal risk and costs for clinicians and patients. Finally, by prohibiting insurance and contract retaliation against providers who deliver lawful care, the bill supports workforce retention and access, especially important for communities already facing provider shortages.

HB 1875-HD1: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued.

In closing, this bill gives clear, enforceable guidance to courts, agencies, insurers, and providers so Hawai'i's laws are applied consistently and predictably. It helps reduce unnecessary legal entanglements, preserves trust in the health care system, and ensures timely, high-quality care for patients across our state.

Thank you for hearing HB 1875-HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



February 23, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1875 HD1**, Relating to Health Care

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

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

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1875 HD1**, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the committee for hearing this important bill. I would like to express our **strong support of HB1875 HD1** as it directly advances the Commission's mission to promote equality, health, and safety for women and girls in Hawaii. **HB1875 HD1 enables vital protections for those seeking and providing reproductive and gender-affirming health care**, areas that are central to bodily autonomy and the well-being of women and girls across the state.

This bill helps ensure that individuals can access and deliver necessary health services without fear of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. The Commission recognizes that access to comprehensive reproductive and gender-affirming care is fundamental to gender equity, as barriers to such care disproportionately impact women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, particularly those already facing systemic discrimination or violence.

The bill's provisions **protect local providers of lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care from out of state interference**. By clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information and shielding providers from adverse actions solely for delivering lawful care, **HB1875 HD1 aligns with best practices recommended by national health and human rights organizations**, and is **important for maintaining patient privacy, safety, and trust**. These safeguards help to ensure a stable provider workforce continues to offer essential, evidence-based care.

I respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HB1875 HD1**, in support of patient privacy and local health care providers.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

KOMIKINA PONO KIWILA O HAWAI‘I

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411, HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: (808) 586-8636 · FAX: (808) 586-8655 · TDD: (808) 586-8692

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2026
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

To:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Alphonso Braggs, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: HB 1875 Relating to Health Care
Testimony in SUPPORT

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment (Chapter 378, Part I, HRS), housing (Chapter 515, HRS), public accommodations (Chapter 489, HRS), and access to state and state-funded services (HRS § 368-1.5). Through this broad jurisdiction, the HCRC ensures that the constitutional promise of nondiscrimination is not merely aspirational, but actively protected in the daily lives of Hawai‘i’s people.

The HCRC is in strong support of HB1875 Because it ensures that every person in Hawai‘i regardless of background, identity, or circumstance can live, work, and participate

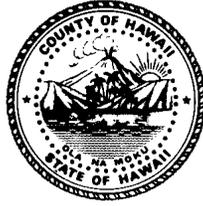
fully in community life free from discrimination. This constitutional duty is not abstract; it is a living commitment to protecting the people of Hawai'i today. HB 1875 strengthens the protections established under Act 2 (2023) by extending them to gender-affirming care, clarifying the handling of protected health information considering shifting federal regulations, and shielding providers and patients from abusive litigation designed to chill access to essential medical services. These protections directly safeguard the safety, privacy, and well-being of people in our communities, including transgender youth, families seeking reproductive care, and the health care professionals who serve them.

The bill also ensures that medical malpractice insurers and health carriers cannot penalize providers simply for offering lawful, evidence-based reproductive or gender-affirming care. Allowing insurers to impose adverse actions based solely on the type of lawful care provided would undermine access, stigmatize essential services, and contradict Hawai'i's constitutional and statutory civil rights framework. HB 1875 ensures that providers can continue to offer care without fear of discrimination or retaliation, which is vital for maintaining a stable, equitable, and accessible health care system for all residents.

In a moment when other states are moving to restrict or criminalize care, Hawai'i has chosen a different path, one rooted in aloha, fairness, and respect for individual autonomy. HB 1875 affirms the commitment to protect health care workforce, strengthen patient privacy, and ensures that every person in Hawai'i can access the care they need without fear. For these reasons, HCRC respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB 1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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 23, 2026
TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB1875

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 1875. Protecting people's rights to make private medical decisions in consultation with their doctors is essential. Hawai'i must also protect providers who deliver those medical services. No one should have to live in fear of legal harassment for choosing how to handle their personal healthcare, especially when that care is legal in the state where it is provided. Hawai'i must defend its ability to govern itself, and we should not be forced to enforce other state's laws, particularly when those laws conflict with Hawaii's values and legal protections.

Mahalo,

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

Jenn Kagiwada



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Department of Pediatrics

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Humana

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Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 20, 2026

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

RE: Support for HB 1875 HD1, Relating To Health Care

Hrg: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute,¹ **supports HB 1875 HD1** relating to health care. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Gender-Affirming Care Promotes Overall Wellness

A 2022 study by Stanford University School of Medicine found that positive mental health outcomes were higher for transgender people who accessed hormone replacement therapy as teenagers.² Moreover, a review of 53 studies published in the Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health found that after receiving gender-affirming care, depression, anxiety, suicidality, suicide attempts, and gender dysphoria were significantly reduced.³

Support from Health Organizations

In 2016, the American Public Health Association (APHA) released a statement entitled "Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices" that states, in part, that the APHA "urges Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation to protect the rights, legal benefits, and access to services of people of all gender identities and expressions."⁴

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

²[Better mental health found among transgender people who started hormones as teens](#), Stanford Medicine, 2022.

³[Mental health and quality of life outcomes of gender-affirming surgery: A systematic literature review](#), Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health, 2023.

⁴Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices, American Public Health Association, 2018.



Moreover, the American Psychological Association's (APA) Policy Statement on Affirming Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals, Addressing Misinformation, and the Role of Psychological Practice and Science asserts that "the APA underscores the necessity for access to comprehensive, gender-affirming healthcare for transgender, gender-diverse, and nonbinary children, adolescents, and adults."⁵

Attorney General Statement

On February 4, 2025, Hawai'i Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of 14 attorneys general to reaffirm their commitment to protect access to gender-affirming care. In a publicly released statement the coalition noted, "As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to restrict freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, lifesaving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves."⁶

Across the nation, we are witnessing sweeping efforts to restrict access to gender-affirming care for transgender individuals, including a presidential executive order that would end federal funding to medical institutions that provide gender-affirming care.⁷ In response, our state has an obligation to protect the fundamental right to health care for the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the patients and medical practitioners who seek and provide such care.

We hope you will pass this bill to safeguard access to basic health care for our island home.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kris Coffield'.

Policy and Advocacy Associate

⁵ [APA Policy Statement on Affirming Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals, Addressing Misinformation, and the Role of Psychological Practice and Science](#), American Psychological Association, 2024.

⁶ [Attorney General Lopez and 13 Other Attorneys General Issue Joint Statement on Protecting Access to Gender-Affirming Care](#), February 4, 2025.

⁷ [President Trump Issues EO Intended to Restrict Gender-Affirming Care for Minors, Association of American Medical Colleges](#), January 2025.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 24, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1875 HD1**. This bill affirms Hawai'i's commitment to personal liberty, medical privacy, and the rule of law.

Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports an inherent right to live a healthy life and believes all people have the right to access high quality healthcare. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports the protection of reproductive and transgender rights by advocating for legislation that safeguards reproductive and gender affirming care and removes barriers to accessing this healthcare across the islands.

This bill provides critical protections for patients, health care providers, and families by ensuring that lawful reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i cannot be undermined by out-of-state civil, criminal, or administrative actions. No one should face retaliation, surveillance, or abusive litigation for accessing or providing care that is legal and protected under Hawai'i law.

The measure wisely strengthens medical privacy, prevents misuse of subpoenas and court processes, and shields professional licenses and insurance coverage from politically motivated actions originating outside our State. It also deters abusive litigation by allowing those harmed to seek meaningful relief, including attorney's fees and damages.

At its core, this bill protects Hawai'i residents from having other states' laws imposed upon them through fear, intimidation, or harassment. It ensures that medical decisions remain between patients and their providers—not politicians, bounty-style lawsuits, or hostile jurisdictions.

By passing this bill, Hawai'i sends a clear message: our courts, agencies, and resources will not be used to punish people for lawful health care, and our State will stand firm in defense of dignity, privacy, and bodily autonomy.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1875 HD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.



TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

HEARING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
February 24, 2026 | 2:00 PM | Conference Room 325 / Via Videoconference

****Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875 HD1 - Relating to Health Care****

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Esteemed Members of the Committees:

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our Caucus in **strong support of House Bill 1875 HD1**.

HB1875 HD1 expands Hawaii's existing health care protections to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services and establishes safeguards against abusive litigation, professional retaliation, and out-of-state interference. At a time when transgender and gender-diverse people across the country are facing unprecedented legal attacks, criminalization, and intimidation, this bill affirms Hawaii's long-standing commitment to compassion, privacy, dignity, and bodily autonomy.

Protecting Patients and Families

For many transgender youth and adults, access to gender-affirming health care is not optional - it is medically necessary and lifesaving. These services reduce depression, anxiety, and suicide risk, and allow people to live healthy, authentic lives.

HB1875 HD1 ensures that patients and families in Hawaii are protected from politically motivated lawsuits, hostile investigations, and harassment simply for accessing lawful care. By strengthening confidentiality and limiting improper disclosures, the bill preserves trust between patients and their providers.

Protecting Providers

This measure also protects doctors, nurses, therapists, and other health professionals who provide lawful, evidence-based care. HB1875 HD1 prevents insurers, licensing boards, and other entities from penalizing providers solely for offering gender-affirming services. Without these protections, providers may be forced to leave the state, reduce services, or stop offering care altogether out of fear—directly harming patients and communities.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875 HD1

Shielding Hawai'i From Out-of-State Attacks

HB1875 HD1 recognizes that many other states are attempting to export their discriminatory laws through civil actions, subpoenas, and enforcement efforts. This bill makes clear that Hawai'i will not participate in such efforts and will not assist in punishing people for care that is legal here. This "shield" is essential to maintaining Hawai'i as a place of refuge, safety, and justice.

Impact on Our Community

Members of the Stonewall Caucus are in constant contact with transgender residents, families, healthcare providers, and advocates across our islands. We hear directly from people who are scared for their safety, worried about losing access to care, and exhausted by constant political attacks on their existence. For many in our community, this bill represents something very simple but very powerful: the reassurance that their government sees them, values them, and will stand up for their right to live with dignity.

Conclusion

HB1875 HD1 reflects Hawai'i's core values: aloha, mālama, kuleana, and respect for human dignity. It sends a clear message that our state will not allow fear, misinformation, or hate to dictate health care policy.

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, we respectfully urge you to **pass HB1875 HD1 and advance it through the legislative process.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your continued leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair

Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

stonewalldph@gmail.com



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1875 HD1 Relating to Health Care

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

The members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for hearing this measure. We strongly support HB1875 HD1 which would prohibit persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

Please pass this measure so the patients can get the health care they need and the providers can provide the health care their patients need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Younghee Overly
AAUW of Hawai'i Public Policy Committee

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawai'i is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization with close to 4000 members and supporters across all four counties - Hawai'i, Honolulu, Kaua'i, and Maui. AAUW has state chapters in all 50 states and our mission is to advance gender equity through education and advocacy. Economic security for women is our goal.



Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

Mailing Address: LGBTQ+ Commission, c/o The Department of Human Services,
P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0339

Email: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

February 21, 2026

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM

RE: **Strong Support for House Bill 1875 HD 1**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1875 HD 1 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature to

“improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.”

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission submits this testimony in **strong support of House Bill 1875 HD 1**, which expands the protections established under Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services, clarify permitted disclosures of protected health information in response to evolving federal regulations, establish protections against abusive litigation, and prohibit adverse actions by medical malpractice insurers and health carriers against providers who lawfully deliver reproductive and gender-affirming care.

House Bill 1875 is a necessary and logical extension of Act 2, SLH 2023. As attacks on bodily autonomy, patient privacy, and evidence-based medical care escalate across the continent, Hawai'i has taken principled action to ensure that our residents, providers, and families remain protected. This measure reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to safeguarding access to **life-saving health care**, including gender-affirming care, which is recognized by every major medical association as essential, evidence-based treatment.

Gender-affirming health care is not abstract or theoretical - **it saves lives**. For māhū, transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse people, access to timely and appropriate care is directly linked to improved mental health outcomes, reduced rates of depression and suicidality, and the ability to live with dignity and authenticity. House Bill 1875 ensures that these individuals can access care in Hawai'i without fear that providers will be targeted by politically motivated litigation, insurance retaliation, or shifting federal policies designed to undermine patient-provider relationships.

Proudly established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 369, as enacted through Act 41, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Support of HB 1875 HD 1

Importantly, this bill also protects health care providers by prohibiting insurers and health carriers from taking adverse actions solely because a provider offers lawful reproductive or gender-affirming health care services. Without these protections, Hawai'i risks losing qualified providers to fear-driven policies imported from outside our state, policies that do not reflect our values, our communities, or our commitment to equity and compassion.

House Bill 1875 embodies the very reason the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission was created: **to advise, advocate, and advance policies that protect the civil rights, health, and safety of LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i**. At a time when [māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+](#) communities, particularly transgender and gender-diverse people, are facing unprecedented legislative and legal attacks nationwide, Hawai'i must continue to lead with courage and clarity.

By passing House Bill 1875, the Legislature affirms that Hawai'i will not allow harmful, ideologically driven efforts from the continent to dictate access to essential health care within our state. Instead, Hawai'i chooses to protect patients, support providers, and uphold the fundamental right to health care free from discrimination and intimidation.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission **strongly supports House Bill 1875 HD 1** and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Vice Chair
[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)

[Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Glossary](#)

The [Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#) has this webpage and that is dedicated to understanding and being able to use the correct terms when talking about the rainbow community from māhū to LGBTQIA+ to QTPI+ to MVPFAFF+ and beyond. The list found on this page is not an exhaustive list and will be updated as appropriate.



HA'AHEO, 'OHANA, KAULIKE, UI
Pride Family Justice Activate
WHERE PRIDE BECOMES POLITICAL POWER

Website: www.hokupac.org ♦ Email: info@hokupac.org

February 21, 2026

House's Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1875 – Relating to RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and fellow committee members,

This testimony on behalf of **HOKU PAC**, Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ political action committee dedicated to building queer political power and advancing policies that protect our communities. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1875 House Draft 1**.

HOKU PAC was formed because moments like this demand organized, values-driven action. When the health, safety, and dignity of māhū, LGBTQIA+ people are targeted elsewhere, Hawai'i must respond with clarity and resolve. House Bill 1875 does exactly that by expanding the protections established under Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, to ensure continued access to gender-affirming health care and by shielding patients and providers from politically motivated attacks imported from outside our islands.

This bill recognizes a simple truth: **health care decisions belong between patients, families, and medical professionals - not politicians, insurers, or hostile courts in other jurisdictions**. Gender-affirming care is lawful in Hawai'i, grounded in established medical standards, and essential to the well-being of transgender, nonbinary, māhū, and gender-diverse people. Failing to protect this care would invite fear, instability, and harm into the lives of people who already face disproportionate barriers to safety and health.

House Bill 1875 also takes necessary steps to protect the providers who deliver this care. Without explicit safeguards, physicians, nurses, clinics, and health systems risk being targeted through abusive litigation or adverse insurance actions simply for following the law and practicing ethical medicine. That chilling effect would reduce access to care statewide and undermine Hawai'i's health care infrastructure. This bill sends a clear message that Hawai'i will not tolerate intimidation tactics designed to erode lawful medical practice.

At a time when other states are racing to restrict care, surveil families, and punish providers, Hawai'i has chosen a different path one rooted in compassion, privacy, and respect for personal autonomy. House Bill 1875 ensures that Hawai'i remains a place where māhū, LGBTQIA+ people can live, work, and access health care without fear that outside political agendas will dictate their futures.

Bills like House Bill 1875 are precisely why HOKU PAC was created: to defend hard-won protections, to proactively safeguard our communities, and to ensure that Hawai'i's laws reflect our shared commitment to dignity, safety, and justice for all.

For these reasons, HOKU PAC **strongly urges passage of House Bill 1875 HD 1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Paid for by HOKU PAC – Not Authorized by any Candidate or Candidate Committee



February 21, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RE: **STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1875 House Draft 1**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and fellow committee members,

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. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1875 House Draft 1**.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i submits this testimony in **strong support of House Bill 1875 HD 1**, which expands the protections established under Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, clarify permitted disclosures of protected health information, establish protections against abusive litigation, and prohibit adverse actions by insurers and health carriers against providers who lawfully deliver reproductive and gender-affirming care.

As an organization representing m̄hū, and LGBTQIA+ workers along with our allies within Hawai'i's labor movement, Pride at Work – Hawai'i understands that access to health care is inseparable from workplace equity, family stability, and economic security. When access to gender-affirming care is threatened, it is working families - particularly those raising m̄hū, transgender, and gender non-conforming keiki - who bear the greatest harm.

Failure to protect access to gender-affirming care is not only an attack on patients and providers; it is a **violation of parental rights**. Parents and caregivers who affirm, support, and seek medically appropriate care for their keiki are exercising their fundamental right to make informed health care decisions in consultation with qualified medical professionals. Government inaction or worse, exposure to hostile legal and insurance practices; undermines those rights and places loving, supportive families at risk.

House Bill 1875 makes clear that Hawai'i will stand with parents who are doing exactly what they are supposed to do: caring for the health, safety, and well-being of their children. It ensures that families are not forced to navigate fear, uncertainty, or barriers created by politically motivated attacks originating outside our state.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Re: HB 1875 HD 1

This bill also provides critical protections for the health care workers and providers who deliver **life-saving, evidence-based care**. Without clear statutory safeguards, providers face the risk of abusive litigation, insurance retaliation, and professional consequences simply for doing their jobs ethically and lawfully. These threats not only endanger providers they jeopardize access to care for entire communities.

From a labor perspective, protecting providers means protecting jobs, maintaining a stable health care workforce, and ensuring that workers can practice medicine without fear of punishment for following medical standards of care. House Bill 1875 affirms that Hawai'i values its health care workers and will not allow insurers or out-of-state political agendas to dictate who receives care or who is allowed to provide it.

At a moment when māhū, and LGBTQ+ people, their families, and health care workers are being targeted across the continent, Hawai'i has the opportunity and the responsibility to lead with compassion, clarity, and courage. House Bill 1875 does exactly that.

For these reasons, Pride at Work – Hawai'i **strongly supports House Bill 1875 HD 1** and urges the Committee to pass this critical measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

In Solidarity,

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:59:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnes, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

Rainbow Family 808 and I strongly support HB1875. This bill in particular reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. The bill would expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023. HB1875 ensures access to gender-affirming care for all who need it. Protect families from unjust legal actions and custody disputes, Shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions and disciplinary actions.

HB1875 ensures that Hawai'i remains a safe place where patients, families, and healthcare professionals work together to make sound medical decisions.

Please pass this important bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808



Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB1875, HD1: Relating to Health Care**

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HB1875, HD1**, which expands protections established under ACT 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 to include gender-affirming health care services. It also establishes protections against abusive litigation and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive or gender-affirming health care.

Adding gender-affirming care protections to our shield law is imperative to honoring Hawai'i's cultural and genealogical integrity. In Kanaka Maoli culture, mähū describes someone who embodies kāne and wahine energies.¹ While the visibility of mähū individuals has recently increased, ongoing barriers to gender-affirming care remain.²

Transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, do better in school, and are better equipped to plan for their future.³ Denying them this support increases their likelihood of dropping out of school and increases their risk for substance use, depression, anxiety, and suicide.⁴ In 2023, 63% of Kanaka 'Ōiwi high school transgender youth or youth

¹ Papa Ola Lōkahi. *No Ka Mähū Toolkit*. https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/No_Ka_Mahui_v3.pdf

² Regidor, I., Haitsuka, K., Cavalieri, M., & Machida, A. (2025). *Hāpu 'u Ke Aloha: Mähū Listening Tour Report*. Papa Ola Lōkahi. https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/Digital_1Page_Version_Layout_Hapuu_Report_July25.pdf

³ Human Rights Campaign Foundation. (2024). *2024 Report on the Experiences of Parents of Transgender and Non-binary Children*. Human Rights Campaign. <https://reports.hrc.org/experiences-of-parents-of-transgender-and-non-binary-children#child-mental-health>

⁴ Matouk, K.M. & Wald, M. (2022, March). *Gender-affirming Care Saves Lives*. Columbia University Department of Psychiatry. <https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives>.

questioning their gender reported signs of depression.⁵ In 2024, more than 1 in 3 transgender/unsure of gender youth attempted suicide.⁶ This measure is essential to ensuring the well-being of Hawai‘i’s communities and families.

The federal administration’s persistent attacks have created more barriers to access. Health insurance companies have limited or outright stopped coverage, including for hormone therapies and surgical procedures.⁷ Patients should not have to fear being denied coverage or having their medical information shared. Healthcare providers should not lose licensure for providing life-saving care. The government has no place interfering with the private medical decisions made between patients and their providers for reproductive health or gender-affirming care.

As other states have criminalized care that is legal in Hawai‘i, we support protections from abusive litigation to allow those who are targeted by hostile states to defend themselves and to stop legal harrassment designed to incite fear, including providing recovery of damages, legal fees and injunctions. We agree that out-of-state judgments and subpoenas should be blocked. Hawai‘i courts should not enforce out-of-state actions punishing legal care. Hawai‘i must ensure that families, providers, and patients are not harmed by outside laws.

By passing this legislation, Hawai‘i would join many other states and Washington, D.C., who have passed shield laws protecting access to gender-affirming care.⁸ It ensures that everyone has the fundamental right to bodily autonomy and privacy, and that everyone can live healthy lives that address their individual needs.⁹

See ACLU National: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/transgender-rights/transgender-people-and-health-care>

⁵ Hawai‘i State Departments of Education and Health, Hawai‘i Health Data Warehouse, Hawai‘i School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey. https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html

⁶ Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender (SGM) Minority Workgroup. *Sexual & Gender Minority Youth in Hawai‘i*. (2024). <https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/files/2024/03/Presentation-SGM-Youth-in-HI-2017-2019-FINAL-VERSION-2-3-4-2024.pdf>

⁷ Valera, Medeleine. (2025, December 1). *Trans Community Hits New Barriers To Gender-Affirming Care in Hawai‘i*. Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/12/advocates-fight-protect-gender-affirming-care-hawaii/>

⁸ Movement Advancement Project. *Transgender Healthcare “Shield” Laws*. https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare/trans_shield_laws

⁹ Human Rights Campaign. *Get the Facts on Gender-Affirming Care*. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/get-the-facts-on-gender-affirming-care>

Protecting reproductive health and gender-affirming care strengthens community safety, where everyone has the freedom to be their authentic selves. We strongly urge you to pass HB1875, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Policy Fellow

ACLU of Hawai'i

dalbano@acluhawaii.org

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

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808.522.5900
F: 808.522.5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

HB-1875-HD-1

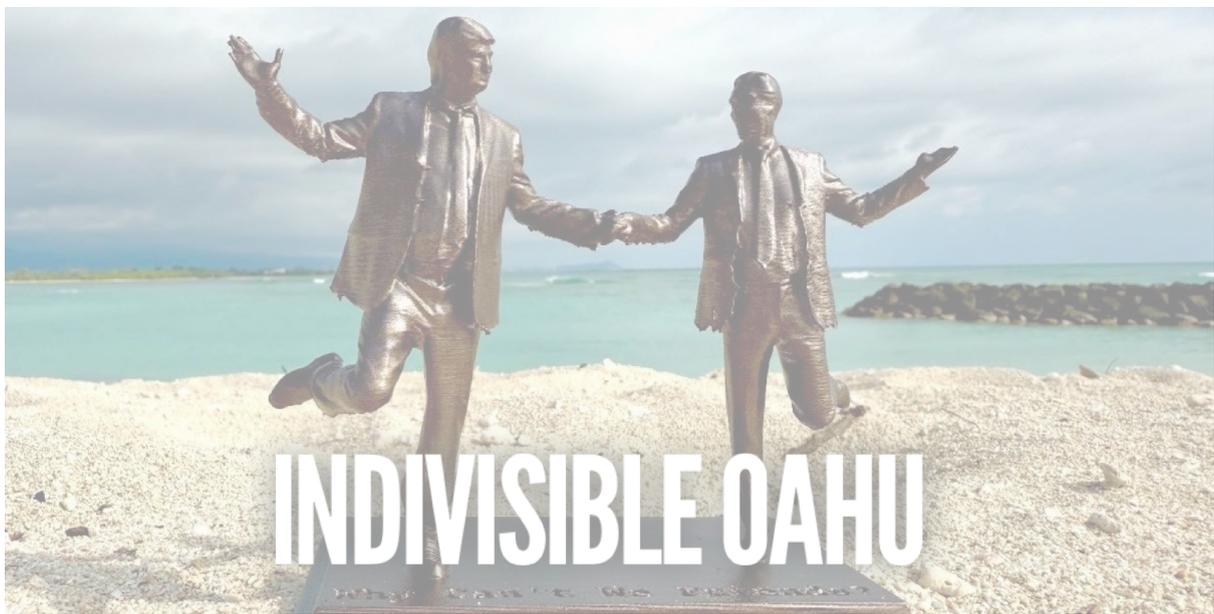
Submitted on: 2/21/2026 12:27:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Matsunaga	Indivisible Hawaii Healthcare Team	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Indivisible Healthcare Team strongly supports HB1875 HD1



Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1875

Aloha Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Myers and I am the lead of Indivisible Oahu. My members and I humbly request that you support HB 1875 to protect healthcare access for all of the people who reside in Hawai'i. Healthcare access, including gender affirming care should be the right of all people in this state. Healthcare providers should also be protected from abusive litigation. Legislative protection matters on a very individual level, as well as on a community level. A person's life will be changed for the better with the passing of this legislation, and the community as a whole will be protected from unnecessary harm.

The LGBTQIA+ community, specifically the Transgender population, have been under attack by the Federal Government. HB 1875 provides a much needed layer of protection for those who are the most vulnerable among us that are currently residing in this state. Hawai'i has a long Indigenous history with strong Mahu roots. Medically shielding those in need is so important as without our health it makes it much more difficult to be a productive member of society. This bill legislatively prohibits overstepping and puts the power back into the state. We humbly ask that this body do their due diligence to protect the most vulnerable among us. Hawai'i legislators need to protect the people of Hawai'i; instead of listening to outside influences who do not have the insight or understanding to govern the people who live here.

Thank you for being considerate with your vote.

Amanda Myers

Indivisible Oahu

oahuindivisible@gmail.com



Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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

Date: February 24, 2026 (previous February 9, 2026)
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee
Christina Marzo MD and Robert Carlisle MD, Vice Chairs, HMA Public Policy Committee

RE HB 1875 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Reproductive Health Care Services; Protections; Abusive Litigation; Medical Malpractice Insurance; Health Carriers; Protected Health Information; Covered Entities.

Position: Support

This measure would expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations, establish protections against abusive litigation, and prohibit medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

The decisions about medically necessary care, including gender-affirming care, should be grounded in clinical evidence and made between patients and their clinicians, not restricted by punitive laws. HMA supports this measure to protect patients from interference that is a dangerous intrusion into the practice of medicine and can do harm. Medical care should be inclusive, respectful, and evidence-based, with policy efforts facilitating access to appropriate services and eliminating barriers to quality health outcomes.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth A Ignacio, MD, Chair • Robert Carlisle, MD, Vice Chair • Christina Marzo, MD, Vice Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President • Jerald Garcia, MD, President Elect • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, • Immediate Past President
Laeton Pang, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. "Health Care for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Individuals." ACOG, Reaffirmed 2024. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2021/03/health-care-for-transgender-and-gender-diverse-individuals>.

Ramirez, Rick, and Maddalynn Sesepasara. "Gender-Affirming Care Is Health Care." *Honolulu Civil Beat*, 2 Feb. 2026, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2026/02/gender-affirming-care-is-health-care/>

American Medical Association. "AMA to States: Stop Interfering in Health Care of Transgender Children." *AMA*, 26 Apr. 2021, <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/ama-press-releases/ama-states-stop-interfering-health-care-transgender-children>.

Dawson, Lindsey, and Jennifer Kates. *Policy Tracker: Youth Access to Gender-Affirming Care and State Policy Restrictions*. **Kaiser Family Foundation**, updated 11 Aug. 2025, <https://www.kff.org/other/dashboard/gender-affirming-care-policy-tracker/>

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:51:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i , we are writing , on behalf of our members, in Very Strong Support of HB1875 HD1. All persons deserve to get the healthcare they need to maintain their dignity. Personally I have family members who are blessed to have gender affirming care in their home state. This is a private matter between a patient and their doctor, there is NO ROOM FOR GOVERNMENT interference. Hands off our Bodies.

Thank you for your diligence on HB1875 HD1 . Please Pass this important bill.

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Hawaii State Legislature

Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1875 HD1

Relating to Health Care

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

I submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1875 HD1, which extends Hawaii's existing protections under Act 2, SLH 2023 to encompass gender-affirming health care services alongside reproductive health care services. This bill addresses a well-documented and escalating threat to health care access, provider autonomy, and patient privacy arising from an increasingly hostile interstate legal landscape. Its provisions, which cover abusive litigation protections, medical malpractice insurance safeguards, health carrier network prohibitions, and protected health information disclosures, are each grounded in sound public health policy and are consistent with best practices adopted by a growing number of peer states.

Interstate Enforcement and the Chilling Effect on Care

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 597 U.S. 215 (2022), numerous states have enacted laws seeking to impose civil or criminal liability on individuals who seek or provide reproductive and gender-affirming care, including providers and patients located in states where such care is fully lawful. Several states have enacted statutes explicitly authorizing private civil actions against out-of-state actors, a mechanism legal scholars have characterized as designed to circumvent constitutional limitations on extraterritorial enforcement. See, e.g., David S. Cohen, Greer Donley & Rachel Rebouché, *The New Abortion Battleground*, 123 Colum. L. Rev. 1 (2023); Mary Ziegler, *Abortion and the Law in America: Roe v. Wade to the Present* (2020).

The chilling effect of such laws on health care providers is empirically documented. A 2023 Kaiser Family Foundation survey of obstetricians and gynecologists found that 61 percent of those practicing in states with abortion bans reported being concerned about their legal risk when making patient care decisions, and 68 percent reported that the *Dobbs* ruling had worsened their ability to manage pregnancy-related emergencies. See KFF, *Obstetrician-Gynecologists' Experiences and Perspectives on Abortion Care After Dobbs* (2023). This chilling effect directly



harms patients, delays care, and undermines the clinical autonomy foundational to the practice of medicine.

Gender-affirming care faces a parallel and compounding threat. As of early 2026, more than twenty states have enacted restrictions on gender-affirming care for minors, and several have extended or attempted to extend civil and professional liability to providers and families in other states. See Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, *LGBT Health Policy & Practice* (2024). The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychological Association have each affirmed the medical necessity and evidence base of gender-affirming care and have called on legislatures to protect providers from politically motivated legal interference. See AAP Policy Statement, *Ensuring Comprehensive Care and Support for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children and Adolescents*, Pediatrics (2018, reaffirmed 2023).

Section-by-Section Analysis

A. Abusive Litigation Protections (§323J-)

The bill's creation of a private right of action against abusive litigation is a well-calibrated policy response to the use of civil litigation as a tool of interstate harassment. The six-year statute of limitations and the availability of punitive damages provide meaningful deterrence. Similar provisions have been enacted in California (AB 1666, 2022), Colorado, and Washington, and have withstood early legal challenges. See National Health Law Program, *State Shield Laws: A Comparative Analysis* (2024).

The definition of “abusive litigation” as legal action brought against a person for accessing or providing care lawful under the laws of this State is appropriately restrictive, it does not immunize conduct that would be unlawful in Hawaii and thus does not conflict with legitimate interstate legal cooperation.

B. Medical Malpractice Insurance Protections (§323J-)

Discrimination by malpractice insurers against providers of lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care creates a structural barrier to access that operates independently of direct legal prohibition. When providers cannot obtain or maintain malpractice coverage, they are effectively excluded from practice regardless of the legality of the services they provide. This provision mirrors protections enacted in Illinois (SB 3499, 2022) and is consistent with insurance regulatory principles requiring that underwriting decisions be grounded in sound actuarial



principles rather than political or ideological considerations. *See* National Association of Insurance Commissioners, *Model Regulation on Unfair Trade Practices* (2021).

C. Health Carrier Contract Protections (§323J-)

The prohibition on health carriers terminating or refusing to renew contracts with providers solely on the basis of providing lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care addresses a related structural vulnerability. Network adequacy standards under the Affordable Care Act, 42 U.S.C. §18031(c)(1)(B), require that health plans maintain sufficient provider networks; permitting carriers to exclude providers on the basis of the lawful services they render directly undermines these requirements and disproportionately harms patients in communities where provider options are already limited.

D. Protected Health Information (§323J-2)

The amendments to the protected health information provisions are particularly urgent. The Biden administration's 2024 amendments to the HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164) strengthened federal protections against the use of health information to investigate or prosecute individuals for seeking lawful reproductive care. *See* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy*, 89 Fed. Reg. 32976 (April 26, 2024). However, in June 2025, a federal district court in Texas vacated most of the rule on a nationwide basis, *see Carmen Purl et al. v. U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Servs.*, No. 2:24-cv-00228-Z (N.D. Tex. June 18, 2025), and its ultimate fate at the appellate level remains uncertain.

This development makes the case for state-level codification not merely compelling but urgent. By enacting these protections in state law and extending them explicitly to gender-affirming care, HB 1875 ensures that Hawaii patients and providers are not exposed to the gaps left by the federal rule's erosion. The requirement of a written, signed attestation before disclosure, with criminal misdemeanor liability for false attestations, provides a meaningful enforcement mechanism without creating undue administrative burden.

E. Licensing Protections (Sections 3–12)

The amendments to licensing statutes governing physicians, nurses, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, pharmacists, and psychologists reflect a coherent and necessary principle: Hawaii should not penalize its own licensees for conduct that is lawful in Hawaii, regardless of how another jurisdiction characterizes that conduct. This principle is grounded in the well-established common law rule that states need not give effect to the penal laws of sister states. *See Restatement (Second) of Conflict of Laws* §90 (1971); *Huntington v. Attrill*, 146 U.S. 657 (1892).



The licensing protections also serve a critical workforce retention function. Research by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Resources and Services Administration has consistently identified provider supply as a central determinant of health care access, particularly in Hawaii’s geographically dispersed communities. Policies that deter qualified providers from practicing in Hawaii, or that compel providers to choose between their patients and their professional licensure, directly exacerbate existing workforce shortages. *See* HRSA, Health Workforce Projections (2023).

Constitutional Considerations

HB 1875 HD1 is consistent with well-established constitutional principles. The U.S. Supreme Court has long recognized that states have broad authority to regulate the practice of medicine and to define the contours of their own legal systems, including their choice-of-law rules. *See Gonzales v. Oregon*, 546 U.S. 243 (2006). The bill’s refusal to recognize or enforce foreign penal civil judgments (§636C-9) is grounded in the longstanding common law principle that courts do not enforce the penal laws of foreign sovereigns. *See Huntington v. Attrill*, 146 U.S. 657 (1892).

The extradition provisions (§323J-6) merit careful legal framing. The Supreme Court held in *Puerto Rico v. Branstad*, 483 U.S. 219 (1987), that the Extradition Clause imposes a mandatory duty on states and that federal courts may compel compliance. Accordingly, shield law extradition provisions are most defensibly grounded not in claimed gubernatorial discretion, but in the proposition that providers who render care lawful in Hawaii are not “fugitives from justice” within the meaning of the Extradition Clause because the acts giving rise to the foreign charge do not constitute a crime in Hawaii, which has been the basis on which governors of shielding states have declined extradition requests. This distinction is legally significant and the Legislature should ensure that implementing language is drafted accordingly.

Conclusion

HB 1875 HD1 represents a carefully constructed, evidence-based legislative response to documented threats to health care access, provider autonomy, and patient privacy in Hawaii. Its provisions are consistent with the policies of peer states, grounded in established legal principles, and responsive to the concrete experiences of patients and providers operating in an increasingly uncertain regulatory environment. The Legislature should pass this bill without delay.

I respectfully urge the Committee’s favorable consideration and passage of HB 1875 HD1.



Submitted in the public interest.

HOPE for Hawai'i

Hawai'i Organization for Progress and Equity



oahupflag@gmail.com
(808) 729-8609

pflag.org

TO: Chair Tamas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: PFLAG O'ahu
Cameron Miyamoto, Ed.D. and Ryna Yamada, Co-Presidents

DATE: February 24, 2026

RE: Strong Support of HB1875

Dear Chair Tamas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify today in strong support of HB1875 relating to gender affirming healthcare. PFLAG O'ahu is committed to educational, supportive and advocacy efforts on behalf of parents, families and friends of LGBTQ+ people in Hawai'i.

PFLAG O'ahu is proud to embrace our diverse 'ohana and ensure that Hawai'i remains a place of compassion, aloha, and fairness. Many of our members have children who are transgender; their well-being and overall health depends on gender affirming care.

As such, we firmly believe that ***gender affirming care is health care.***

Gender affirming care is approved by national medical associations, representing over 1.3 million doctors, including the American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Psychiatric Association (APA).

Gender affirming care protects the well-being of people in Hawai'i.

Gender affirming care saves lives.

Please ensure that Hawai'i is able to care for the well-being of all of its residents, especially some of its most vulnerable populations, our transgender populations.

Now is not the time to cave in to attacks on transgender communities or arguments based on falsehoods or fear.

Please stand with PFLAG O'ahu and the medical community. ***Please vote today in support of HB1875.*** It protects some of our most vulnerable populations in Hawai'i. It is a true act of aloha and compassion. Your vote can save lives.



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Board of Directors

February 22, 2026

Lee-Ann Heely, DM
President

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD1
Relating to Health Care

Nicholas VandenRaadt, DNP FNP
Vice President

House Committee on the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)

Keith Brown, MBA
Treasurer

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

Elena Cabatu, MBA
Secretary

My name is Peter Tui Silva, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Kumukahi Health + Wellness, a community health center system serving patients in our offices in the County of Hawai'i. I write in **strong support of HB1875**.

Emily Malate, LCSW
Assistant Secretary

As a health care provider organization, we are responsible for ensuring that our patients can access lawful, medically appropriate care in Hawai'i—without intimidation, harassment, or the chilling effect of out-of-state legal threats. In practice, when providers and staff fear personal or organizational legal exposure for providing lawful care, access declines—especially in rural areas and on the neighbor islands, where there are already fewer providers and fewer alternatives for patients.

Martin Rathbun

Kali French, MSP

Marina Padilla, APRN-Rx

Chief Executive Officer

Peter Tuiolosega Silva

HB1875 is a targeted “shield law” that addresses this reality. It strengthens Hawai'i's ability to protect patients, providers, and organizations from attempts to weaponize the legal system against lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care provided in our state.

East Hawai'i Office

101 Aupuni Street
Suite PH 1014C
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: 808-982-8800
Fax: 808-982-8802

1) It creates meaningful protections against abusive, retaliatory litigation

HB1875 establishes protections against abusive litigation and provides remedies that help ensure health care organizations and clinicians are not forced to choose between continuing care and risking crippling legal costs. This matters for our workforce and for access: if even a small number of clinicians decide it is “too risky” to practice here, neighbor island patients are the first to lose services.

West Hawai'i Office

74-5620 Palani Road
Suite 207
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Phone: 808-331-8177
Fax: 808-331-0762

2) It helps safeguard patient privacy and limits inappropriate disclosures

kumukahiHEALTH.org

Patient trust depends on confidentiality. HB1875 clarifies protections for protected health information, including guardrails around disclosures and

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Hawaii Tax ID: GE-195-211-2640-01

A NEW DAY FOR H.I.H.A.F.



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

out-of-state demands that could undermine privacy for patients who seek lawful care in Hawai'i.

When people fear their sensitive medical information may be used against them—or shared beyond what is legally required—they delay care, avoid follow-up, and disengage from the health system. That is bad for public health and bad for Hawai'i families.

3) It prevents insurers and health carriers from punishing providers solely for providing lawful care

The bill also addresses a major pressure point: coverage and contracting. By prohibiting certain adverse actions by medical malpractice insurers and health carriers solely because a provider delivers lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care, HB1875 helps stabilize the provider network and reduces the risk that access will collapse due to insurance retaliation or contracting penalties.

This is particularly important on the neighbor islands, where a disruption in coverage or contracting can quickly translate into fewer appointment slots, longer wait times, and patients being forced to travel.

Request:

For these reasons, Kumukahi Health + Wellness urges the Committee to **PASS HB1875 HD1**. Hawai'i should remain a place where patients can obtain lawful care, providers can practice without fear of harassment, and private health information is protected.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Peter Tuiolosega Silva
CEO
Kumukahi Health + Wellness

VISIBILITY BRIGADE HONOLULU Rush Hour Resistance

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1875

Aloha Respected Committee Members,

My name is Ben Lessard and I am one of the leads of Visibility Brigade Honolulu. My group members and I request that you support HB1875 to protect healthcare access for all the people of Hawai'i. This state openly embraces the LGBTQIA+ Community and we aim to protect the most vulnerable among us under attack right now, which is the Transgender Community. Gender affirming care is a right that should be afforded to the citizens that live in this state. It is extremely important that we have protections for our Healthcare providers from litigation due to policy changes as well.

We ask that this body act on behalf of the people who reside in Hawai'i. We have Mahu members and allies and our group stands for equality in our community. We hope that you will continue to support our constitutional rights and support non discriminatory laws which provide a shield of protection for all people of this state. We ask that this body keep the power within our state and vote in Support HB1875.

Thank you for continuing to promote equality for all people with your vote.

Ben Lessard

Visibility Brigade Honolulu

visibilitybrigadehonolulu@gmail.com

#VISIBILITYBRIGADE
HONOLULU

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:09:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	District 4 Hawaii Democratic Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you Chair Tarnas and Members for allowing me to testify in strong support of HB1875, relating to health care. I'm Renee Rabb, District 4 Chair of the Hawai'i Democratic Party. District 4 is located in lower Puna on Big Island, and we are known for our passionate support of individual liberty and protection of the rights of marginalized people. We defend those who need our help. Right now, in the current climate of the United States, we stand together with the transgendered community and the medical providers who help them stay alive. As you can hear from my accent, I grew up in the American South. I understand bigotry towards and the oppression of those who are deemed "different" better than most. We must protect our Hawai'i residents from other states' laws that only seek to harm people who are merely trying to live their own lives and the doctors, families, and support systems who assist them in that effort.

We need safeguards that protect both reproductive and gender affirming care. It is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. Please pass this bill out and show your compassion for and courage to care for those in need of our help.

Thank you for your time.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, Hawai'i



Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1875

Aloha Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Tara Nash and I am the lead of Indivisible Leeward Oahu. My members and I humbly request that you support HB1875 to ensure that safeguards are established to protect those who rely on medications and proper access to care as they are the most vulnerable among us. Gender affirming care is a right that should be afforded to all residents of Hawai'i. We would like to highlight our support for the Transgender Community as we have members who align with that Community. It is important that Hawai'i remains a safe, inclusive space for all people, and the most vulnerable among us look to this Legislative body to vote on protection that matters for the people of this state. We also ask that local health care providers be protected from undue litigation.

No person should ever be made to feel that their personal health or safety is at risk. HB1875 protects patient privacy as well as members of the LGBTQIA+ Community in regards to gender affirming care. All Hawai'i residents deserve to feel legally protected and safe. We humbly ask this body to protect all Hawai'i residents from abusive targeted practices towards transgender individuals by out of state parties.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tara Nash

Indivisible Leeward Oahu

indivisibleleewardoahu@gmail.com

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:13:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Ching, MD	American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair

The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai‘i State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for HB1875 HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

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

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai‘i Chapter (HAAP), representing over 200 board-certified pediatricians across our islands, writes in strong support of HB1875 HD1. This measure is vital to ensuring that Hawai‘i remains a safe and supportive environment for the delivery of evidence-based, life-saving medical care.

[HB1875 HD1](#) expands critical protections for healthcare providers and patients by including gender-affirming health care services alongside reproductive health care. As pediatricians, our primary goal is the health and well-being of all children and adolescents in Hawai‘i. The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes that gender-affirming care is developmentally appropriate, medically necessary, and often life-saving for transgender and gender-diverse youth.

This bill provides essential safeguards by:

- Protecting against "abusive litigation" from out-of-state entities seeking to penalize healthcare activities that are perfectly lawful within the State of Hawai‘i.
- Prohibiting adverse actions by medical malpractice insurers and health carriers against providers solely for offering these essential services.
- Strengthening privacy protections for protected health information, ensuring that the patient-physician relationship remains confidential and free from outside interference.
- Preventing the use of state resources or judicial processes (such as subpoenas or extraditions) to assist in out-of-state investigations targeting lawful care.

When healthcare providers fear legal or professional retaliation for following the recognized standards of care, the entire healthcare system suffers. By passing [HB1875 HD1](#), the Legislature will ensure that Hawai'i's physicians can continue to practice medicine based on science, ethics, and the best interests of their patients without the threat of predatory litigation from jurisdictions with different policy priorities.

The HAAP urges the Committee to pass HB1875 HD1 to protect our providers and the vulnerable youth we serve. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Chapter



To: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday February 24, 2026 2:00 PM

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1875 HD1

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

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports HB 1875 HD 1** which expand protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming care services. This bill also establishes protections for health care providers who are providing lawful reproductive healthcare services or gender-affirming care services. A gender-affirming care shield law is in accord with constitutional and statutory protections. Hawai'i's constitution expressly protects an individual's right to privacy "The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest." Gender identity and gender expression are protected categories in Hawai'i's nondiscrimination law.

Gender-affirming health care is vital for those who need it. Transgender persons disproportionately face a range of challenges to their health and well-being, including lack of access to appropriate medical care, elevated levels of housing instability and underemployment, and heightened vulnerability to victimization (sexual, physical, and psychological) and behavioral health challenges.

HHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, hepatitis, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHRC is one of the largest providers of Gender Affirming Care in the islands. This bill will:

- Ensure medical decisions are made by health care providers, patients and their families – the people who should have the autonomy to make healthcare decisions
- Protect people accessing Gender Affirming Care and healthcare providers who are following medical guidelines with from litigation and ensure their privacy protections

HHRC get calls daily from concerned patients, their families and loved ones who are scared about not only losing access to care, but also the hate, discrimination and stigma they are facing on a daily basis. Research shows that Gender Affirming Care saves lives. Please join 14 other states in passing this important bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heather Lusk, Executive Director, Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center



February 23, 2026

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: H.B. 1875 HD1, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in strong support of H.B. 1875 HD1, which would extend Hawaii's shield law framework to gender-affirming health care, clarify permitted disclosure of protected health information, establish guardrails against abusive litigation, and prohibit certain adverse actions against medical professionals solely for providing lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care.

Act 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, passed important shield law protections for reproductive health care services providers, and this bill proposes to extend the same protections to include gender-affirming health care services. These protections are increasingly important as other states move to restrict access to gender-affirming care and, in some cases, seek to impose consequences for conduct occurring beyond state lines.¹ In response to these attacks, shield law frameworks have emerged to safeguard providers and patients engaged in lawful care. Shield laws offer legal protection against various threats, including out-of-state investigations, civil liability claims, and adverse licensing or insurance consequences.²

The passage of H.B. 1875 HD1 would align Hawaii with a growing number of jurisdictions that have enacted similar measures³ to support providers, reduce the chilling effect of interstate

¹ *Policy Tracker: Youth Access to Gender Affirming Care and State Policy Restrictions*, KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://www.kff.org/lgbtq/gender-affirming-care-policy-tracker/>.

² Amanda Barrow and Carley Towne, *Shield Laws for Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care: A State Law Guide*, THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE (Aug. 2024), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/shield-laws-fact-sheets/>.

³ *State Shield Laws: Protections for Abortion and Gender-Affirming Care Providers*, KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (July 2025), <https://www.kff.org/state-health-policy-data/state-indicator/shield-laws/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

P.O. Box 2072 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96805
Email: hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com

enforcement actions, and ensure that patients may continue to access gender-affirming care without undue interference. By reinforcing statutory safeguards for reproductive and gender-affirming care, H.B. 1875 HD1 supports a clear legal framework that respects personal autonomy and promotes equal opportunities for all.

For the above reasons, we strongly support H.B. 1875 HD1 and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



To: House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 2pm
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 325 and videoconference
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of HB 1875 HD1

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") strongly supports HB 1875 HD1, a bill that takes critical steps toward protecting gender affirming care providers. Fundamentally, providers and patients should not fear being investigated, jailed, or losing their license for providing or obtaining legal health care services.

Because of the national climate, gender affirming care providers and patients alike are living in fear of being criminally prosecuted by hostile states. In the last several years, we saw numerous states ban gender affirming care for both minors and adults, and this year, we are seeing a myriad of attacks from the federal government. The law is crystal clear that gender affirming care provided in Hawai'i remains legal. Nonetheless, overzealous prosecutors and lawmakers in hostile states are pursuing laws that target providers and discipline outside of states' borders.

Lawmakers should also ensure Hawai'i health care providers do not have their licenses negatively impacted or face discipline locally due to the provision of gender affirming care health care, even if providers are subject to discipline, investigations, or criminal charges in other states. With gender affirming care bans for minors in place, providers in these states are being forced to violate their ethical duties and medical judgment for fear of prosecution, jail time, and loss of licensure. This bill aims to ensure that if a provider is prosecuted or otherwise disciplined in another state for providing patient-focused and medically appropriate care, they can continue to practice medicine in Hawai'i.

All people in our state need to be confident that Hawai'i law protects their right to access gender affirming care services, and providers should not be afraid to be jailed, lose their license, or be barred from ever practicing medicine again simply for providing basic, legal health care. Providers need to be confident that they can continue to focus on patient health and that Hawai'i will always be a safe place to do what is best for the person they are serving. We urge you to pass HB 1875 HD1 to protect our providers. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:45:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marnie Masuda	Maui Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am testifying on behalf of Maui Indivisible. Our 3200 members stand in strong and steadfast support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. Body autonomy is an issue of privacy and self-determination. The government dictating what a human being can do with their body and their very sense of selfhood is not only an abuse of power, it is a violation of the overarching, non-negotiable backbone of the US Constitution, which promises to:

"...promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

And our "self-evident, unalienable rights," which are at the forefront of the Declaration of Independence: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Trans people hold a deep and revered role in the culture of beloved Hawai'i Nei. Our trans 'ohana deserve all the care and respect they deserve and desire. We must protect their rights with all our might and with all our hearts.

In Steadfast Solidarity,

Marnie Masuda

Lead Organizer, Maui Indivisible



February 24, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 325

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

To: Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1875 HD 1, Relating to Health Care

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 **support** this measure, which seeks to help ensure that health care providers can deliver care based on patient needs, sound clinical judgment, and established standards of practice.

When providers are acting within their scope of practice and in good faith reliance on their professional training, clear statutory protections support their efforts. These protections are particularly important in ensuring that providers are not deterred from offering medically appropriate services to patients who need them. We also recognize that shielding provisions such as those included in this measure help providers feel more assured about their liability and risks when providing critical services and appreciate the legislature's ongoing efforts to strike a careful balance between patient protections and provider accountability.

Thank you for hearing this important measure and for considering our support on these critical issues.



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 24th, 2026

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

Re: Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Reproductive Health Care Services; Protections; Abusive Litigation; Medical Malpractice Insurance; Health Carriers; Protected Health Information; Covered Entities
Position: SUPPORT

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

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai'i Section (ACOG Hawai'i), which represents physicians dedicated to providing evidence-based reproductive health care across our state, strongly supports HB1875 HD1.

HB1875 HD1 builds upon Hawai'i's existing protections for reproductive health care by appropriately extending those protections to gender-affirming health care services that are lawful in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to ensuring that patients can continue to access medically indicated care and that health care providers can deliver that care without fear of retaliatory or abusive legal actions.

Importantly, HB1875 HD1 does **not** alter standards of medical practice. It does not mandate care, lower professional standards, or shield unlawful or negligent conduct. Rather, it affirms that when clinicians provide care consistent with generally accepted standards of practice and Hawai'i law, they should not face adverse actions such as:

- Loss or denial of medical malpractice insurance,
- Termination from health insurance networks, or
- Licensure consequences based solely on the provision of lawful reproductive or gender-affirming health care.
- Enables our healthcare providers to have some recourse against abusive out of state litigation

These protections are critical for maintaining healthcare workforce in Hawai'i, where we already face healthcare provider shortages. Fear of legal or professional retaliation has a chilling effect on medical practice and can limit access to care—particularly for patients who already experience barriers, including transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

HB1875 HD1 also strengthens protections for patient privacy and limits the misuse of protected health information in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct. Preserving the confidentiality of the patient-provider relationship is fundamental to high-quality medical care and public trust.

ACOG Hawai'i strongly supports HB1875 HD1 as a measured, medically sound, and patient-centered policy that reinforces Hawai'i's leadership in protecting access to evidence-based health care. Fourteen other states, including ones Hawai'i often aligns with in healthcare policy (e.g. CA, OR, WA), have passed similar shield laws to protect access to gender affirming care.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of HB1875 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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



HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441 • Fax: (808) 593-2149

February 24, 2026

The Thirty-Third Legislature
The House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD1– RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

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

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is in strong support of HB1875 HD1 because working people must be able to make health care decisions without fear of discrimination, retaliation, or loss of access to care.

When lawful health care becomes a target for intimidation or punishment, the consequences are not abstract. Working families face fewer options, greater uncertainty, and added stress at moments when stability matters most. Those pressures ripple into the workplace, affecting a worker's ability to remain employed, care for family members, and plan for the future.

Our affiliated unions have long recognized that civil rights, bodily autonomy, and workplace equality are deeply interconnected. Discrimination based on reproductive health decisions or gender identity undermines economic security and erodes trust in systems that working people rely on every day, including the health care system.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committees to pass HB1875 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira
President
Hawaii State AFL-CIO



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 23, 2026

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

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1875

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. **We stand in strong support of HB 1875**, the trans community, and gender-affirming care in general.

In a larger sense, HB1875 is part of a necessary response to those whose strategy is to mislead working people away from the true causes of the struggles we face by instead dividing us against one another. The constant attacks on trans people in the United States don't benefit our communities, our 'ohana, or our lives. The most important thing we can do in these times is to stick together in solidarity and stand up for one another's human rights.

Thank you.



To: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy
Maria Rallojey, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Tuesday, February 23, 2026, 2:00pm, Conference Room 325

RE: **HB1875 HD1 Relating to Health Care**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1875 HD1**. This measure would (1) expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations; (2) establish protections against abusive litigation; and (3) prohibit medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

Our commitment to advocating for equitable access to care includes gender-affirming care. All people in Hawai'i deserve timely, safe, and local access to healthcare. And providers should be able to do their jobs without fear of criminal or civil penalties from other states or jurisdictions. This measure would help to protect access to care for the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB1875 HD1**.



Submitted Online: February 23, 2026

TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

POSITION: Opposition to HB 1875 HD1 Relating to Healthcare

My name is Eva Andrade, and I serve as President of Hawaii Family Forum, a nonprofit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. We respectfully oppose HB 1875 HD1.

While HB 1875 HD1 is presented as a protection measure, it expands Hawai‘i’s shield law to include gender-affirming medical interventions and places broad legal protections around those services. The bill limits certain investigations and legal actions related to these procedures and restricts how insurers may respond when providers perform them. These are significant policy shifts that deserve thoughtful consideration.

Our primary concern is protecting children.

Medical interventions related to gender identity can carry serious and sometimes irreversible consequences. Children and adolescents are still developing physically, emotionally, and psychologically. When decisions have lifelong implications, public policy should reflect caution and humility.

We are also mindful that the medical community itself continues to debate standards of care for minors. Some national medical organizations have urged greater restraint and more long-term research before irreversible procedures are performed on youth. When the science is still evolving, Hawai‘i should avoid creating broad legal protections that could make future course correction more difficult.

Importantly, growing caution is now coming not only from parents and ethicists, but from within the medical establishment itself. In 2026, the **American Society of Plastic Surgeons** concludedⁱ that there is *insufficient evidence demonstrating a favorable risk-benefit profile* for gender-related surgical interventions in children and adolescents and recommended delaying such surgeries until at least age 19. More recently, the **American Medical Association** acknowledgedⁱⁱ that the available evidence does not demonstrate clear benefit for surgical interventions on minors, even while debate continues around other aspects of treatment. This represents a noteworthy shift toward medical humility and restraint.



At the federal level, the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** has also emphasizedⁱⁱⁱ the need for evidence-based medicine, ethical safeguards, and long-term outcome data, particularly when it comes to experimental or irreversible interventions involving children. Current HHS policy guidance underscores that protecting minors requires caution, transparency, and accountability — not the silencing of legitimate medical or ethical concerns.

Parents play a vital role in guiding and protecting their children. In matters involving permanent medical consequences, families should be strengthened, not sidelined. Public policy should support transparency, careful deliberation, and parental involvement.

Finally, accountability in medicine is protection, not punishment. Professional oversight, ethical standards, and appropriate legal review exist to safeguard patients and maintain public trust. No category of medical care should be placed beyond careful review, especially when vulnerable young people may be affected.

Compassion is essential and must be guided by truth, evidence, and a commitment to protect those who cannot fully protect themselves.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that HB 1875 HD1 be held.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

ⁱ American Society of Plastic Surgeons (2026, February 3). *Position Statement on Gender Surgery for Children and Adolescents*. Retrieved February 6, 2026, from <https://www.plasticsurgery.org/documents/health-policy/positions/2026-gender-surgery-children-adolescents.pdf>

ⁱⁱ American Medical Association. (2026). *AMA responds to American Society of Plastic Surgeons position on gender-affirming surgery for minors*. Summary of AMA response as reported in national coverage acknowledging insufficient evidence demonstrating benefit of surgical interventions for minors. <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/first-major-medical-group-opposes-182138978.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs. (2025). *Treatment for pediatric gender dysphoria: Review of evidence and best practices*. <https://opa.hhs.gov/gender-dysphoria-report>



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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1875, HD 1

TO: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHA Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, DPFH Board President

DATE: February 24, 2026 (2:00 P.M.)

Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFH) **strongly supports** HB 1875, HD 1, which will provide needed legal protections to patients and care providers in this state engaged in gender-affirming care against punitive actions by overzealous prosecutors and litigants from other states. DPFH opposes efforts by government entities that impair access to needed medical care, including pharmacotherapies and surgical procedures recommended by medical professionals.

A gender-affirming care shield law is in accord with this state's constitutional and statutory protections. Hawai'i's constitution expressly protects an individual's right to privacy in [Article I, Section 6](#): "The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest." Gender identity and gender expression are protected categories in Hawai'i's nondiscrimination law. Furthermore, a reproductive care shield law was passed and signed into law expeditiously in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in [Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#), 597 U.S. 215 (2022).

Gender-affirming health care is vital for those who need it. Transgender persons disproportionately face a range of challenges to their health and well-being, including lack of access to appropriate medical care, elevated levels of housing instability and underemployment, and heightened vulnerability to victimization (sexual, physical, and psychological) and behavioral health challenges. [Every major medical association in the United States recognizes the medical necessity of transition-related care for improving the physical and mental health of transgender people.](#)

The innate dignity and worth of transgender persons have been under concerted attack on the continent by federal and state governments and opportunistic litigants. Access to needed health care is but one front in the ongoing assault upon a historically disfavored minority population that had just begun to participate more fully in the civic and economic life of the nation, including protection from employment discrimination and the ability to serve in the U.S. military. Last May, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a ban on transgender servicemembers to go into effect, [a policy that belies experiences in this nation and others per extensive analysis by the Rand Corporation.](#)

Hawai'i should join those [14 states and the District of Columbia and ensure that its residents are not impacted by overweening animus by those seeking to use the legal system as cudgel](#) against a minority that comprises a very small percentage of the larger population.

Since 1993 DPFH has advanced public discussions and policy changes around Hawai'i's drug polices, which continue to advance severe criminal penalties and extended periods of criminal legal supervision. DPFH also supports policy changes around substance use and behavioral health issues that are anchored in harm reduction, public health, and human rights. These changes include broader access to community-based behavioral health treatment, the repeal of cannabis prohibition in favor of rational regulation, reducing the severity of sentencing laws, prosecutorial practices, penological practices, and criminal legal supervision, and advancing other changes to laws and policies that reduce the impact of the criminal legal system on individuals and families from under-resourced communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



February 23, 2026

RE: HB1875

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

I am a healthcare provider who works with transgender and gender diverse patients. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support.

As a gender affirming care provider in Honolulu, who serves the transgender and nonbinary youth and adult populations, it is imperative that I along with other healthcare providers are allowed to continue the necessary care for these patients. Gender-affirming care is essential for Pacific Islander indigenous gender identities (MVPFAFF+), especially m̄hū patients, providing crucial medical, social, and psychological support that validates their third-gender identities and strengthens cultural identity. This care is vital for reducing gender dysphoria, improving mental health outcomes, and fostering well-being by providing a respectful environment that respects their unique, non-binary cultural roles.

Since the federal executive order threatening to ban gender affirming care, I have seen my patient's mental health deteriorate, with concerns that our providers will be prohibited from providing them with the care they so desperately need.

This bill would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received or provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state, where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai'i remains a safe place where patients and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution, and that the culture of its indigenous community is honored and protected.

The District of Columbia along with 17 states already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are solidified into law.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Ryan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Pronouns: She/They
Founder and Medical Director
Evolve Health, LLC
1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1603
Honolulu, HI, 96813

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:13:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Torrance Kam	Utopia Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Torrance Kam



Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875 HD1

Submitted by **Ashley Lukens**, Executive Director,

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Frost Family Foundation recently made a multimillion dollar investment to expand gender-affirming health care infrastructure across **Hawaii**. This investment is focused on strengthening provider capacity, improving access to essential services, and ensuring that our state remains a place where individuals and families can receive timely, evidence-based care close to home.

Infrastructure investments of this scale require policy stability. Providers cannot expand services, recruit clinicians, or secure insurance coverage if they face legal threats, retaliatory insurer actions, or politically motivated litigation for offering lawful care.

HB1875 HD1 provides that necessary stability.

By extending protections to gender-affirming health care alongside reproductive health care, clarifying protections for patient health information, and preventing abusive litigation against providers and patients, this bill safeguards the integrity of Hawai'i's health care ecosystem. It ensures that medical professionals who are acting within the law and within accepted standards of care are not penalized for doing their jobs.

From a philanthropic perspective, policy protections like those in HB1875 HD1 are essential to responsible investment. When foundations deploy significant capital to strengthen health systems, we rely on the State to create a regulatory environment that protects both providers and patients from out-of-state interference and bad-faith legal attacks.

This bill does not expand scope of practice. It does not change medical standards. It simply ensures that lawful care remains protected, that insurers cannot retaliate against providers solely for offering that care, and that patients' private medical information is shielded from improper disclosure.

Hawai'i has long led with values grounded in dignity, privacy, and care for community. HB1875 HD1 reflects those values and reinforces the stability necessary for continued investment in our state's health care infrastructure.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ashley Lukens

TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI PARSONS ON BEHALF OF ESSENTIAL ACCESS HEALTH IN SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD1

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB1875 HD1. Essential Access Health is in **strong support** of this legislation, which expands the previously adopted Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023 to include gender-affirming health care services.

Essential Access Health is the Hawai'i grantee for the federal Title X family planning program and supports the delivery of a broad range of evidence-based sexual and reproductive health services, including patient-centered contraceptive counseling and prescribing; STI screening, testing, and treatment; and pregnancy options counseling. We distribute family planning funding to a provider network that includes federally qualified health centers, Native Hawaiian health centers, University of Hawai'i at Hilo student health, and Planned Parenthood.

We have heard firsthand from providers in our Title X program network about the challenges they face when offering reproductive health care and gender-affirming care. They are particularly concerned about egregious and unfounded out of state lawsuits that could target their lawful provision of care. These providers are navigating multiple challenges and funding instability in our current political and health care environment. The threat of prosecution for evidence-based care is just one more weight adding to their burden.

Furthermore, adopting this legislation will align Hawai'i law with existing laws in states that make-up the West Coast Health Alliance.

With access to life changing and life-saving gender-affirming care across the United States being threatened by the federal government and providers preemptively cutting services, this is the time step up to protect nonbinary and māhū residents and the health care professionals that make care possible. Evidence from the Trevor Project demonstrates that supportive policies reduce suicide attempts and suicidal ideation among transgender youth. This legislation supports the bodily autonomy of trans, nonbinary, and māhū people, and their ability to make the choices that center equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HB1875 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Essential Access Health



February 24, 2026

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: HB 1875 HD1– RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

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

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1875 HD1, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. It also establishes protections against abusive litigation, prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services

HMSA appreciates the efforts of legislators to expand and strengthen legal protections for individuals and providers - particularly in the wake of changing federal landscape. However, we are concerned that the definition used in the current draft of “abusive litigation” might be so broad that it could accidentally block legitimate investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse involving gender affirming care. To avoid unintended consequences, we would respectfully request that we add to the definition that the term does not include actions based on coverage status, medical necessity, fraud or abuse, or the lawful recovery of overpayments by a health payor.

We would also respectfully ask that the definition of Gender affirming health care services be modified to better align with the existing medical necessity law by eliminating the specific interventions listed (Page 5, Lines 3-11) and instead framing it as “services deemed medically necessary under applicable law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1875 HD1.

Sincerely,

Walden Au
Director of Government Relations

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1875, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.**

Charles Brister, Chair, Hawai'i County Democrats

February 25, 2026

Aloha to the Chair & members,

My name is Charles Brister. I'm a resident of Puna on the Big Island, and I serve as the Chair of the Hawai'i County Democratic Party.

I'm speaking on behalf of myself, and on behalf of Hawai'i County's Democrats.

I believe this issue comes down to fairness and equal rights. Everyone in this country has equal rights as guaranteed in our Constitution. And it should go without saying - that includes equal rights when it comes to privacy and medical care.

When I go to the doctor or the hospital, there are laws that protect my privacy. And my decisions about my medical needs are mine alone, with advice from my doctor. No one else gets to weigh-in about my choices, or to intervene. That's the same for everyone.

Apparently, the federal government and some other states want to carve out some crazy exception to equal rights...just for people who are transgender. I reject that idea. Equality means everyone is treated the same, treated fairly.

It's not equality if we exclude one group that we don't agree with or understand. I realize some people still believe that gender is binary, just male and female, no other options. That's old school thinking, and it's based on ignorance of reality.

But even if that's your view, even if you personally feel it's wrong to be transgender – or if you just don't understand the idea of it - the fact remains - everyone has the same rights in this nation and in Hawai'i. Both those who agree with you and those who don't. When those rights come under attack, let's make sure Hawai'i protects our people. All of our people. Both patients and doctors. We are counting on you to provide that protection.

Mahalo for your time and the chance to express our strong support of HB 1875. I wish you wisdom and courage as you make your decisions. ##



LAMBDA LAW HAWAI'I
WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [HB1875](#)

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
February 24th, 2025

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

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, **strongly supports HB1875**. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2 of 2023 to include gender-affirming healthcare services. It also protects healthcare providers who provide lawfully available gender affirming care (GAC) against abusive litigation.

GAC covers a wide range of practices that are medically sound and supported by experts as best practice for many people, including trans and nonbinary children and adults, but also encompassing cis children and adults. **We must ensure that health care practitioners who provide this life-saving care will not be subject to the punitive and cruel laws of other states.**

Hawai'i has both the authority and the responsibility to regulate the practice of medicine within its borders. Other states may adopt different policies, but they should not extend those policies extraterritorially by **attempting to penalize conduct that is lawful here**. HB1875 does not interfere with federal law or obstruct justice; it simply **affirms that Hawai'i will not participate in out-of-state efforts to punish healthcare providers who are acting in full compliance with Hawai'i law.**

This bill also **protects the integrity of Hawai'i's healthcare system**. Without these shield protections, providers face uncertainty, **harassment, and the threat of costly litigation** from jurisdictions seeking to control lawful care. That will deter qualified professionals from practicing in our state and disrupt continuity of care for patients. By extending existing

protections to gender-affirming care, this Legislature sends a clear message: healthcare providers who follow Hawai'i's standards of care will not be abandoned to retaliatory legal attacks from outside the state. Protecting providers ultimately **protects patients, preserves access to care, and upholds Hawai'i's longstanding commitment to dignity and privacy.**

Let us continue to be a leader in materially respecting the dignity of all the people of Hawai'i, **including māhū, fa'afafine, bakla, and LGBTQ+ people who make our communities that much stronger.**

Please support HB1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law
Mission: To advance equal rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals at WSRS and beyond.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 2:36:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 3:55:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill to protect individuals' right to gender-affirming care, privacy regarding their health info, and also protections for health care providers providing essential care. In Hawaii, we are a state with aloha for all people, regardless of strict gender binaries and prejudices introduced by Western society. Mahalo.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 12:38:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pia Francisco-Natanauan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear State Representatives,

I am an Adolescent Medicine physician. I work closely with patients and their families, who need gender affirming treatment. This treatment is evidence-based and is only given to the patient after thorough planning with the family. HB1875 protects providers from interference that is usually lacking in medical evidence. This bill will allow us to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 6:52:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 7:07:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:19:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill helps protect our neighbors, friends, and loved ones.

Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

- breanna zoey (she/they)

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:25:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am a healthcare provider who works with transgender patients. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical care. I strongly urge your support.

Mahalo,

Lisa Lee, PsyD

Hawai‘i State Legislature House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Testimony in Support of HB 1875, HD1
February 24, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875 HD1, which protects access to gender-affirming and reproductive health care services, and I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

These forms of care are evidence-based, medically necessary, and fundamental to the health, dignity, and autonomy of patients and families. Decisions about gender-affirming and reproductive health care should be made by patients in consultation with qualified medical professionals—not shaped by political pressure or fear of legal retaliation.

It is especially important that HB 1875 HD1 establishes protections against abusive litigation. Across the country, politically motivated lawsuits have been used to intimidate providers, patients, and even family members, regardless of the medical appropriateness of care. Such litigation drives providers out of practice, discourages hospitals from offering lawful services, and creates a chilling effect that places patients at real risk. By shielding lawful care from bad-faith legal actions, this bill preserves access, supports medical professionals, and upholds the integrity of Hawai‘i’s health care system.

HB 1875 HD1 reflects Hawai‘i’s values of privacy, fairness, and compassion, and ensures that our state remains a place where people can seek essential health care without fear.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I respectfully ask the Committee to support and advance HB 1875 HD1.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson

Director, Lei Pua ‘Ala Queer Histories of Hawai‘i
North Shore O‘ahu
House District 47
Senate District 23

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:46:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members.

I am a healthcare provider who works with Māhū and transgender patients. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving.

HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical medicine.

Please protect our patients and those of us who care for them.

I strongly urge your support.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:53:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii and am testifying in **strong support** of HB1875 HD1. No transgender person or health care provider providing services to a transgender person should be fearful of abusive litigation relating to their receiving or providing gender-affirming care. A person's gender identity and health care decisions are personal, private, and deserving of the highest protection afforded by law. Please pass the bill.

Aloha,

Clayton Kamida

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:53:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in strong support of HB1875, which provides critical, timely, and necessary protections for both patients seeking essential health care and the providers who offer that care in Hawai‘i.

This bill represents a vital next step following the landmark protections of Act 2 (2023). It thoughtfully addresses evolving challenges by:

- **Explicitly Protecting Gender-Affirming Care:** By expanding Act 2’s shield to include gender-affirming health care services, HB1875 sends a clear and compassionate message to our transgender, non-binary, and māhū community: Hawai‘i sees you, values you, and will protect your right to access the medical care you and your doctors deem necessary. This is a matter of life-saving healthcare, and it must be safeguarded from hostile external litigation.
- **Fortifying Provider Protections:** The provisions prohibiting medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking adverse actions against providers solely for offering lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care are not just practical—they are foundational to ensuring access. Without these protections, providers may be coerced or intimidated out of offering this legal care, creating devastating “care deserts” for our residents. This bill ensures that providers can practice medicine based on evidence and patient need, not fear.
- **Clarifying Confidentiality:** Updating permitted disclosures of protected health information in line with federal changes provides essential legal clarity. This ensures that patient privacy is maintained and that our local statutes remain robust against shifting federal landscapes, protecting both confidentiality and the patient-provider relationship.

In a time when other states are aggressively eroding the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and limiting reproductive autonomy, Hawai‘i must stand firm as a place of refuge, dignity, and equal access. HB1875 proactively defends our values and our people.

This bill is a direct investment in the health, safety, and well-being of Hawai'i's people. It upholds the principle that healthcare decisions should be made between a patient and their doctor, free from political interference or fear of retaliation.

I urge you to pass HB1875 and affirm Hawai'i's commitment to being a state that protects bodily autonomy, supports its healthcare workforce, and provides safe, equitable access to healthcare for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 10:00:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Healthcare decisions belong to patients and doctors, not politicians. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:05:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean hamer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875 HD1.

As a thirty-five year veteran researcher and scientist emeritus at the National Institutes of Health, I have witnessed first-hand the importance of allowing people to receive and follow the advice of trained medical professionals. Gender-affirming and reproductive health care are complex areas where people deserve the best possible information to make their own decisions. This bill would protect the people of Hawai‘i from the sort of arbitrary medical restrictions that certain areas of the continental United States are now passing for purely political reasons.

As a historian, I also recognize the importance of valuing Hawai‘i's long history of gender and sexual diversity and autonomy. This is the time to look to remember the wisdom of the kupuna, not to give in to the prejudices of the current moment.

I hope this mana'o is useful and would be glad to respond to any questions.

Dean Hamer, PhD

Haleiwa, Hawai‘i

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 1:23:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1875 and ask you to vote against it. This bill limits oversight and takes away accountability. This is dangerous especially to our keiki and erases provision and protection for recourse.

Please oppose

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 1:47:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for serving the people of Hawaii. I would ask that you please oppose this bill to protect children, families and transparency. The medical decisions included in this bill have a lifelong outcome. I see this bill as one that can disrupt the families proper place in decision making. Please oppose HB1875. Thank you

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 1:56:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is D Dangaran, and I am an assistant professor of law at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson Law School, where I teach and research constitutional law, civil rights, and family law. My research, litigation, and advocacy has focused on transgender rights. I serve as the co-chair of the National Trans Bar Association. The views expressed here are my own and do not reflect the views of my employer or my bar association.

I am writing to offer my strong support for HB1875 and to show you 1) why this bill is needed now, and 2) why this legislature should have faith that the law will be upheld in court.

1. States such as Texas have begun to use long-arm statutes to bring claims against providers out-of-state who provide reproductive healthcare to Texas citizens. But states with shield laws, such as New York, are able to prevent the enforcement of any judgments against their providers. This has played out in recent events last Fall (case details [here](#), outcome in favor of New York, which enforced its shield law, described [here](#)).

If a state such as Texas attempted to bring such a claim against a Hawai‘i provider who provided advice or information regarding abortions, Hawai‘i's shield law would currently prevent the commandeering of Hawai‘i's law enforcement by the foreign state.

But if Texas decided to bring the same type of claim against a Hawai‘i provider who offered gender-affirming care, there would currently be no protections at all.

The private healthcare information of the patient would be at risk, as would the medical professional's ability to apply widely accepted standards of care by providing medically necessary services to transgender people.

The shield law will ensure that for years to come, as states increase their attacks on transgender people and their healthcare providers (and their parents), Hawai‘i's citizens will be protected and subject to the laws of *this* state, not to another state. Hawai‘i's citizens should not need to be subjected to investigations, subpoenas, or civil/criminal liability due to other states' laws. But until HB1875 passes, they are left vulnerable to such invasive attacks on their freedoms.

Hawai‘i should join the ~18 states (including D.C.) that have enacted shield laws to protect gender-affirming care (either through legislation or executive order). See [here](#) for the count.

2. Legislation such as this is likely to be found constitutional by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Sanctuary cities that prevent information sharing between local government officials and the federal government have been upheld by the Court, which governs federal litigation in Hawai‘i. *See United States v. State of California*, 921 F.3d 865 (9th Cir. 2019). Similarly, the Court held that a federal executive order seeking to withhold funding from sanctuary cities on account of their sanctuary city legislation was unconstitutional. *See County of Santa Clara v. Trump*, 897 F.3d 1225 (9th Cir. 2018).

Although abortion and gender-affirming care shield laws have not been tested by the courts, the same rationale applies. Another government--whether the federal government or a state government--cannot commandeer Hawai‘i's law enforcement agency by direct order or by withholding of funds. Such was the analysis of the New York court that analyzed Texas's attempt to charge a New York provider for providing an abortion.

Hawai‘i would be well within its constitutional limits if it passes this bill--adding gender-affirming care to the preexisting protections for abortion rights.

Ultimately, this bill is about privacy, sovereignty, and safety. Hawai‘i has *already* determined that gender-affirming care is part of the standard of care, as indicated in the Hawai‘i State Department of Health's 2023 Statement on Transgender Rights and Public Health ([here](#)).

This bill does NOT change that access to care. The debate therefore should not be taken over by those who want to reconsider healthcare rights for transgender people. This bill simply adds gender-affirming care providers to the protections that this legislature has already deemed worthy of providing via legislation for reproductive health providers. This legislature would help to protect many more people from the reach of nefarious states or the federal government. The time is now to extend the reasonable protections offered by Hawai‘i's shield law to this form of care.

Thank you for your consideration.

D Dangaran

Assistant Professor of Law

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 2:07:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support for HB1875

Aloha Chair and Members, I am in Strong Support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawaii's values of Aloha, Inclusion, and Compassion. Protect Trans Families! Healthcare decisions belong to patients and doctors, not politicians. Trans youth deserve a future in Hawaii.

Thank You for your time!

Addie Berliner

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 2:28:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 2:53:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

stronlgy support this Bill.

Larry Smith

3178 Kaohinani Dr

Honolulu Hi 96817

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 3:39:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support this Bill.

Through this message I ask Representative Joe Gedeon who is my Representative to also support this Bill.

This bill protects medically necessary care and keeps politics out of medicine. Our patients depend on it.

Mahalo for listening and for your leadership.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 3:51:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill - the health of ALL of Hawaii's community deserves equal support!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:03:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill ensures medical decisions remain between patients and providers — not politicians. Every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. Please support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:04:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

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

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL HB-1875 HD1 HD1.

HB 1875 HD1 still dramatically expands Hawai'i's existing "shield" framework for reproductive health to gender-affirming medical interventions and creates sweeping legal, professional, and insurance protections around these practices. While presented as a protective measure, the bill in fact undermines parental rights and medical accountability, disrupts interstate comity and respect for other states' laws, and entrenches highly contested interventions—especially on minors—at a time when many medical bodies and international health systems are moving away from routine use of gender-affirming surgeries and hormones in youth.

HB 1875 HD1 defines "abusive litigation" so broadly that it captures virtually any civil, criminal, or administrative action brought against a person or entity for accessing, providing, or facilitating reproductive or gender-affirming care that is lawful in Hawai'i, and it allows the "aggrieved person" to sue for damages, attorneys' fees, and punitive damages. This sweeps in good-faith litigation, including custody disputes, malpractice claims, or actions by out-of-state parents or guardians who are genuinely concerned about the safety of a child subjected to irreversible procedures. The six-year statute of limitations and the availability of punitive damages are likely to chill legitimate legal recourse rather than merely deter harassment. It effectively pre-labels contrary legal action as "abusive" if it questions the wisdom, safety, or morality of these interventions, insulating a controversial medical area from normal judicial scrutiny. The Legislature should not create a special liability shield that protects one class of medical services from accountability mechanisms that apply everywhere else in medicine.

HB 1875 HD1 continues to amend multiple professional licensing statutes—particularly for physicians and certain other licensees—to prohibit Hawai'i's boards from denying, revoking, or conditioning licenses based on out-of-state convictions or disciplinary actions when those actions were "based on" the provision of reproductive or gender-affirming services that would be lawful in Hawai'i, and to limit the boards' ability to impose added conditions on applicants where another jurisdiction disciplined the provider over such services. In HD1, the Legislature did

remove some of the broad, profession-specific protections that had been proposed for marriage and family therapists, but the core protections for physicians and other key licensees remain. This still severs Hawai‘i from the national ecosystem of professional self-regulation. If another state, after due process, finds that a practitioner’s conduct with respect to gender-affirming interventions was unsafe, unethical, or harmful, Hawai‘i’s boards would be instructed to treat that as essentially irrelevant so long as Hawai‘i law would have allowed the same conduct. This invites “discipline shopping,” encouraging providers who have lost standing elsewhere for controversial practices to relocate to Hawai‘i, where discipline tied to those practices must be discounted. It continues to single out abortion and gender transition for extraordinary insulation from the normal oversight that protects patients in every other domain, when at minimum Hawai‘i boards should retain full discretion to consider out-of-state discipline on its merits.

The bill assumes that gender-affirming interventions, including surgeries, are firmly established, well-supported, and politically neutral standards of care. That assumption is no longer tenable. Internationally, several countries that once embraced aggressive gender-affirming protocols for youth have sharply restricted puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries for minors, moving toward more cautious, psychotherapy-first models because of unresolved evidence of benefit and growing recognition of risk and regret. Major systematic reviews have found that high-quality evidence for long-term benefits is weak, while risks, such as infertility, loss of sexual function, bone density problems, and surgical complications, are substantial. Likewise, within the surgical and medical community, there is growing unease about the rapid expansion of gender-affirming surgeries, particularly in younger patients and in those with significant mental health comorbidities. Key professional associations and other specialists have moderated or qualified their support for gender-affirming surgery, emphasizing the need for better evidence, stricter indications, and robust long-term follow-up rather than blanket affirmation and expansion. HB 1875 HD1 would still codify a maximalist, highly contested model of care precisely as medical opinion is shifting toward more caution.

Because HB 1875 HD1 sharply restricts disclosure and use of medical records related to these services, bars cooperation with many out-of-state investigations and proceedings, and treats legal actions against providers or facilitators as presumptively “abusive,” it creates a serious risk that parents, especially those in more protective states, will be sidelined if a minor child seeks or is steered toward gender-affirming interventions in or through Hawai‘i. Parents are the primary guardians of their children’s welfare. It should not be easier to provide a minor with life-altering hormones or surgeries than it is to share basic medical information with both parents or with child-protective authorities who may have legitimate concerns about coercion, underlying trauma, or mental illness. A bill that makes it easier to hide these interventions from scrutiny than to examine them undermines Hawai‘i’s commitment to strong families and robust child protection.

HB 1875 HD1 also instructs Hawai‘i to refuse subpoenas, restrict cooperation by state agencies, and deny extradition in cases where another state criminalizes or restricts reproductive or gender-affirming interventions that Hawai‘i allows, and to decline to enforce civil judgments or penal laws from other states that “ban, restrict, burden, punish, penalize, or otherwise interfere with” such services. This is not simple protection of in-state practice; it is an affirmative rejection of other states’ sovereign decisions about deeply contested moral and medical issues. It

invites retaliatory legislation elsewhere and fuels an arms race of “sanctuary” versus “enforcement” zones that will ultimately harm patients and families caught between jurisdictions. It erodes the longstanding principle that states generally respect one another’s judgments even when they disagree on policy, a cornerstone of a functioning federal union.

Finally, HB 1875 HD1 still forbids malpractice insurers and health carriers from adjusting coverage decisions, premiums, or contracts “solely” because a provider offers or refers for these services, or from terminating or refusing to renew contracts with such providers. While HD1 slightly narrows the malpractice language to allow rate increases that are based on sound actuarial principles, it continues to tie the hands of private insurers who may reasonably conclude that certain procedures carry elevated risk of harm, regret, and litigation. Insurance is meant to price and manage risk. Forcing insurers to treat high-risk, poorly evidenced interventions as if they are routine medicine distorts the market, can raise costs for everyone, and converts contested ideological judgments into mandatory underwriting assumptions, further weakening a key external check on unsafe or experimental practices.

HB 1875 HD1 does far more than protect patient privacy and shield lawful in-state care from harassment. It constructs an expansive legal fortress around abortion and gender-affirming interventions, weakens parental rights and professional accountability, undermines cooperation with sister states, and hard-codes into statute a model of care that many medical authorities and international health systems are now reassessing or retreating from. From a pro-family perspective committed to protecting vulnerable children and unborn life, upholding parental authority, preserving professional and interstate accountability, and respecting the rule of law and federalism, this bill is profoundly misguided. I respectfully urge the Committee to defer indefinitely HB 1875 HD1.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:23:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Richmond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:51:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 5:00:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Pollak	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

I am writing to you today as a mother from Kauai to urge your strong support for HB1875.

In Hawai‘i, we are fortunate to have healthcare that allows my child to thrive. But as a parent, I feel a growing sense of unease watching other states pass laws that target families like mine. I am testifying today because I believe my child’s medical history should never be used as a weapon, and my rights as a parent should not vanish the moment we interact with someone from a less-protective state. In fact, no person's medical history should be weaponized.

We need this "shield law" to close dangerous loopholes. I support it because:

- **Doctors protected.** Our providers shouldn't face skyrocketing insurance premiums or "shadow bans" just for providing legal, life-saving care and reproductive services.
- **Privacy respected.** Hawai‘i-based companies should not be forced to hand over our family's private data to out-of-state entities looking to harass us.
- **Children safe at home.** We must ensure that no out-of-state custody order can remove a child from a loving home simply because their parents provided them with gender-affirming care.

Passing this bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i stands for *ohana*. It tells us that our private medical decisions are just that—private. Please pass HB1875 and ensure that Hawai‘i remains a safe harbor for all adults and children.

Mahalo,

Lisa Pollak
Kauai, HI

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 5:01:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Vera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would ask that you Oppose this bill.

By the committees own actions they have moved the effective date into the future, as they know there are too many unanswered questions in this bill.

Please oppose this bill until more conversations and answers can be obtained. I fear this bill is moving too quickly to have actually been well thought out.. and will cause more harm than good.

Please oppose this bill!

Respectfully,

Pamela Vera

Lahaina, HI

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 5:10:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
June Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I'm writing in support of HB1875 HD1.

Doctors and patients must be the primary voices guiding individual health care, not religious opinion, pseudo-science, or partisan agendas.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 5:29:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Murakami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I look forward to the day when Transgender people do not live in fear of discrimination in our country. My fantastic neighbor is Transgender. She deserves to live a full life, like all young adults in Hawaii.

Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

Tracy Murakami

Kauai

lifelong Hawaii resident

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 6:23:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

Thank you.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 6:25:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB 1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 6:38:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Mirken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing as an individual Hawaii resident, but would note that I am also a member of the Coordinating Committee of [Defend Public Health](#), a national network of thousands of public health researchers, healthcare workers, advocates and allies fighting to protect the health of all from cruel policies of the Trump administration.

Right now, healthcare providers who provide gender-affirming care are under unprecedented attack. These attacks contradict all the best scientific and medical evidence, which clearly shows that gender-affirming care for those who need it can be extremely beneficial and sometimes life-saving. That's why this care receives [virtually unanimous support](#) from major scientific and medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychiatric Association, among many others.

For a more personal look at the issue, I would ask you to look at [an article I wrote](#) for the Defend Public Health website about a young transgender friend of mine here in Hilo, whom I first met when he was 17. He and many more like him are depending on you to protect their right to get the healthcare they need from these cruel, ideologically-driven attacks.

Please do the right thing and move swiftly to pass HB1875. Lives depend on it. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bruce Mirken

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 7:05:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Golojuch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in full support.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 7:11:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB1875 for these reasons.

1 This bill expands Hawaii’s shield law beyond abortion to include gender-affirming care.

2 It limits how other states’ laws can be recognized in Hawaii.

3 It may reduce accountability for medical decisions

4 It affects insurance rules.

5 Even the Legislature delayed the effective date to “July 1, 3000.”

Mahalo for stopping HB1875,

Linda

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 7:24:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Acevedo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members: I am a Mental Health Care provider who specializes in gender affirming care and gender transition. Gender affirming care is evidence based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers like me from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical care. I strongly urge your support.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:05:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill which would allow this essential medical care for some of our neighbors to remain outside of politics.

i am a retired medical professional and regret the politicization of private medical needs.

Thank you for your deliberations and service.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:22:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in ****very strong support**** of HB 1875, which which expands protections of Hawai'i law to explicitly include gender-affirming health care and reproductive health care services.

As a parent and as an educator, I am particularly concerned to protect the health and well-being of young people. Knowing that their health and personal dignities are respected is essential to their ability to safeguard their mental and physical health, strive for educational and work opportunities, and be full contributors to our community.

I have known many young people who have faced challenges when it was difficult to find health care for their needs, whether reproductive services or access to gender-affirming care. I have seen how lack of access to these services is a major hurdle that can damage their health and limit their educational and professional opportunities.

Conversely, I know from personal experience how access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming medical care can help young people achieve life goals and pour their hearts into the opportunities that not only benefit them individually, but also gives so much back to Hawai'i.

This bill is necessary for the health and safety of our young people and will lead to a more thriving and resilient future for us all.

Mahalo for your support of HB 1875!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:35:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jill guillermo-togawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am the parent/family member of a transgender young adult. Access to affirming medical care has helped my child thrive, feel safe, and feel hopeful about the future. HB1875 protects families like mine from outside attacks and legal threats. At this time i have become increasingly concerned about protections for my child's access to continued gender affirming care, for their safety in travelling, for their emotional wellbeing.

My child has had to weather many storms on their journey towards feeling whole, and although it was difficult for me at first, as a parent i am very happy to see my child thriving and able to attend college more confidently, believing his care will continue to be protected and available.

We all want our children to be happy and free, to contribute meaningfully to our community and to pursue a fulfilling life. My child is now admired in his role as a drama and violin teacher and doing well at KCC. I believe this has a lot to do with his safety and that he does not have to worry about his health care access.

Please pass this bill and protect our children.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jill Guillermo-Togawa

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:45:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

I strongly support this bill. We need to honor the Hawaiian respect for all lifestyles. In addition, timely and appropriate gender-affirming care means improved mental health, less depression, and less suicidality. And we need to protect providers from politically motivated litigation, insurance retaliation, and misguided federal policies.

mahalo,

Cory Harden

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:04:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Decisions about medical care should be made by each patient in consultation with their healthcare team. Those decisions are a private matter..

Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Resident & Voter, Senate District 19, House District 23

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:16:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Varnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the JHA Committee:

I am a pediatrician on Maui. Practicing medicine in Hawai'i can be difficult, whether it's from the high cost of living or from the lack of access to speciality care, especially on the neighbor islands. Allowing federal or out-of-state entities interfere on how we practice medicine will only dissuade future providers from moving here to practice or drive current providers away from Hawai'i, which desperately needs their help.

Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference, allows us to practice ethical medicine, and ensures that medical decisions are made between the patient, their family, and their doctor, and not politicians. I strongly urge your **support** of HB 1875 and **pass** it out of committee.

Regards,

Gerald Montano, DO

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 10:02:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Kizer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm asking you to please support this bill because I believe it is the morally correct thing to do for our Hawaii ohana. Mahalo.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 1:41:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 6:22:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully submit testimony in **opposition** to HB1875 HD1.

This measure is presented as a “protection” bill, but as drafted it raises significant judiciary, due process, interstate comity, and enforcement concerns that fall squarely within JHA’s responsibility. Hawai‘i can protect privacy and lawful medical practice without creating a new, highly punitive cause of action that invites forum-shopping and entangles our courts in other states’ disputes.

A 7/1/3000 effective date is of concern. Measures with major judicial and enforcement implications should not be advanced with placeholder dates and open-ended legal uncertainty.

Please hold this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:26:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Delgadillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I support the bill to protect Hawaii transgender individuals access to healthcare from Federal Government interference.

The federal government has promoted discrimination against transgender individuals rights to employment, housing, education and healthcare. Trans people's right to exist is now threatened by the powerful Federal Government. This discrimination is not just or humane. It is cruel.

Trans rights are human rights.

As the parent of a trans adult, I feel my child and their healthcare team are better equipped to make private healthcare decisions about what is best than the government, who clearly does not have trans persons interests at heart. My daughter is very fearful of losing healthcare access. We have already spent thousands of dollars on medication and treatment that our local insurance does not cover. If we do not act now to protect healthcare access, the federal government will create some new regulation and easily implement discrimination into our state's healthcare.

We must act now. If we do not act to protect trans rights now, transgender rights will be lost.

Thank you,

Sarah Delgadillo

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:36:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey Adler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 1875 because it affirms Hawai‘i’s commitment to evidence-based healthcare, patient safety, and the protection of medically necessary treatment.

Gender-affirming care is recognized as legitimate healthcare by the mainstream medical community. National professional organizations including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society, and the American Psychiatric Association have all affirmed that gender-affirming care is evidence-based and medically necessary for many transgender and gender-diverse patients. These positions are grounded in decades of clinical experience and peer-reviewed research.

Multiple studies show that access to gender-affirming care is associated with improved mental health outcomes. Longitudinal research following transgender and nonbinary youth has found lower rates of depression and suicidal ideation among those who received puberty blockers or gender-affirming hormones compared with those who did not. Research on adults similarly shows that access to gender-affirming medical and surgical care is associated with reduced psychological distress, lower rates of suicidal ideation, and improved overall wellbeing.

Systematic reviews of the medical literature consistently find that gender-affirming care, when provided under established clinical guidelines and medical supervision, is associated with improved quality of life and mental health outcomes. These reviews do not identify evidence of widespread harm from such care and emphasize the importance of individualized, clinician-guided decision-making.

Conversely, restricting or denying access to gender-affirming care has been associated with worse mental health outcomes, including increased anxiety, depression, and risk of self-harm. Medical organizations have warned that withholding evidence-based care can place patients at greater risk and undermine their health and safety.

HB 1875 strengthens Hawai‘i’s existing protections by clearly affirming that lawful, medically appropriate gender-affirming care remains protected in this state. At a time when access to healthcare is increasingly shaped by out-of-state political pressures, this bill helps ensure that medical decisions remain between patients and their healthcare providers, guided by science and clinical expertise rather than ideology.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support HB 1875 and continue Hawai'i's long-standing commitment to compassionate, evidence-based healthcare for all residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:02:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Healthcare should be between a patient and their medical provider. Politicians are not medical personnel nor do they have training in the area of transgender care. As a physician I know limiting access to gender affirming care can and will have serious medical and psychological repercussions for the transgender community. They are already being "othered" by the Trump administration. In Hawaii we are surrounded by many cultures, many of which accept a third gender. Please don't let ignorance and hate harm a group of innocent people just trying to live their life.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:58:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Chase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting this in strong support. Gender affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and life saving. It has saved my life and continues to do so everyday. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 11:02:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nic Chase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. My partner is transgender, and I have seen firsthand the amazing effects of gender affirming care. I am a teacher in the Hawai'i school system and several of my students are transgender. Knowing they have access to gender affirming care has helped these transgender students feel safe and hopeful about their futures. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 11:25:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilder Worrall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Grandinetti, and fellow committee members,

My name is Wilder Worrall and I am a resident of Honolulu Hawai‘i. I am writing in **strong support of HB1875** to protect Hawai‘i’s healthcare autonomy.

Hawai‘i has always valued bodily autonomy and the privacy of the patient-provider relationship. HB1875 codifies those values to protect our residents from outside interference. By expanding the protections of Act 2 to include gender-affirming care, we are allowing our medical professionals to practice evidence-based medicine without fear of out-of-state harassment or abusive litigation.

Importantly, this measure helps to ensure that patients receive the best care possible. When healthcare providers can operate without the threat of legal retaliation, they are empowered to make clinical decisions based solely on the patient’s wellbeing and established medical standards.

Furthermore, private medical decisions should stay between a patient and their doctor. This bill creates a necessary shield so that protected health information cannot be weaponized by hostile out-of-state jurisdictions.

For the health of our community and the stability of our medical workforce, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB1875**.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 11:41:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Mayeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Maui! I support HB1875 because as a parent, grandparent and community member I strongly feel we need to support this bill. I hope you continue to help everyone!
Regards,

Anna Mayeda

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 12:06:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep Tarnas, Chair, Rep Poepoe, Vice Chair, and the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support and pass HB1875 HD1.

As an ObGyn, I have provided evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 HD1 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without fear or threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

This bill does not create new standards of care. Instead, it affirms that when clinicians practice within accepted medical standards and Hawai'i law, they should not be punished by out-of-state legal actions, insurers, or licensing consequences. These protections are essential to maintaining a stable, well health care workforce and preserving access to care—particularly for patients who already face barriers.

HB1875 HD1 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For the above reasons, I urge all of you to strongly support and pass HB1875 HD1.

Mahalo,

Colleen F Inouye MD FACHE FAAPL FACOG

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 12:29:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia Sofos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Amelia Sofos and I am a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and a member of Generation Action, a student-led group dedicated to advancing sex education and safe reproductive health access in our campus community, and I am in strong support of HB1875 HD1.

HB1875 HD1 would expand existing protection under Act 2, SLH 2023, to extend protections to patients, providers, and those who assist others in accessing gender-affirming health care services in Hawai‘i. It ensures that state courts and agencies do not cooperate with out-of-state civil or criminal actions targeting lawful health care services provided here. These protections are essential to shield patients and providers alike from abusive litigation.

About 3.6% of Hawai‘i’s youth ages 13-17 identify as transgender, slightly above the national average. Nationwide, 39% of transgender youth live in states that restrict or prohibit gender-affirming health care. Major medical organizations recognize this care as evidence-based and associated with improvement in mental health outcomes for youth. In 2024, 39% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide, including 46% of transgender and nonbinary youth. As increasingly severe and hostile legal actions are taken against gender-diverse individuals across the country, it is essential that Hawai‘i act to protect these vulnerable communities from further harm.

No one should be prosecuted across state lines for seeking, providing, or aiding access to gender-affirming health care services. Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to PASS HB1875 HD1 and protect our community’s right to privacy and health care services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Amelia Sofos

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 12:51:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

Committee on Judicial and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David Tarnas Vice-Chair Mahina Poepoe
and Committee Members
Rep. Au Belatti, Eli Cochran, Mark Hashem, Kirstin Kahaloa, Jackson Sayama,
Greg Takayama, Diamond Garcia and Garner Shimizu

HB1875 HD1 Relating to Health Care

Report Title: Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Reproductive Health Care Services; Protections; Abusive Litigation; Medical Malpractice Insurance; Health Carriers; Protected Health Information; Covered Entities

I continue to stand in strong opposition to this bill., No, bill having to do with health care issues should have a blanket shield for any health care provider, with an objective to protect them from accountability. That in itself is a **red flag**.

In the case of a questionable, irreversible procedure, a non-protective shield is even more critical, such as in the case of abortion, or perhaps in gender affirming health care i.e. mastectomies, genital mutilation etc.

Children and minors do not appear to be addressed in this bill, which is very concerning, as they seem to be the target in many of these areas.

It is well known that children/minors and sadly some adults, lack the maturity to make life altering decisions! It is your job, your responsibility to protect them.

Note the following case, I believe is the first of many to come.

◇ *"Detransitioner Wins Multi-Million Dollar Medical Malpractice Case That Could Lead to the End of So-Called 'Gender Affirming Care'"* see westernjournal [here](#) and national review [here](#).

◇ *"Jury Finds Doctors Liable for Malpractice in Gender Surgery Lawsuit"*

A jury awarded \$2 million in damages to a 22-year-old woman who underwent breast removal surgery as a teenager. ... [epochtimes](#)

I strongly urge you to stop this bill HB1875 HD1 now and rethink your objective!

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura

Submitted 10:58am 02/08/2024

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 1:11:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Committee Members. I urge this committee support and expedite passage of HB1875 to protect our trans community and those who support them with medical care and other needed/deserved services and assistance. Our loved ones and providers deserve safety, privacy and dignity and in keeping with Hawai'i's core value of Aloha and constitutionally protected civil rights, we must protect the most vulnerable among us. I thank you in advance for keeping this measure alive and moving it forward for passage this session. Thank you.

Patti Cook - Waimea, Island of Hawai'i

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 1:26:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I continue to vehemently oppose HB 1875 HD1.

The only reason any legislature would consider passing HB1875 HD1 is because they know that a large portion of Americans consider abortion (so called reproductive healthcare) and physical sex altering surgeries (so called gender-affirming care) are abusive, immoral, malpractice procedures and should be illegal but they don't care what their constituents think.

No one objects to "reproductive healthcare" that protects both the mother and the baby. Americans only object when "reproductive healthcare" means at least one or more of the patients die. Many Americans are against "gender-affirming" care to minors since so many young people regret the decision to let a surgeon mutilate their bodies and possibly make them unable to have children once they reach adulthood. About 80% of gender confused minors grow out of their confusion. A large proportion of minors who have "sex reassignment" surgeries regret it because it is not the solution to their problems. Many are now "detransitioning" (i.e. accepting their God given sex) and a recent court case awarded the patient \$2 million in damages. Many other court cases will follow. Hawaii taxpayers don't want our

state or insurance companies to bear the cost burden of lawsuits that are bound to occur, especially due to the provisions of this bill.

It is interesting to note that “born in the wrong body” has been a recent phenomenon with a high percentage of the cases being in individuals under the age of 35. Looking back at education programs in schools, you can see that the organization Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. was founded in 1964 to change health science into a comprehensive approach to sex education programs that included emotional, relational, and identity-based topics. The gender confusion has been rampant since Comprehensive Sex Education has been introduced into Hawaii Schools. A statistic from the UCLA Williams Institute School of Law:

“Young adults aged 18 to 24 are significantly more likely to identify as transgender (2.72%) than those aged 35 to 64 (0.42%) and those aged 65 and older (0.26%).

There appears to be some cause and effect that is affecting our young people. This alone should tell us doctors shouldn’t mutilate them when they are minors.

American insurance companies, hospitals, doctors, etc. must have conscientious protections regarding procedures that they don’t want to cover or advocate for because they consider them to be malpractice or immoral. Most parents are against these policies. They want protect their minor children from this type of abuse/predation but the

“privacy” provisions of this bill would prevent them from carrying out their guardian duties.

Doctors must do no harm. Yet, both procedures (abortion and sex altering surgeries) are detrimental to the mental and physical life of patients.

Do not pass HB 1875 HD1.

Feb. 22, 2026

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoi, and Members of House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SUPPORT HB 1875 D1

Hearing: Tuesday, Feb 24, 2026 — 2:00PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members

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

I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB 1875 D1, because – oh, for Pete's sake, it just makes sense.

Some years ago, I reconnected with an old high school friend from the '60s who had finally come out of the closet, sobered up from decades of alcoholism, and re-established strong ties with his family. He told me that he really thought of himself as transgender, not simply gay. He also told me that he had felt this way from childhood, which had been a living hell for him because he feared his sexual identity would be discovered and he would be sent to a gender re-education camp.

Let's leave that sort of thing behind. I respectfully urge you to PASS this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

John M. Knox
Waimānalo
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 1:38:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1875 HD1. I agree that we should codify into law a medical shield law. I do not want our medical people to be subjects of out-of-state investigations. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 1:43:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Manayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Olivia Manayan. I am a board-certified OB/GYN and a provider of gender-affirming care on O‘ahu. I write to you today in strong support of HB1875 HD1.

As a health care provider who delivers gender-affirming care, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that affirming, evidence-based medical services can have on a patient’s physical health, mental well-being, and overall quality of life. As a personal citizen, I have seen this care be positively transformative for people I love. Gender-affirming care is not experimental or elective; it is recognized by major medical organizations as medically necessary, lifesaving, healthcare for many individuals. For many, access to this care is often the difference between struggling to survive and living a full, rich life.

HB1875 HD1 is critical because it strengthens protections for both patients and providers at a time when the national legal landscape is rapidly shifting and, in many places, increasingly hostile. Clarifying the permissible disclosure of protected health information in response to evolving federal regulations helps ensure that providers can remain compliant with the law while still upholding our ethical duty to protect patient confidentiality. Privacy is foundational to patient safety. Many individuals seeking gender-affirming care already face stigma, discrimination, or even threats of violence. The assurance that their medical information will be handled with care and discretion is essential to maintaining trust in the clinician-patient relationship.

This bill also addresses a growing concern among health professionals: the risk of abusive or politically motivated litigation intended not to resolve legitimate grievances, but to intimidate or punish providers for offering lawful care. Even the threat of such litigation can discourage clinicians from serving populations who already experience significant barriers to care. Establishing clear protections against these tactics allows providers to practice medicine guided by clinical evidence and patient need, rather than fear of legal retaliation.

Equally important are the provisions prohibiting insurers and malpractice carriers from taking adverse actions against providers solely because they offer lawful reproductive or gender-affirming services. Access to insurance coverage and professional liability protection is not optional for clinicians — it is necessary for maintaining a medical practice. There have already been instances in different states where physicians have seen their malpractice insurance

premiums after applying for a policy which includes gender-affirming care. When these safeguards are jeopardized for reasons unrelated to quality or safety of care, entire communities can lose access to essential health services. HB1875 HD1 helps ensure that qualified, ethical providers are not pushed out of practice simply for serving patients whose care has become politically contentious.

At its core, this legislation affirms a simple but vital principle: patients deserve access to lawful, evidence-based medical care, and providers deserve the ability to offer that care without intimidation, discrimination, or undue legal risk. Gender-affirming health care, like all medical care, should be guided by compassion, scientific evidence, and respect for patient autonomy. By expanding existing protections to explicitly include these services, HB1875 HD1 reinforces Hawai'i's longstanding commitment to equity, dignity, and good health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Olivia Manayan, MD MPH
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Honolulu, HI

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 3:12:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in **strong** support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference.

Reflecting Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion, HB1875 deserves our full support. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare.

Please protect our trans community who are our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carla Allison - Honolulu

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 3:48:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support for HB1875. Gender affirming care is life-saving care that should be safely accessible. I humbly ask that you move this measure forward to ensure we have the necessary protections for our patients and providers.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lynn Robinson-Onderko
Ewa Beach, HI

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 4:05:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1875 HD1 because I believe that it is every person's right to access the healthcare they need as part of our pursuit of life & happiness. Hawaii's government must be willing to protect her citizen's rights and ability to access care easily and safely.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 4:12:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Cooper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community and a family member of a transgender individual, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

Committee: House Committees on Health & Consumer Protection and Commerce Hearing
Date/Time: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.
Place: Conference room 325 via video conference

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1875: Relating to Health Care

Dear Chairs Takayama & Matayoshi, Vice-Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy & Grandinetti, and Members of the Committees:

I am testifying **in strong support of HB1875** which, if passed, would expand protections established under ACT 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 to include gender-affirming health care services.

I am a medical student who was born, raised, and now attends medical school, in Hawai'i. Learning to heal within the context of repeated federal reductions of rights and protections for marginalized populations has been challenging. I am training to promote the health of all members of our communities, while nationwide, legislation is being passed that makes it needlessly difficult to provide care to the people who need it, and would greatly benefit from it.

Evidence shows that, in the United States, **82% of transgender people have contemplated suicide.**¹ Studies also show that **receiving gender-affirming care is associated with a 60% lower odds of moderate-to-severe depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality** among transgender people.² Providing gender-affirming care is *life-saving*.

As a future physician who hopes to practice in Hawai'i, and in the interest of doing no harm, I urge the committees to **vote in support of HB1875**. The bill protects both our transgender community, and the healthcare workers who are dedicated towards healing and promoting the health of all of Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1875, and for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Charles Tran, MPH

¹ Austin A, Craig SL, D'Souza S, McInroy LB. Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors. *J Interpers Violence*. 2022;37(5-6):NP2696-NP2718. doi:[10.1177/0886260520915554](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520915554)

² Tordoff DM, Wanta JW, Collin A, Stepney C, Inwards-Breland DJ, Ahrens K. Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(2):e220978. doi:[10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978)

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 5:20:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea, and I remain in strong opposition to HB1875.

This measure expands broad legal protections surrounding gender-affirming health care services, including limiting litigation and professional accountability. The definition within the bill includes medical interventions that can alter a child’s natural development.

As a mother, I firmly believe parents have a fundamental right to direct the medical care of their children. Policies affecting our keiki must prioritize parental rights, transparency, and oversight. This bill instead expands statutory shields in an area that requires careful scrutiny.

For these reasons, I respectfully continue to oppose HB1875.

Mahalo,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Wai'anae resident

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 5:20:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1875. Gender affirming care is safe and legal in Hawai‘i. However, much as with abortion and other reproductive health care already included in Act 2, it is under attack from out of state interests who want to intimidate and erase trans people from society. This puts real people at risk of losing essential health care, and it puts providers at risk of burdensome investigations and losing their license. We cannot afford to lose health care providers in Hawai‘i and we cannot afford to lose trans people.

Hawai‘i took swift action when Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2022. Mahalo nui loa to the committee for hearing this legislation in response to the ongoing attacks on evidence-based health care. Your support helps me, my family, and my friends feel supported by their community, and it keeps them safe. We are grateful for your care.

With aloha,

Alissa Nelson, LMSW, MPH

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 6:32:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Stewart Sloan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a transgender person living in Kapa`a and the parent of two wonderful daughters. As a parent, I understand deeply how your children become the center of your world—the fierce desire to protect them at all costs and to provide everything they need to thrive. But I cannot begin to imagine what it’s like to be a parent of a transgender child in a time when the federal government is threatening to strip away my rights by restricting access to essential services and medical care that my child needs not just to thrive, but to survive.

We know that transgender children face significantly higher rates of depression and suicidal thoughts when they are denied access to affirming care and support. Children need encouragement and protection not only from their families but also from their friends, schools, local communities, and yes, the federal government. When the federal government fails to offer this support—or worse, becomes openly hostile—state and local governments must step in to fill the gap.

That is why the passage of HB1875 HD1 is so vital: it protects the well-being of transgender children and safeguards the rights of their parents to provide the care and support their children deserve.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 6:46:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celina Macadangdang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a community Family Medicine physician living in Honolulu who works with transgender and gender-diverse patients in West O'ahu.

I am respectfully writing in strong support of HB1875 HD1, which strengthens Hawai'i's Shield Law to explicitly protect gender-affirming care. This legislation is essential to protect both patients and providers from harmful interference and to ensure we can continue to practice evidence-based, ethical medicine.

Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, evidence-based, and lifesaving. Multiple major medical organizations—including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Endocrine Society, and World Professional Association for Transgender Health—recognize gender-affirming care as medically necessary treatment.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The evidence demonstrates that gender-affirming care significantly improves mental health outcomes and saves lives:

Reduction in Depression and Anxiety: A landmark 2-year prospective study published in the New England Journal of Medicine followed over 300 transgender and nonbinary youth receiving gender-affirming hormones and found significant decreases in depression and anxiety symptoms, along with increases in positive affect and life satisfaction.[\[4\]](#) These improvements were sustained over the full 2-year follow-up period. A 2022 JAMA Network Open study found that youth who initiated puberty blockers or gender-affirming hormones had 60% lower odds of depression compared to those who wanted but did not receive treatment.[\[5\]](#)

Dramatic Reduction in Suicidality: The same JAMA study demonstrated that

transgender and nonbinary youth who received gender-affirming medical interventions had 73% lower odds of suicidality over 12 months compared to those who did not receive treatment.[\[5\]](#) Among youth with suicidal ideation at baseline, 60% had no suicidal thoughts at follow-up after receiving care.[\[5\]](#) A 2022 study of over 11,000 transgender youth found that access to gender-affirming hormone therapy was associated with lower odds of seriously considering suicide, and for youth under 18, it was associated with lower odds of suicide attempts.[\[6\]](#)

Improved Quality of Life and Functioning: Research consistently shows that gender-affirming care improves appearance congruence—the alignment between gender identity and physical appearance—which is strongly associated with better psychosocial functioning.[\[4\]](#) Studies in adults demonstrate similar benefits, with recent research showing significant reductions in depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation following hormone therapy initiation.[\[7\]\[8\]](#)

The Safety Profile is Well-Established: Gender-affirming care has been provided for decades with well-documented safety profiles. The medications used are common and can be safely prescribed by family physicians, internists, obstetrician-gynecologists, and other trained clinicians.[\[2\]](#) While all medical treatments carry some risks, the evidence is clear that the benefits of gender-affirming care far outweigh the risks, and that withholding treatment causes significant harm.[\[9\]\[10\]](#)

Without these protections, transgender and gender-diverse patients in Hawai'i face increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. The evidence shows that delays in accessing care put transgender individuals at risk for negative mental health outcomes, increased socioeconomic distress, and increased exposure to violence.[\[11\]](#) As physicians, we have an ethical obligation to provide evidence-based care that improves our patients' health and saves lives.

I believe that you value the lives of your community and you can demonstrate that by supporting this bill.

I strongly urge your support of HB1875 HD1 to protect both the patients who need this care and the providers who deliver it.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Celina Macadangdang, M.D.

References

1. [Caring for the Transgender Patient: Grand Rounds Discussion From Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center](#). Libman H, Safer JD, Siegel JR, Reynolds EE. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2020;172(3):202-209. doi:10.7326/M19-3813.
2. [Health Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals](#). Beth Cronin, Colleen K. Stockdale. *American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists* (2021).
3. [Acute Clinical Care for Transgender Patients: A Review](#). Rosendale N, Goldman S, Ortiz GM, Haber LA. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2018;178(11):1535-1543. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.4179.
4. [Psychosocial Functioning in Transgender Youth after 2 Years of Hormones](#). Chen D, Berona J, Chan YM, et al. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 2023;388(3):240-250. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2206297.
5. [Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care](#). Tordoff DM, Wanta JW, Collin A, et al. *JAMA Network Open*. 2022;5(2):e220978. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978.
6. [Association of Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy With Depression, Thoughts of Suicide, and Attempted Suicide Among Transgender and Nonbinary Youth](#). Green AE, DeChants JP, Price MN, Davis CK. *The Journal of Adolescent Health : Official Publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine*. 2022;70(4):643-649. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.10.036.
7. [Mental Health Changes in US Transgender Adults Beginning Hormone Therapy via Telehealth: Longitudinal Cohort Study](#). Corman JD, Hughto JMW, Shireman TI, et al. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. 2025;27:e64017. doi:10.2196/64017.
8. [Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy and Depressive Symptoms Among Transgender Adults](#). Reisner SL, Pletta DR, Keuroghlian AS, et al. *JAMA Network Open*. 2025;8(3):e250955. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.0955.
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10. [Serving Transgender People: Clinical Care Considerations and Service Delivery Models in Transgender Health](#). Wylie K, Knudson G, Khan SI, et al. *Lancet (London, England)*. 2016;388(10042):401-411. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(16)00682-6.
11. [Time to Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy Among US Military–Affiliated Adolescents and Young Adults](#). Locke ER, Highland KB, Thornton JA, et al. *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2024;178(10):1049-1056. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2024.2835.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 7:29:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Thank you for taking time to hear this very important measure.

I would like to point out some facts that you may not be aware of.

The healthcare that is mentioned in this bill regarding Gender Affirming Care and Women's health are ALREADY LEGAL in this state, this bill is providing protections from outside sources to patients, providers, and families. This bill provide patient autonomy in decision making for their bodies and healthcare rights.

Our Mahu population already faces significant healthcare disparities for many reasons, but one of those is the inability to obtain healthcare insurance. When someone does not have health insurance and they become sick, this places a very high dollar amount and strain on the already desecrated healthcare system. In fact, Hawaiian transgender women have the highest rated of mortality than ANY OTHER race or gender group in Hawaii.

Hawaii has significant healthcare and geographical disparities where accessing appropriate healthcare is very difficult for some. The Mahua population makes up approximately 1% of the population (about 10,000 people) who all live and work in this state, these are the same persons who are your constituents.

Hawaii faces significant healthcare workforce shortages. Dr Kelly Withy and her team note that this year alone, Hawaii is 803 doctors short. This number is only going to grow as more doctors move away due to cost of living and not having protections from the government. Many doctors are 65 and older and are near retirement! Laura Reichhardt and her group note that all counties except for Honolulu are poised to lose over 105% of nurse practitioners and psych mental health nurse practitioners in the next 5 years.

In July of 2025, 25 states had banned gender-affirming medical care with 6 states imposed felony charges on providers of gender-affirming care. In July 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced it sent more than 20 subpoenas to doctors and clinics involved in providing transgender medical services.

By February 2026, 3 healthcare agencies in Hawaii who provided Gender Affirming Care have closed or stopped providing care, and 3-5 medical providers have ceased operations or left the state. This is creating a worse healthcare workforce in this state!

In order to provider gender affirming care and women's healthcare, providers must abide by the standards of care set forth by national agencies. To step outside of these guidelines places the provider at significant risk of litigation. These standards of care or the evidenced based practice we use that is from decades of medical research! All of these guidelines are the gold standard of care.

I have seen a congressperson quoting the bible in forum against this bill. Growing up catholic, I think that is is absolutely abhorrent that someone would use the Bible to weaponize against others. Let's remember John 15:13 which states Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Committee members, I urge you to put the good of the community over your own person thoughts and beliefs. Passing this bill is a step to allow continued self-determination for all person in Hawaii!!

Mahalo for your time and help on this matter,

Rick Ramirez, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, FNP-BC, ENP-C

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 7:34:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1875.

This bill goes to great lengths to protect such a life altering decision: to physically alter one's body male-to-female/female-to-male via hormonal/surgical means. Why is the State of Hawaii engaged in protecting illusory, negative and unnatural behavior? This bill has no merit because by its protections it endangers the health and well being of those who pursue these unnatural tendencies and actions.

Respectfully,

Alfred Hagen

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 7:52:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:31:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I am a primary care nurse practitioner writing in strong support of HB1875, which safeguards access to lawful health care in Hawai‘i and protects patients and providers from harmful governmental overreach. As both a member of this community and a healthcare provider, I see firsthand how important it is that Hawai‘i act now to shield health care decisions from out-of-state political interference.

Access to reproductive healthcare is life-saving. My nieces should be able to obtain birth control as well as pregnancy care. Women who can delay pregnancy have better career and socioeconomic outcomes and healthier babies when they become pregnant.

In my clinical practice, I care for many transgender and gender-diverse patients who are simply trying to live healthy, stable lives. Nearly all major medical and psychological organizations recognize gender-affirming care as evidence-based and essential. I have personally seen how this care improves mental health, reduces distress, and helps patients function at school, at work, and within their families. For some patients, this care is truly lifesaving, and for most, it is life-changing. I have never had a patient thank me in tears for managing their diabetes. I have, however, found myself in tears alongside patients who expressed overwhelming gratitude—who never believed they would be accepted by a healthcare provider or given the chance to align their bodies with who they truly are inside.

Most gender-affirming care looks like routine primary care and mental health treatment — during these appointments I address gout, diabetes, anxiety, depression, and other common conditions. HB1875 helps ensure I can continue to provide appropriate, guidelines focused, evidence based, ethical care without fear that political pressure from other states will interfere with my ability to do my job.

Hawai‘i already struggles to recruit and retain health care professionals. As someone working in this system, I am deeply concerned that without protections like those in HB1875, more providers will choose to practice elsewhere. That would mean longer wait times, fewer options, and worse outcomes for patients across our islands.

This issue is personal for me. I have close friends and family members who are transgender. Access to safe, affirming health care matters to me personally and professionally. Many of my patients and friends have told me they are not valued or protected in the State of Hawai‘i. Passing HB1875 would send a powerful message that Hawai‘i will stand with them and defend their right to receive lawful medical care.

Medical decisions belong with patients, families, and trained health care professionals — not politicians. Criminalizing providers for delivering standard, evidence-based care is frightening and harmful to the entire health care system. While I may disagree with another provider’s approach to a patient’s treatment, I absolutely do not want the federal government to dictate care.

HB1875 will help ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place that respects bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and compassionate, evidence-based care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting patients, providers, and human rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB1875. I would be happy to provide additional information or speak further about what I see in my practice and the research supporting this care.

Respectfully,

Shanda Brack, APRN

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:53:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremiah Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1 This bill expands Hawaii’s shield law beyond abortion to include gender-affirming care.

This is not a small change. It significantly expands the law to cover gender-affirming medical treatments. Many families are still trying to understand these complex and sensitive issues. Expanding protections in this area deserves very careful public discussion.

2 It limits how other states’ laws can be recognized in Hawaii.

This bill says Hawaii courts should not help enforce certain out-of-state actions related to these medical services. While Hawaii can set its own policies, we should be cautious about entering legal conflicts with other states. That could lead to costly court battles.

3 It may reduce accountability for medical decisions.

The bill is designed to protect providers from what it calls “abusive litigation.” But many residents worry that broad legal protections could unintentionally limit normal oversight, professional discipline, or patient protections. No one wants to weaken safeguards that protect patients.

4 It affects insurance rules.

The measure limits how malpractice insurers can respond when providers perform these services. We should carefully consider whether this could affect insurance costs or create unintended consequences in the medical system.

5 Even the Legislature delayed the effective date to “July 1, 3000.”

The committees changed the effective date far into the future to allow more discussion. That tells us this bill still needs careful review. If there are this many unanswered questions, it may not be ready to advance.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:57:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Vice-Chair Poepoe, I am writing in support of HB1875 which will expand Hawai'i's shield law to encompass those providing gender-affirming care. I am an AARP aged recipient of such care and it is life-saving. That my home state is one of only two blue states that hasn't already had such protections on the books is something I find to be shameful. We are a place that, in my sense of it, looks out for people who might be disfavored by hateful, misinformed people from the continental U.S. The current administration and states supporting it make bigotry, transphobia and exclusion its mission. It should absolutely be ours in Hawai'i to counter that. Please pass this bill. Mahalo

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:03:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

As an ally, a medical professional, and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I would like to express my strong support for HB1875 HD1, which would help to protect access to gender affirming care. This legislation is essential to protecting health professionals who provide high-quality, evidence-based, gender affirming care, as well as to the patients who benefit from this care. It respects that medical decisions should be made by a patient and their medical team, and not by anyone else.

The LGBTQIA+ community is under attack. Transgender and nonbinary teens, who already battle extremely high rates of mental illness and suicide attempts due to the discrimination they face, are feeling particularly vulnerable at this time. HB1875 HD1 would help people I care deeply about to continue to live as their true selves and alleviate the fear they feel that the medications and treatments they depend on could be taken away at any time. It would recognize the rights of people who are *mahu* to make the fullest expression of their identity a reality. It would allow transgender and nonbinary children, their parents, and the caring professionals who provide gender-affirming care to feel safer and more confident.

I am sure you will receive many testimonies in opposition to this bill. Please know that those who oppose protecting the rights of transgender and non-binary people will *not* be harmed in any way by passage of this bill. Patients who will be protected by this bill pose no threat to anyone who is cisgender. They simply seek assurances that they can continue to safely receive holistic, evidence-based, person-centered, and lifesaving care.

Please vote for this bill.

Sincerely,

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:06:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:06:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Lott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this as it's clear this legislature is afraid to see the tide turning against them as medical groups now are starting to oppose the transgender mania that you folks embrace.

There's even court precedent now of a medical doctor and a mental health doctor being found liable for damages incurred when they encouraged a minor it in her best interests to have her breasts removed.

You knuckleheads never learn.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:21:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Combs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trans people already face so many obstacles. They--as well as all other people--should not face barriers to their healthcare and overall wellness.

I am a high school teacher who has taught trans youth, and who has trans friends. I have witnessed their beauty, and their struggle. Gender-affirming care can be life-saving; trans people have some of the highest rates of depression in a society that is still learning to embrace them. We need to shield them from impetuous political agendas on the federal level, which are currently set by a party that seems dead-set on eliminating the existence of trans people.

My partner is a primary care provider, and he has referred many patients to receive gender affirming care, following medical best practices. Doctors should not be at risk for doing their jobs and providing standard-of-care service.

This bill does not harm anyone; it protects individuals from accessing health care and protects doctors who are trying their best for their patients. Do the right thing, and let our state be on the right side of history, and in line with our ethic of aloha.

February 22

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM

RE: Support for House Bill 1875

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Poepoe, and fellow Representatives and Committee members, I am writing to you in **strong support of House Bill 1875** which seeks to build on the protections established under Act 2, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2023, by explicitly including gender-affirming health care services; clarifying permissible disclosures of protected health information in response to evolving federal regulations; establishing safeguards against abusive litigation; and prohibiting medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking adverse actions against providers who lawfully deliver reproductive and gender-affirming care.

While I wish to remain anonymous, I will disclose that I am a Social Worker, and a Masters of Social Work (MSW) Candidate with the Pinky Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. In our field we work tirelessly, day in and day out, to promote and protect diversity, equity, and social justice especially within marginalized and vulnerable populations. Among these groups, LGBTQIA+ individuals remain particularly vulnerable, as sexual orientation and gender identity intersect with and cut across other social determinants of identity. In other words, individuals who belong to a marginalized racial or ethnic group and also identify as LGBTQIA+ often experience compounded forms of

discrimination and oppression. This intersection of identities can result in overlapping and intensified inequities compared to experiencing marginalization in only one social category. Examples of this can include discrimination, rejection, and victimization related to one's gender minority identity; lack of affirmation of gender identity (such as the use of incorrect pronouns); anticipation of future discrimination; internalized transphobia; and efforts to conceal one's transgender identity.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) enforces nine Core Competencies that guide social work education and professional practice nationwide. All accredited social work programs in the country are required to integrate these competencies into their curriculum and demonstrate compliance in order to maintain accreditation. At the Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health, a tenth competency (Decolonization) has been added to reflect local values and context. **House Bill 1875 aligns directly with the Social Work profession's Core Competencies**, particularly Competencies 2, 3, and 4, outlined below.

- **Competency 2:** Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice
- **Competency 3:** Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice
- **Competency 4:** Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice

In Hawai'i, over half (55%) of transgender people report experiencing healthcare discrimination. Reproductive and gender-affirming care are evidence-based, safe, and effective forms of equitable health care for the residents of Hawai'i. Consistent with this understanding, Hawai'i has long affirmed its commitment to protecting bodily autonomy and ensuring access to safe, lawful medical services. No individual, whether residing in Hawai'i or elsewhere in the United States, should face investigation, prosecution, or civil liability across state lines for seeking,

providing, or assisting in legally protected care within the state. **The vast majority of social workers in Hawai‘i support and strongly urge the passage of House Bill 1875.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

References

(n.d.). *Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender Minority Report*. Hawai‘i State Department of Health.

Retrieved February 22, 2026, from

<https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf>

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:29:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Collado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1875 HD1 re: Health Care.

This bill obviously incomplete. The effective date was changed to July 1, 3000. There is more to consider regarding the specifics of this bill. Please do not advance this bill if there is more to consider. This bill also reduces the accountability for medical decisions and would protect medical providers.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:30:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHA Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I write in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family in Hawai'i deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference.

This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. I strongly urge you to pass HB1875.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:39:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dani Mathisen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a practicing Obgyn I support this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:03:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am an individual and concerned community member testifying in strong support of HB1875.

I've been lucky to have many fantastic trans people in my life and I've seen firsthand how important gender-affirming care has been for them to live full lives. Transitioning is a deeply personal journey, one that politicians and politics (especially those half an ocean away) shouldn't have a say in. Please pass this bill and allow trans people the dignity to navigate their care on their own terms and protect the care providers who are there to assist them in that journey.

Mahalo.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:13:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I am writing to OPPOSE this bill. There are many reasons with the main being:

The bill is designed to protect providers from what it calls “abusive litigation.” But these broad legal protections could unintentionally limit normal oversight, professional discipline, and/or patient protections. This would weaken the safeguards that protect patients!

Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:18:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keira Nash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support HB1875 HD1 Because I believe that all people should have equal rights. I have many LGBTQIA+ friends and I think healthcare to include gender affirming care is a right that all Hawai'i residents should have. Thank you for voting in Support of HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:34:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bejana Mehr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1875 as all people should be treated equally and should have access to healthcare. Please vote in support of HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:47:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB 1875 because:

- This bill expands Hawaii's shield law beyond abortion to include gender - affirming care.
- It limits how other states' laws can be recognized in Hawai'i.
- It may reduce accountability for medical decisions.
- It affects insurance rules.
- Even the Legislature delayed the effective date to "July 1, 3000".

Thank you for opposing HB 1875,

Claire Yamashiro

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 11:27:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenji Aoki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in **strong support of HB1875**. This measure is essential toward providing equitable healthcare to all citizens in Hawai‘i.

As a current medical student and eventual medical professional, I have been taught the importance of providing healthcare that is evidence-based and tailored to the needs of each individual patient. The current political climate directly undermines these efforts by subjecting gender-affirming care to inappropriate legal retaliation, penalties, and privacy violations. HB1875 provides essential protections—for both patients and physicians—to support initiatives meant to affirm medical care and patient autonomy.

Navigating the medical system is already difficult as is. Creating artificial double-standards that further obstruct medically necessary and life-saving care to an integral community of Hawai‘i only further jeopardizes our healthcare system. You all have an opportunity to align yourself with healthcare providers so that we can better care for and uplift our people and our state. **Please pass HB1875.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kenji Aoki

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 11:47:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1 This bill expands Hawaii’s shield law beyond abortion to include gender-affirming care.

This is not a small change. It significantly expands the law to cover gender-affirming medical treatments. Many families are still trying to understand these complex and sensitive issues. Expanding protections in this area deserves very careful public discussion.

2 It limits how other states’ laws can be recognized in Hawaii.

This bill says Hawaii courts should not help enforce certain out-of-state actions related to these medical services. While Hawaii can set its own policies, we should be cautious about entering legal conflicts with other states. That could lead to costly court battles.

3 It may reduce accountability for medical decisions.

The bill is designed to protect providers from what it calls “abusive litigation.” But many residents worry that broad legal protections could unintentionally limit normal oversight, professional discipline, or patient protections. No one wants to weaken safeguards that protect patients.

4 It affects insurance rules.

The measure limits how malpractice insurers can respond when providers perform these services. We should carefully consider whether this could affect insurance costs or create unintended consequences in the medical system.

5 Even the Legislature delayed the effective date to “July 1, 3000.”

The committees changed the effective date far into the future to allow more discussion. That tells us this bill still needs careful review. If there are this many unanswered questions, it may not be ready to advance.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:29:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tonya Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

o the Honorable Members of the Committee,

Aloha. My name is Tonya, and I am writing in strong support of HB 1875. I am 43 years old, and my journey to where I am today was not easy. I grew up in poverty and worked multiple jobs to put myself through college and buy a house. I know what it means to fight for a better life and the importance of having access to reliable, safe healthcare along the way. This bill is about protecting that access. As someone who has worked hard to achieve stability, I believe our healthcare providers should not be intimidated by "abusive litigation" from states with different values. Our doctors in Hawaii provide legal, compassionate care, whether it's reproductive health or gender-affirming services, and they should be shielded from being targeted by mainland lawsuits. We need to ensure that the healthcare infrastructure I relied on to stay healthy and productive remains strong and independent. Please pass HB 1875 to protect Hawaii's patients and providers. Mahalo nui loa

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:32:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Derrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee,

My name is Eric. I'm 36, I'm a mechanic, and I've spent time in prison. When you've been through the system, you learn a lot about what it means to have your rights respected and what it's like when the law is used to keep you down. I support HB 1875 because I believe in fairness and keeping Hawaii's business in Hawaii. If a doctor is doing their job according to our state's laws, they shouldn't have to look over their shoulder because some other state doesn't like what we do here. This bill stops "abusive litigation" from messing with our healthcare workers. Whether it's reproductive care or gender-affirming care, if it's legal here, it should stay protected here. I've worked hard to get my life back on track and be a productive member of this community; I want to make sure the law here protects all of us from being harassed by outsiders. Please support HB 1875. Mahalo

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:35:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loretta Tanioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Loretta. I am writing this from my bed with the help of my family. I have lived in Hawaii over 20yrs, and I have seen many changes, but one thing that should never change is our commitment to taking care of our own. I support HB 1875 because it protects the privacy and safety of our families. No matter what someone's healthcare needs are, whether they are my grandkids age or mine, they should be able to see a doctor here in Hawaii without worrying that a court in another state is going to reach into our islands and cause trouble. It is our kuleana to protect our doctors and the people they care for. We shouldn't let outside states tell us how to run our hospitals or punish our people for following Hawaii's laws. Mahalo for your time and for protecting our ohana.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:36:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Co-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Big Island, and a trained school psychologist. I support this bill and its intent to strengthen protections for gender-affirming care. Gender-affirming care is life saving care, and is a well-established best practice among national and international health organizations.

As someone who works in schools, I can say first hand, without reservation, how large of a difference access to supportive systems of care has on the well-being of transgender individuals.

This legislation sends a clear message that the State will stand with solidarity with our transgender community members and ensure their access to those services.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:58:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ronnie Texeira, MD, and I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

As an ObGyn, I provide evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access **lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i** without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

This bill does **not** create new standards of care. Instead, it affirms that when clinicians practice **within accepted medical standards and Hawai‘i law**, they should not be punished by out-of-state legal actions, insurers, or licensing consequences. These protections are essential to maintaining a stable health care workforce and preserving access to care—particularly for patients who already face barriers.

HB1875 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Ronnie Texeira, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist
Kaneohe/HI

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:01:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Protect our trans communities bodily autonomy, mental wellbeing, and allow physicians to provide the same standard of care to all people.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:01:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am OPPOSED to HB1875.

This bill is unnecessary and goes beyond protecting doctors from what would normally be a way for consumers to have recourse if they are not satisfied or felt harmed especially since these surgeries or procedures are being done on minors! That in itself should not be allowed.

Please OPPOSE this bill.

Mahalo,

Lora Burbage

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:09:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Jessica Saylor, and I plead with you to support HB1875. As a female teacher who works with gender-diverse students, has transgender friends, and was once terrified of my own queer identity, I can confidently say that gender-affirming care and reproductive health care, as well as positive recognition of such from the government, is **POSITIVELY LIFE-CHANGING** for so many, and **WILL SAVE LIVES**.

To have your society refuse to protect the services and those who would help you with something as core-to-your-person as your gender identity or reproductive control is more than devastating - it sends the message that we are less than, and unworthy of love simply for being who we are. I beg of you not to send this message to our people, and especially to our youth. Please help them know the joy and acceptance that I have come to know by supporting HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:21:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kala Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:25:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1875, Relating to Health Care. This crucial measure is vital for maintaining access to essential health care services and provides necessary legal protections for providers of reproductive care and gender-affirming care (GAC).

Access to health care is a fundamental right. HB1875 ensures that important medical decisions remain private, solely between patients and their health care professionals, without external political interference. By safeguarding the providers of these services, the bill guarantees that medically necessary reproductive care remains accessible to me and countless others right here in Hawai‘i.

Furthermore, as an active member of my school's Gender-Sexuality Alliance, I recognize the profound impact HB1875 will have on our educational community. The bill's expansion of protections for GAC is instrumental in fostering a safe, inclusive, and effective learning environment for all students. GAC is medically necessary and provides the essential stability and support that transgender and gender-diverse students need to fully engage in their academic and personal development. When students feel affirmed and their health needs are met, they are positioned to thrive, maintain consistent attendance, and reach their full potential.

I urge this committee to seriously consider the overwhelmingly positive impact this legislation will have on the educational outcomes, mental health, and overall well-being of a particularly vulnerable student population. By protecting access to GAC, Hawai‘i reaffirms its core values of aloha and compassion and solidifies its commitment to the holistic well-being of every resident, including our youth.

Please vote Yes on HB1875 to uphold these values and ensure continued access to essential health care for our entire community.

Thank you,
Mecca Monson-Gere

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:25:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1875 (HD1) and its expansion of protections under Act 2, SLH 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services.

Hawai‘i has long recognized that health care access is not merely a policy issue — it is a matter of dignity, sovereignty, and collective responsibility. The right to seek lawful medical care without political interference aligns with Hawai‘i’s historic and cultural standards, where identity and community belonging were not narrowly restricted. In traditional Native Hawaiian society, gender diversity was acknowledged and respected, and care of the individual was intertwined with care of the community.

Protecting gender-affirming care and reproductive health care under state law reinforces Hawai‘i’s sovereign authority to define its own standards of health, privacy, and equality. This bill clarifies permitted disclosures of protected health information in response to shifting federal regulations, ensuring that patients and providers are not placed in legal uncertainty. In doing so, it strengthens patient confidentiality and reinforces trust in the provider-patient relationship.

Equally important, HB 1875 establishes protections against abusive litigation and prevents medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from penalizing providers solely for delivering lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care. No health care provider acting within the bounds of Hawai‘i law should face retaliation for honoring their professional duty to treat patients. Safeguarding providers ensures that patients retain meaningful access to lawful care.

Equality is not an imported concept in Hawai‘i — it is rooted in our own traditions of balance, relational responsibility, and respect for human identity. Restricting medically lawful care contradicts both constitutional protections and the deeper cultural standards that have shaped Hawai‘i’s social framework. This bill affirms that Hawai‘i will not cede its moral or legal authority over the health and wellbeing of its residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge passage of HB 1875 (HD1).

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:27:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Kapua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875.

As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:31:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bliss Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bliss Kaneshiro, MD, MPH and I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

As an ObGyn, I provide evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access **lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i** without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

This bill does **not** create new standards of care. Instead, it affirms that when clinicians practice **within accepted medical standards and Hawai‘i law**, they should not be punished by out-of-state legal actions, insurers, or licensing consequences. These protections are essential to maintaining a stable health care workforce and preserving access to care—particularly for patients who already face barriers.

HB1875 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bliss Kaneshiro

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:39:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winston Reeves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

Please support HB 1875 as the government has no business dictating how healthcare providers practice and administer evidence-based, life-saving services. These decisions should be made between a patient their family, and their providers only.

Best regards,

Winston Reeves

359 Kanaloa Ave

Kahului, HI 96732

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:41:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Rule	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am the parent of a young adult transgender son. Access to affirming medical care has allowed my son to thrive, feel safe in his own body, and look toward the future with hope and confidence. Our family has walked this journey together, and I can say without hesitation that this care has been essential to his well-being.

Families like mine deserve the right to access medically necessary, evidence-based healthcare without fear of interference, political attacks, or legal threats. Decisions about care belong between patients, families, and their healthcare providers.

In my professional role, as CEO of a nonprofit that provides gender-affirming care to adults, I see every day that this care is truly life-changing. I have witnessed individuals stabilize their mental health, re-engage in work and school, rebuild relationships, and simply begin to live fully as themselves because they were able to access appropriate care.

HB1875 protects families, protects providers, and protects patients. Please pass this bill and ensure that our children, our young adults, and our communities can access the care they need to live healthy, authentic lives.

Mahalo for your consideration

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:46:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of 1875 HD1 because it is the right thing to do. The ability to be themselves should not come at the cost of retaliation or bigotry, especially when they are seeking help. Gender Affirming and reproductive care are essential for the well-being of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse individuals. With the lives and safety of members of LGBTQIA+ on the rise every day, I want to ensure that my state not only stands by them but also ensures their protection. Stand not only with children who want to be themselves, but also for adults who want to feel safe in their own bodies, even when there are many people who want to do them harm. Gender affirming care isn't just for confused or the so-called indoctrinated; it's built on the backs of decades and decades of science and facts. Standing by gender affirming care and those who need it means standing by truth and healing. That is why I want this committee and this state to ensure that everyone has the ability and access to the help they need to live their lives.

Support this bill!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:53:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Judith Mura. Strongly Support HB1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:54:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Johansen	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please support HB1875.

Gender affirming care is medical treatment.

Gender affirming care in its many forms saves lives.

This bill is important because the simple act of a person getting medical advice from their doctor is under attack. From national political rhetoric, and from the hate and fear being spread, which seeks to deny the existence of transgender people, their experiences, they seek to deny the conversation, even to deny the very words to describe themselves and how they feel. And now those in opposition to this bill seek to prevent transgender people from getting medical services.

Please allow transgender people, other citizens, your neighbors to receive their much needed medical services. Keep medical advice to the medical providers and away from the politicians. This gender affirming care saves lives.

Please vote yes HB1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:56:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members -

I am submitting testimony today in strong support of HB1875.

This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare.

Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:57:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Nagoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Erin Nagoshi, and I plead with you to support HB1875. As a female educator who works with gender-diverse students and has friends in the LGBTQ community, I can confidently say that gender-affirming care and reproductive health care, as well as positive recognition of such from the government, is POSITIVELY LIFE-CHANGING for so many, and WILL SAVE LIVES.

Please send the message, especially to our youth, that they are worthy of our best care, our strongest support, and our undying love. Please help them know joy and acceptance by supporting HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:59:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Furuichi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:07:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelique Axelrode	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. IT SETS A PRECEDENCE OF RESPECT, ALOHA AND PRIVACY. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:07:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Andrews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jeff, and I am writing to urge your support for HB1875. As a gay man who has navigated the complexities of identity and the importance of self-determination, I can say with confidence that gender-affirming care and reproductive health care are positively life-changing. These services don't just improve lives; they save them.

To have your society refuse to protect the services and the people who provide care for something as core to your personhood as your gender identity or reproductive control is beyond devastating. It sends a message to the LGBTQ+ community that we are less than, and unworthy of protection simply for being who we are.

I ask you not to send this message to our people, and especially not to our youth who are looking to us for a sign that they belong. Please help them know the same joy and acceptance that I have found in my own life by supporting HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:14:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB1875. For accountability is needed and for they already is an attack on children constant in hawaii and we need out of state investigations and legal actions. I don't trust this state for we are the one of the most corrupt state in the nation. They hide Crimes like our Police Chief what he has done for years with his corrupt wife and now Sylvia Luke who's accepting money like a lot of Reps. who is in this corrupt capitol. We need people in high places in jail. Stop Protecting Criminals!!!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:20:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a classroom teacher and GSA advisor who firmly supports the rights of all of my students, and as a family member of an individual who has benefited from gender affirming care, I believe it is imperative that we protect the rights of everyone to live a healthy and prosperous life. This is what our country is founded on. Hawaii needs to set the standard of dignity and respect for all.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:25:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Chan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My name is Elaine Chan, MD, and I am a obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong **support of HB1875**.

As an ObGyn, I provide evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access **lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i** without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

This bill does **not** create new standards of care. Instead, it affirms that when clinicians practice **within accepted medical standards and Hawai‘i law**, they should not be punished by out-of-state legal actions, insurers, or licensing consequences. These protections are essential to maintaining a stable health care workforce and preserving access to care—particularly for patients who already face barriers.

HB1875 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Elaine Chan, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:27:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather McVay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support! Mahalo

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:33:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthieu Kalua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Matthieu Kalua , and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a member of Generation Action, a student-led group dedicated to advancing sex education and safe reproductive health access in our campus community, and an aspiring physician. I am in strong support of HB1875 HD1. HB1875 HD1 would expand existing protection under Act 2, SLH 2023, to extend protections to patients, providers, and those who assist others in accessing gender-affirming health care services in Hawaii. It ensures that state courts and agencies do not cooperate with out-of-state civil or criminal actions targeting lawful health care services provided here. These protections are essential to shield patients and providers alike from abusive litigation. About 3.6% of Hawaii’s youth ages 13-17 identify as transgender, slightly above the national average. Nationwide, 39% of transgender youth live in states that restrict or prohibit gender-affirming health care. Major medical organizations recognize this care as evidence-based and associated with improvement in mental health outcomes for youth. In 2024, 39% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide, including 46% of transgender and nonbinary youth. As increasingly severe and hostile legal actions are taken against gender-diverse individuals across the country, it is essential that Hawaii act to protect these vulnerable communities from further harm. No one should be prosecuted across state lines for seeking, providing, or aiding access to gender-affirming health care services. Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to PASS HB1875 HD1 and protect our community’s right to privacy and health care services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Matthieu Kalua

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:37:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Von Kaanaana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Von Ka'anā'anā and I am testifying in support of HB1875 to protect access to gender affirming care to enshrine it into law. Hawai'i is a global leader in uplifting the wellbeing of its citizens. We are called to an abundance mindset by our cultural practice here. It is imperative people are able to access their healthcare without prejudice and the influence of others. Our right to medical privacy must be enshrined into law and protected from harassment, bullying, and the influence of others. The state has its duty to its constituents to protect them from inflammatory attempts to infringe on their rights to equal access of healthcare. I strongly urge the support of HB1875 by this committee. Mahalo nui loa

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:45:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Schauben	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Laura Schauben and I live in Kaneohe. I strongly support HB1875. I know several trans youth including one who is a family member. I also work for a youth serving organization. I have seen trans youth who are suicidal, failing school, and/or struggling with severe anxiety and depression have their lives turned around by one caring adult who accepts them for who they know they are and by gender affirming care. Gender affirming care, such as hormones, allows youth to be themselves, be safer, and thrive. Research shows acceptance and gender affirming care reduces trans youth suicide risk by 40%. People acting from ignorance or hate should not have the right to contradict science or tell parents what kind of evidence based care they can access for their children. Please protect our youth from people more obsessed with their genitals than their wellbeing. Support gender affirming care!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:50:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jozie Valasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in strong support of HB 1875. I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:52:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of HB 1875. We are a state of aloha & empathy should always be at the forefront of gender-affirming policies.

Mahalo!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:53:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Ha'upu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Stand In Strong Support Of House Bill 1875

Gender Reaffirming Care for Our Community and The Future of Our Youths and Adults.

Kimberly Ha'upu

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:54:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Sua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support of HB1875**. I believe that every family in our community deserves access to medically necessary care without fear, stigma, or political interference. Healthcare decisions should remain between patients and their providers, grounded in evidence and guided by compassion and respect.

This bill will protect our neighbors, our friends, and our loved ones. **It will reinforce that in Hawai'i, we value dignity, fairness, and access to care for all.** I respectfully urge you to stand with our community and support HB1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Tiare Sua

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:55:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Joie Yonamine, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875.

Across the country, we are witnessing an unprecedented wave of legislation targeting both reproductive health care and gender-affirming care. These attacks have created a climate of fear for families seeking medically necessary treatment and for the providers who care for them.

Medical provider shield laws ensure that health care professionals acting lawfully in their own state are not subjected to out-of-state investigations, civil or criminal penalties, or professional discipline for providing evidence-based care. As of July 2025, 18 states and Washington, D.C. have enacted shield laws for gender-affirming care providers. Hawai‘i has the opportunity to join this growing coalition of states committed to safeguarding medical freedom, patient privacy, and the integrity of the provider-patient relationship.

Gender-affirming care is recognized by every major medical association as safe, effective, and often lifesaving. Families who seek this care deserve stability, not fear. Providers who offer this care deserve clarity, not legal uncertainty. And Hawai‘i, a state that has long stood for aloha and human rights, deserves laws that reflect our commitment to protecting all who call these islands home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:56:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support HB 1875, Relating to Health Care.

This bill is essential to protecting access to reproductive and gender affirming care in Hawai'i. Everyone deserves the freedom to make personal medical decisions without political interference. HB 1875 helps ensure that patients and providers are protected and that our state remains a safe place for care.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1875.

Mahalo

C Chang

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:03:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1875.

Hawai‘i must protect patients and providers from political interference and ensure access to safe, medically necessary, evidence-based care. No family should fear losing healthcare because of actions happening outside our state.

HB1875 affirms our values of dignity, safety, and fairness for all. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration,

T Lewis

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:09:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Healthcare decisions belong to patients and doctors, not politicians. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875. Our loved ones deserve safety and dignity.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:11:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

please support this important Bill

To: Honorable Rep. David A Tarnas, Chair
Honorable Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)

From: Tyrah Sumile

Re: HB 1875 HD1

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

My name is Tyrah Sumile, and I am writing in strong support of HB 1875 HD1.

I am a Master's of Social Work (MSW) student at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa, Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health. I work at Wahiawā Health as a Community Health Worker and serve as a clinical intern at Spill The Cafe. I was born and raised in Wahiawā, Hawai'i, and I continue to live and work in the community that raised me.

As a future social worker, I am committed to protecting the dignity, autonomy, and well-being of the individuals and families we serve. The primary population I intend to work with after graduation are adolescents. Young people, and individuals of all ages, deserve autonomy over their bodies and access to safe, lawful health care without fear, stigma, or political interference.

HB 1875 HD1 strengthens Hawai'i's protections for reproductive and gender-affirming health care services that are lawful in our state. It ensures that patients and providers are not subjected to out-of-state investigations or professional retaliation for care that is legal here. At a time when other states are increasing restrictions, this bill affirms Hawai'i's commitment to protecting its residents and health care professionals.

While I have not personally received gender-affirming care, I have worked with individuals who have. Through my education and training in social work, I am preparing to connect clients to resources and support related to gender-affirming and reproductive health care. I have concerns about how out-of-state laws could create fear or uncertainty for both patients and providers. Strong state-level protections are necessary to ensure that lawful care remains accessible without intimidation or legal risk.

In my work at Wahiawā Health, I have spoken with patients who were hesitant to seek care because of their immigration status or because of past negative experiences in health systems. Fear and confusion already acts as barriers to care. We should not allow additional legal uncertainty to deepen those barriers, particularly for vulnerable populations.

HB 1875 HD1 reinforces Hawai'i's public policy of protecting patient privacy, supporting providers, and safeguarding access to lawful health care. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Tyrah Sumile

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:22:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleilani P Degracia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Kaleilani P Degracia

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:30:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB 1875 HD 1. This is a critical expansion of protections for healthcare providers to include gender-affirming health care services. It also provides access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference, something we all deserve and need to be healthy. Please stand with all members of our community and support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of HB 1875 HD 1.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:32:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Heathcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am a Hawaii pediatrician writing in support of HB1875. My patients deserve evidence-based care without interference and my colleagues deserve to offer this care without fear.

Mahalo,

Dr Lindsey Heathcock

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:35:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina French, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1875. Patients with serious discomfort with their gender need help from physicians be it to guide them through their agony or provide medication yo assist them or for a very few adults to provide surgery. The physicians that are willing to help them must be protected from malicious attacks in the courts. Do not be duped by those who would have you believe that children are undergoing gender changing surgery to justify these attacks. Physicians who are willing to care for these patients actually prevent them from the mistreatment they will teceive if they are forced to seek care in an underground or illegal way. Please protect these physicians from governmental and/or litiginous attacks so that suffering patients have safe access to care.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:35:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalani Placencia	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha I am writing in strong support of HB 1875 I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services. This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Shalani Placencia

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 1875, HD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

My name is Christine Andrews, and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of HB 1875, HD1**, relating to health care, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations; establishes protections against abusive litigation; prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

I am someone who did not think much about the rights or needs of transgender youth until my own children educated me about it when they were in middle and high school. I learned more when I volunteered for an event within my spiritual community and I was taught about how important support for transgender people is and how at risk they are of severe mental health issues related to lack of acceptance. Over the course of the past five years, I have come to have several transgender youth within my extended family. I have learned through these experiences that transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families do better in school, feel safer in their communities, establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, and are better equipped to plan for their future.

Tragically, denying them this support increases their likelihood of dropping out of school, increases their risk for substance use and suicide, and worsens symptoms of depression and anxiety. According to the 2024 Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minorities Health Summary¹,

- Less than half (45%) of transgender youth have an adult outside of school or teacher they can talk to.
- More than 1 in 3 transgender or unsure gender youth have attempted suicide in the past year.
- Cisgender youth are 3 times more likely than transgender or unsure gender youth to feel that they will complete a post-high school program.

I have witnessed how positive support, acceptance, and access to gender affirming care has improved the quality of life, confidence, and overall wellbeing of my family members who identify as transgender. As a family member, community member, and ally, I request that you support this vulnerable population by protecting their access to what can be life-saving care by voting in **support of HB 1875, HD1**.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD

Wailuku, Maui

¹ 2024 Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minorities Health Summary

<https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/files/2024/03/Presentation-SGM-Youth-in-HI-2017-2019-FINAL-VERSION-2-3-4-2024.pdf>

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:40:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Dahl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill of HB1875

I support Transgender Equality.

Need to be protected legally n deserve to all medical needs to make lives better.

Mahalo for opportunity to submit testimony.

Olivia

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:44:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sina Sison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Mahalo,

Sina Sison

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:44:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose this bill.

Whoever harms an innocent child physically or mentally is responsible for their egregious actions. You cannot legislate the 2 genders, male and female.

These issues can be resolved with fact based counseling.

Do no harm to the children!!

Please vote NO on this bill.

Mahalo :)

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:49:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohalani Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for HB 1875 is needed by 2:00 p.m. today 2/23/26.

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Alohalani S. Alapa'i

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:57:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Berta Narbonne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill protects medically necessary care and keeps politics out of medicine. As a mother, educator, and community member, I believe that *all people* deserve safety, dignity, and access to healthcare without fear.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:57:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:58:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

2/23/2026

Re: SUPPORT FOR HB1875- Gender-Affirming and Reproductive Health Care Protections

Dear Honorable Rep. Tarnas, Rep. Poepoe and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Maureen Chang and I am a pediatrician practicing on the island of O‘ahu. I am writing to strongly urge you support for HB1875, a crucial bill to protect access to gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i has a long-standing commitment to safety, privacy and equality. As other states criminalize necessary, life-saving health care, HB1875 ensures that Hawai‘i remains a safe haven for patients and providers.

I support this bill because :

- **It Protects Rights:** It defends the rights of individuals to make their own health care decisions without fear of intimidation or prosecution from out of state entities.
- **It Shields Providers:** it protects Hawaii based physicians and health professionals from malicious lawsuits brought by other states, ensuring they can practice medicine without fear.
- **It Aligns with Values:** it aligns with the Hawai‘i Department of Health’s position that gender affirming care is a standard part of health care.

Respectfully yours,

Maureen Chang MD

95-738 Lewanuu St.

Mililani Hi, 9789

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:59:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As an individual and as a member of Indivisible I strongly support this measure; people should be free to access needed health care. Thank you for letting me submit this testimony in favor of a bill consistent with Hawaii's tradition of open and supportive medical care for all.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:02:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Guerrero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity. I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Rene Guerrero

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:10:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. We should never completely protect any one profession from being held accountable for their services. Especially the health profession as noted in this bill. If this bill is made into law, we as a civil society will collapse because of its ability to be far reaching as well as applied to every facet of our lives regarding accountability. It would create chaos and lawlessness. Everywhere from insurance companies to law offices/judicial systems, the entire medical community, law enforcement entities, commerce to state a few.

Kill this bill.

Carol Kamai

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:13:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Guy Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Physicians take an oath to do no harm; THIS is harm. Strongly Oppose HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:14:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee:

I continue to strongly support HB1875 because this is our best opportunity to ensure that patients, families, and providers in Hawai‘i are protected from out-of-state attacks and political interference.

Gender-affirming healthcare is recognized by major medical associations as evidence-based and medically necessary. Research consistently shows it improves mental health and reduces suicide risk. This is life-saving medical treatment, grounded in science, not ideology.

I have firsthand experience supporting loved ones as they navigate gender-affirming care. Even here in Hawai‘i, where this care is lawful, access already requires significant time, coordination, emotional energy, and persistence. It is not casual. It is not rushed. It is careful, deliberate, and often difficult to obtain. Protecting the providers and families involved in that process is the least we can do.

Our māhū residents are our neighbors, our family members, and our loved ones. They deserve stability in their health care, not uncertainty driven by political agendas elsewhere.

If providers here are exposed to out-of-state legal actions, insurance retaliation, or efforts to weaponize private medical information, access will shrink. In a geographically isolated state, even small disruptions in provider availability have outsized consequences.

HB1875 safeguards lawful, evidence-based care in Hawai‘i and ensures that decisions about health remain between patients and their providers, free from external political interference.

I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Allison DeYenno

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:21:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beldon Nicole Olena Forsythe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Mahalo,

Beldon Nicole Olena Forsythe

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:36:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Morishige	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators!

Any bill that would diminish parental rights should not be considered. This bill allows doctors and therapists who might go over the wishes and health decisions of parents to do medical surgeries on minors. This is a total affront to parental rights! Parental rights in all area of life for minors must be protected and given the full honor that it is due. It is a very rare case that a parent would do physical or mental abuse to their own children. Don't let the rare exception push unnatural agendas.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:45:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Kekauoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Sasha Kekauoha

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:49:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanel Hunter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:54:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

MAHALO FOR PASSING THIS BILL

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:56:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill to protect providers of gender affirming care. People need access to this care. The providers can not be subject to harassment and harsh litigation for providing expertise in this area. I am from East Hawaii Indivisible. Thank you.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:58:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micaela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the Committees on Health, Consumer Protection and Commerce, Aloha Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair, Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair and members,

My name is Micaela Hines and I am a resident of Honolulu and a community organizer within the reproductive health space.

With the consistent attacks from the federal government on members of at-risk communities requires us to take action and continue to be a leading example in doing what is right. Accessing the necessary healthcare to live a full and joyful life should be safe, protected, and readily available to anyone in our state who is looking for it.

I ask that you support HB1875 and pass this bill to show your dedication to protecting and caring for all members of our community. Thank you for your time.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:07:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sami LA Akuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Always with Aloha

Sami LA Akuna

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:07:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

As servants to the state of Hawaii I address you with great respect as such.

I am strongly opposed to Bill HB1875. Amongst many issues in this bill, one I will address. The accountability aspect is being wiped away. The language leaves way too much space for "bad players" to slide by being accountable. This bill is so loose and really allows every professional, in this immediate case medical professionals, an easy opening to overlook crossing their "Ts" and dotting their "Is". There are liabilities that should be stay in place. This bill gives openings for some to take advantage of those receiving treatment (medically serviced). Somewhere in this it also opens up avenues for insurance companies to take advantage of both patients and doctors. This bill does not serve the doctors, who need to be accountable nor the most vulnerable, the patient. Do not pass this bill through. Still, with respect to you whom serve 'we the people' I request that you consider your own accountability. Thank you for receiving my testimony and hopefully I will thank you again for not passing this bill through ever.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:08:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Reid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:10:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

I SUPPORT HB 1875 HD1.

I ask that you support it as well.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:13:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Kendrick	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs. I am testifying in strong support of HB1875, HD1.

The fact that some states have criminalized and otherwise penalized the provision of evidence-based and medically necessary gender-affirming care is abhorrent. These treatments don't just empower our fellow citizens to be their true selves, they save lives..

That some states are also attempting to impede the provision of such care in other states makes a mockery of their own supposedly conservative values.

I urge the committee to pass this measure and protect the provision of gender-affirming care in Hawai'i..

Mahalo for your time,

Stephanie Kendrick

Kapahulu, O'ahu

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:14:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arielle Howell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arielle Howell, MD, and I am resident physician at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency at the University of Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

As an ObGyn resident physician, I provide evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access **lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i** without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

As a resident physician I may continue my training in other states or move after my training to practice elsewhere in the United States. HB1875 helps protect physicians, like myself, who may practice out of state in the future from threat of abusive litigation.

HB1875 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai'i's leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Arielle Howell, MD

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:15:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Di Rocco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, which extends protections to allow physicians to practice the safe care of patients in need of reproductive and gender affirming services.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:16:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*"I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect. Similarly **I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy.** In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art.*

*"I will not use the knife, not even on sufferers from stone, but will withdraw in favor of such men as are engaged in this work. Into whatever houses I may enter, I will come for the benefit of the sick, **remaining clear of all voluntary injustice and of other mischief and of sexual deeds upon bodies of females and males, be they free or slaves.**"*

What you have just read comes directly from The Hippocratic Oath (as cited on: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9297488/>) - the oath all physicians worldwide swear to upon entering their profession - yet HB1875 seeks to overstep that for Hawaii physicans who would violate their sworn oath to do the harm this bill proposes.

Perhaps worse is that HB1875 "Establishes protections against abusive litigation" which means little to no recourse for resulting harm and/or damages to victims - if their claims are determined to be "abusive" (and by whose terms and definitions will categorize what "abusive" is?) whatever harm they've suffered is all they'll have left.

PLEASE, do not support HB1875.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in Opposition.

Respectfully submitted ~

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:23:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika K Aresta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for HB 1875 is needed by 2:00 p.m. today 2/23/26.

Log on to:

www.capital.hawaii.gov

SAMPLE TESTIMONY

Copy and paste: 

Aloha,

My name is Erika Aresta

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Erika Aresta

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:25:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna-Kaella Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric resident physician, I strongly believe that patients who seek reproductive and/or gender affirming care should be able to make decisions freely with the support of their medical team. This bill protects that right for patients in Hawai'i and also protects the caring professionals providing evidence-based care.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:26:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda Nishikawa, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a health care provider, it is essential to have protection to allow us to be the best provider of health care information for vulnerable youth. In other states, our ability to provide best care practices with our patients have been severely compromised. I appreciate that this bill is being considered in our state as it's not common in other states. It is in keeping with our Aloha spirit.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:37:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vlad Sosa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1 This bill expands Hawaii’s shield law beyond abortion to include gender-affirming care.

This is not a small change. It significantly expands the law to cover gender-affirming medical treatments. Many families are still trying to understand these complex and sensitive issues. Expanding protections in this area deserves very careful public discussion.

2 It limits how other states’ laws can be recognized in Hawaii.

This bill says Hawaii courts should not help enforce certain out-of-state actions related to these medical services. While Hawaii can set its own policies, we should be cautious about entering legal conflicts with other states. That could lead to costly court battles.

3 It may reduce accountability for medical decisions.

The bill is designed to protect providers from what it calls “abusive litigation.” But many residents worry that broad legal protections could unintentionally limit normal oversight, professional discipline, or patient protections. No one wants to weaken safeguards that protect patients.

4 It affects insurance rules.

The measure limits how malpractice insurers can respond when providers perform these services. We should carefully consider whether this could affect insurance costs or create unintended consequences in the medical system.

5 Even the Legislature delayed the effective date to “July 1, 3000.”

The committees changed the effective date far into the future to allow more discussion. That tells us this bill still needs careful review. If there are this many unanswered questions, it may not be ready to advance.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:40:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Masek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect all healthcare for all individuals!

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:56:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Casandra Simonson, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/23/26

Testimony in Support of HB1875 regarding Gender Affirming Healthcare Services

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD. I am a pediatrician in Maui where I have worked for almost 12 years, and I am writing to represent myself in support of HB1875. During these uncertain times the best course of action is to protect our transgender community and those who care for them. Transgender care is life saving care and Hawai'i should be known as a safe place that shows ALOHA for this vulnerable community. I encourage you to support HB1875 and let your voting record show you were on the right side of history.

Thank you for your support,

Dr. Casandra Simonson

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:56:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leikia Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for HB 1875 is needed by 2:00 p.m. today 2/23/26.

Log on to:

www.capitol.hawaii.gov

SAMPLE TESTIMONY

Copy and paste: 

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Leikia Parker

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:56:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. While I am an advocate and ally for all of my LGBTQ friends and family receiving the care they need and deserve free of judgement or threat of legal action, I am also writing to you as a straight/cis person who wants MY rights protected.

As a woman who has survived multiple miscarriages, had three successful births, and participated in surrogacy through IVF, I want my privacy and reproductive/gender-affirming care options protected and available. There is a huge amount of overlap between IVF/HRT and other medicines and procedures that may be considered "reproductive" or "gender-affirming" care that impact people of all genders and backgrounds. Those are political classifications, not medical classifications. These decisions and designations need to be done by medical professionals, not be influenced by right-wing fear-mongering propaganda.

Please protect ALL of our rights to receive the healthcare we need and remember while our trans friends may be the most impacted by the vile misinformation and discrimination occurring on this subject, these decisions impact all of our privacy and our access to life-saving healthcare.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:56:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keleka Kaneaiakala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Keleka K Kaneaiakala

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:01:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am a healthcare provider who works with transgender patients. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:05:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Ellinwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one outside of Hawaii should prevent those of us in Hawaii from receiving medical care.

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Joey Badua
In SUPPORT of HB1875
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

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

My name is Joey Badua, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify as this bill affects me.

This bill is about governance, stability, and protecting lawful medical care in Hawai'i.

Across the country, we are seeing increasing political interference in evidence-based healthcare, particularly gender-affirming care and reproductive healthcare. Regardless of one's personal beliefs, the question before us is practical: Who should make medical decisions? Licensed physicians and patients or politicians in other states?

HB 1875 provides clarity and stability. It protects Hawai'i providers from out-of-state investigations into lawful care here. It safeguards families who seek treatment consistent with established medical standards, and strengthens Hawai'i's healthcare system by ensuring providers can practice without fear of politically motivated liability.

If we are serious about making decisions based on consequences rather than ideology, we must consider the real-world impact of restricting care: increased mental health crises among youth, loss of medical professionals, legal uncertainty for hospitals, and families forced to leave their home states for treatment.

This bill does not impose care on anyone. It does not require agreement. It simply affirms that medical decisions belong between patients and licensed healthcare providers under Hawai'i law.

As a Catholic, I believe every person is made in the image of God. That belief calls me to protect the vulnerable and to respect the dignity of conscience and bodily integrity. "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's" reminds us that government has authority, but it is not unlimited. There are boundaries to state power, especially over the human body.

HB 1875 clearly and responsibly draws that boundary.

I respectfully urge your support, and appreciate this opportunity to testify.

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY
HB1875 HD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Good Afternoon, Committee Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to House Bill 1875 HD1.

The Bill attempts to insulate health care providers from being penalized by insurance companies for performing gender-altering procedures on minors.

I am vehemently opposed to these procedures for minors to begin with. Puberty is a mentally challenging and vulnerable time. Combine the common experience of gender dysphoria with the fact that these procedures are huge money-makers for the medical profession and you have a situation ripe for abuse.

We are seeing it now. Many “de-transitioners” and their parents realize that they were manipulated and duped into accepting irreversible gender mutilation. They now face a lifetime of regret.

I’m sure you are aware of the recent case in which a woman who underwent a **double mastectomy** at age 16 as part of a gender transition has won \$2 million in damages against her medical providers. There are many other cases in the pipeline.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons recently stated their position that doctors should delay gender-related surgeries until age 19, citing “insufficient evidence” that benefits outweigh risks. After that, the American Medical Association also endorsed Restrictions on Gender-Related Surgery for Minors.

Other professional positions are likely to follow. Thus passing a bill to protect these ill-advised practices and force insurance providers to keep malpractice coverage in place would fall to certain subsequent, costly litigation.

The writing is on the wall. Kill this bill.

Conversely, I urge you to pass legislation to OUTLAW life-changing gender-transition procedures. Legislators have a moral duty to protect the physical and mental well-being of children in our communities.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:14:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Bilyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 1875 RE Gender Affirming Care

I feel any person who wishes this care be allowed to have it in the State of Hawaii with minimal obstacles.

i encourage this Committee to pass HB 1875 out of committee

mahalo for hearing this bill

Patricia Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:17:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justice Merriman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I value our collective rights to make our own healthcare decisions, access lifesaving care, and have confidentiality in this process. Our transgender and gender-nonconforming community members cannot be excluded from the basic healthcare protections outlined in this bill. The people that I love here in Hawai'i share the same spirit of care and concern for our safety, health, and agency as a community. Our specific concern with maintaining the safety of patients and healthcare providers in lawful healthcare services, that is, reproductive health or gender-affirming care services, is no different from the concern we see echoed universally.

Among our collective rights lies our varying, individual needs. Each of us should be able to seek, discuss and decide on our medical needs – which includes reproductive and gender-affirming needs – without criminal investigation for exercising these rights. This would be abusive litigation. I stand against any attacks on our rights and political interference in healthcare decision-making processes. Our healthcare workers deserve your support for their lifesaving work that they do everyday. Please support patients and healthcare providers in Hawai'i by passing this bill, prohibiting medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from penalizing, prosecuting, or taking other adverse action against healthcare providers on the basis that they are providing lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care services.

Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary care. My friends, neighbors, and loved ones deserve access to the same care without fear of legal threat to their autonomy, health, and wellness. Healthcare decisions belong to patients and healthcare professionals. Please help eliminate fear as a barrier to lawful care. I strongly urge your support in ensuring that Hawai'i remains a safe place for these important decisions. I ask that you please pass this bill and support HB1875.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justice Merriman

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:23:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Testimony in Support of Hawaii’s Transgender Shield Bill

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the transgender shield bill currently under consideration. This legislation represents a critical step forward in protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of transgender individuals and their families in Hawaii.

Why This Bill Matters

Shield laws protect transgender people and their healthcare providers from out-of-state legal actions that criminalize gender-affirming care. As other states pass laws restricting access to medically necessary healthcare, Hawaii has an opportunity to affirm its commitment to protecting vulnerable communities and respecting the doctor-patient relationship.

Key Reasons to Support This Bill

Medical Necessity: Gender-affirming care is recognized as medically necessary by every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Psychological Association. This care saves lives and dramatically improves mental health outcomes.

Protecting Families: Families should not live in fear of prosecution for seeking appropriate medical care for their loved ones. This bill ensures that Hawaii remains a safe haven where families can make healthcare decisions without interference from other states.

Healthcare Provider Protection: Doctors and healthcare providers should be able to practice medicine according to established medical standards without fear of legal retaliation from other jurisdictions.

Hawaii's Values: Hawaii has a proud history of protecting civil rights and embracing diversity. This bill aligns with our state's values of aloha, compassion, and respect for all people.

The Human Impact

Behind this legislation are real people—young people discovering who they are, parents supporting their children, and healthcare providers committed to their patients' wellbeing. Gender-affirming care is not controversial within the medical community; it is evidence-based treatment that improves and saves lives.

Conclusion

I urge you to support this transgender shield bill and stand with transgender individuals, their families, and their healthcare providers. Hawaii can lead the way in protecting human rights and ensuring that all people have access to the healthcare they need.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to all our communities.

Mahalo nui loa,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:24:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Lai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not allow this bill to pass. Healthcare providers should be subject to litigation and should be accountable for ALL treatment and procedures they provide. Protecting them from lawsuits is not fair to all parties involved. We should protect our children, young adults and those still living under parental authority. Since they are still dependents, the parents should have rights to know and need to approve of any treatments and/or procedures being done to those they have charge of. Once children become adults with full agency, then they do not need parental approval. Until then, please allow parents their rights as parents.

HOUSE BILL 1875

A BILL WRITTEN BY THE LIKES OF A LUCIFER SUPPORTED BY PEDOPHILES

IN STRONG OPPOSITION; TESTIMONY BY TOM BERG, RESTORE COMMON SENSE

Not ever, since time immemorial, has a person been born in the wrong body. The syndrome does not exist. Anyone can claim they were born in the wrong body, but that is all it is. It is a claim based on fantasy, fiction, and the person claiming it, delusional by all scientific standards and findings. Believing one is born in the wrong body is a mental illness.

Imagine a schizophrenic with two distinct personalities. Society does not nurture the mental illness by issuing the schizophrenic with two drivers licenses, two birth certificates, two social security numbers, or allow for two passports to serve two identities for the one person. **We as a society don't go along and play games with the illness by putting up two head stones when the schizophrenic dies.** Instead, we recognize reality, the illness it is, and live with the truth.

We as a society concede that gender dysphoria as a treatable condition, just like schizophrenia. Thereby admitting the truth about these types of illnesses, that they are conjured up in the mind, by the mind, is backed by science.

This bill is about legalizing the infatuation and obsession into kiddie porn by and for disturbed people who are indeed pedophiles by definition.

This bill, HB1875, is in direct conflict to §703-308 that allows use of force to prevent serious bodily injury to another.

Any adult who induces a minor to chemically castrate their body parts and or surgically mutilate them should be charged with a crime and in contrast the person who saved the minor from the abuse, protected as §703-308 does.

This bill, HB1875, is the work of deranged people by all accounts.

Please vote no to legalizing cruelty to minors and terminate Lucifer's child mutilation bill.

§703-308 Use of force to prevent suicide or the commission of a crime. (1) The use of force upon or toward the person of another is justifiable when the actor believes that such force is immediately necessary to prevent the other person from committing suicide, inflicting serious bodily harm upon oneself, committing or consummating the commission of a crime involving or threatening bodily injury, damage to or loss of property, or breach of the peace, except that:

(a) Any limitations imposed by the other provisions of this chapter on the justifiable use of force in self-protection, for the protection of others, the protection of property, the effectuation of an arrest, or the prevention of an escape from custody shall apply notwithstanding the criminality of the conduct against which such force is used; and

(b) The use of deadly force is not in any event justifiable under this section unless:

(i) The actor believes that there is a substantial risk that the person whom the actor seeks to prevent from committing a crime will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless the commission or the consummation of the crime is prevented and that the use of such force presents no substantial risk of injury to innocent persons; or

(ii) The actor believes that the use of such force is necessary to suppress a riot after the rioters have been ordered to disperse and warned, in any particular manner that the law may require, that deadly force will be used if they do not obey.

(2) The justification afforded by this section extends to the use of confinement as preventive force only if the actor takes all reasonable measures to terminate the confinement as soon as the actor knows that the actor safely can, unless the person confined has been arrested on a charge of crime. [L 1972, c 9, pt of §1; gen ch 1993]

COMMENTARY ON §703-308

The purpose of this section is to provide a justification for the use of force to prevent suicide, serious bodily injury, or the commission of a crime. It gives a right to use such force as the actor believes is immediately necessary to prevent suicide or serious bodily injury, or to prevent a crime involving or threatening bodily harm, damage to or loss of property, or a breach of the peace. The right to use force in crime prevention is a concomitant of the right to use force to make an arrest spelled out in §703-307. It is, however, limited by all of the limitations expressed in the preceding sections. Deadly force may not be used except for the purpose of preventing a crime which will cause death or serious bodily injury, under circumstances in which there is no substantial risk of injury to innocent persons. Deadly force may also be used if the actor believes such force is necessary to suppress a riot, following an appropriate warning.

Subsection (2) contains a rule about the use of confinement as preventive force, similar to the rules on the same subject in § 703-304 to 306.

Previous Hawaii case law did not distinguish the defense presented in this section from that in §703-307, on the use of force in law enforcement.¹ The Code provides clarification on the issue.

Tom Berg

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:36:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aleeciya Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Mahalo,

Aleeciya Parker

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:37:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB1875. Please help to make sure Hawai'i remains a place where care providers can support people of ALL populations.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:39:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailana Moa-eli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support hb1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:39:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brennah-Czyz Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875, and respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brennah Perez

February 23, 2026

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Takayama and Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Representative Grandinetti, and committee members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Adrien Gomez, a UH graduate student submitting this testimony as an individual representative in **strong support of House Bill 1875**. The measure expands protections from the Shield Law to include gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare, while ensuring medical decisions stay between patients and providers. The Shield Law prevents out-of-state investigations and disclosure of reproductive care-related medical information. In addition, it protects individuals from medical malpractice and prevents health carriers from taking action against healthcare providers.

I firmly believe that gender-affirming and reproductive care is healthcare. In 2024, the Trevor Project Hawai'i report found that 32% of LGBTQ+ youth considered suicide, with 6% attempting. While 74% of LGBTQ+ youth experienced anxiety, and 43% reported depression. The 2017 Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority report found that LGBTQ+ youth report higher rates of mental distress and suicidal ideation compared to heterosexual youth. Gender affirming care is associated with lower reports of depression and suicide (Tordoff, Wanta, Collin, et al. 2022). This expansion will also honor Hawai'i's culture and protect mähū individuals, a cultural role embodying both kāne and wahine identities. Additionally, this legislation will protect and ensure women in our communities have access to reproductive care, such as Planned Parenthood providers, contraceptives, and post-partum care. People who utilize reproductive care will be safeguarded from investigations in a political climate that looks to remove the rights of marginalized populations. All residents and community members in Hawai'i should have safe and accessible healthcare. The legislation will also allow providers to supply proper care without influence from other states or jurisdictions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB1875**

- Holmes, J.R., Ching, L.K., Tomita, K.K., Choosy, E.J., Pham, T., Bowie A.Y., Young L.A., Ryan J., Starr R.R. (2017). Hawai`i Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report. Honolulu: Hawai`i State Department of Health.
<https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthReport.pdf>
- Nath, R., Matthews, D., Hobaica, S., Eden, T.M., Taylor, A.B., DeChants, J.P., Suffredini, K. (2025). 2024 Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People in Hawai`i. West Hollywood CA: The Trevor Project.
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2024-50-State-Report-Hawaii.pdf>
- Tordoff, D. M., Wanta, J. W., Collin, A., Stepney, C., Inwards-Breland, D. J., & Ahrens, K. (2022). Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Network Open*, 5(2), e220978.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978>

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:45:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevan-Bodt Cabangon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the community. I am writing to submit a testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe that every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Trans youth deserve a future in Hawai'i. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:46:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Berry	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Janice Berry, and I submit this testimony **in strong support of HB1875** as an individual who deeply cares about human rights, reproductive rights, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Access to lawful, evidence-based health care — including reproductive and gender-affirming care — is a fundamental part of personal autonomy, safety, and dignity. Policies that protect patients’ privacy and ensure that providers can offer care without fear of retaliation or abusive legal action help create a safer, more compassionate health care environment for everyone in Hawai‘i.

When individuals feel unsafe seeking care or fear that their private health information could be exposed, it can create significant emotional distress and barriers to treatment. These barriers do not only impact physical health — they also affect mental health, increasing stress, anxiety, isolation, and a sense of hopelessness for people already navigating deeply personal decisions. Ensuring safe access to care is an important part of building communities that support well-being and help prevent further harm.

HB1875 reflects Hawai‘i’s commitment to protecting human rights and ensuring that people can access and provide care with dignity and without fear. By strengthening protections for both patients and providers, this measure helps foster a health care system rooted in compassion, safety, and respect.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committees to **pass HB1875**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Janice

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:47:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CJ Mays	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

My name is Rabbi CJ Mays, and I serve Temple Emanu-El here in Honolulu. I write you as a faith leader, a community builder, and someone who believes deeply that protecting human dignity is a sacred responsibility. Every day in my work I sit with people in moments of hope, vulnerability, fear, and healing. That experience shapes why I feel compelled to speak out.

Jewish tradition teaches that every human being is created b'tzelem Elohim — in the Divine image. This teaching is foundational to how we understand human worth. It tells us that dignity is not earned. It is inherent. It cannot be taken away by politics, by social stigma, or by misunderstanding. And it places a moral obligation on us: we must create communities where people can live safely, authentically, and with dignity.

For me, protecting that dignity is not political. It is a religious obligation. It is an ethical mandate rooted in centuries of Jewish moral teaching. It calls us to honor people as they are, to safeguard their wellbeing, and to ensure that our institutions, including our healthcare systems, are places of compassion rather than fear.

Gender-affirming care is recognized by major medical organizations as essential healthcare for many transgender and gender diverse people. Research consistently shows that access to this care reduces depression, anxiety, and suicide risk. In other words, this is not abstract or theoretical. This is life-saving medicine.

When access to that care is threatened, the consequences ripple outward. Individuals experience fear and isolation. Families worry about the safety and wellbeing of their loved ones. Young people question whether they have a future where they will be accepted. Healthcare providers — people who entered their profession to heal — face uncertainty about whether they can continue practicing according to established medical standards without legal or professional risk.

As a rabbi, I have walked alongside congregants, families, and community members navigating gender identity. I have seen the relief, stability, and renewed hope that affirming care can bring. I have also witnessed the deep pain that comes when people are denied dignity, denied appropriate care, or made to feel unsafe simply for being who they are. Those experiences stay with you. They remind you that policy decisions are never just policy. They shape real lives.

This bill matters because it protects both patients and providers. It ensures that medical professionals can offer evidence-based care without fear of legal retaliation or professional jeopardy. It affirms that Hawai'i values compassion, scientific integrity, and the wellbeing of all its residents. And it signals clearly that our state will not allow fear or stigma to interfere with healthcare decisions best made by patients, families, and qualified medical professionals.

I also want to speak directly to the question of faith, because sometimes religion is invoked in ways that suggest opposition to this kind of care. Supporting gender-affirming care is not in conflict with religious values. For many of us, certainly within Judaism, it flows directly from them.

In Jewish tradition we hold the principle of *pikuach nefesh*, the obligation to preserve life, as paramount. It overrides nearly every other commandment. When care exists that protects life, reduces suffering, and promotes wellbeing, our tradition urges us to support it, not restrict it. Caring for life and affirming human dignity are core responsibilities.

Hawai'i has long sought to embody the values of *aloha*—care, respect, mutual responsibility, and recognition of our shared humanity. Protecting access to gender-affirming care and protecting the professionals who provide it reflects those values. It says we are a community that leads with compassion rather than exclusion.

I urge you to support this bill. Not only as policymakers, but as fellow human beings entrusted with the wellbeing of the people of this state. Your decision has the power to reduce fear, strengthen trust in healthcare, and affirm the dignity of some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Mahalo for your time, for your service, and for the thoughtful consideration you bring to this important issue.

Rabbi CJ Mays

My name is Kristi Meechan, and I'm born and raised in Honolulu. I'm submitting my testimony in hopes of urging the committee to support this lifesaving bill, as gender affirming care is indeed lifesaving. In its most recent poll in 2020, [Williams Institute of UCLA](#) cites that more than 4.6% of kamaaina identify as LGBTQ+, which translates to approximately 59,000 of your constituents. Please bear that in mind as you make your decision.

In that same year of 2020, I wanted to learn more about the struggles that young LGBTQ+ individuals face and decided to begin volunteering with The Trevor Project, the nation's leading suicide prevention nonprofit dedicated specifically to the LGBTQ+ community. Because it was a remote position, stories from across the states were shared, and the ones that stick with me come from places where legislation limited access to medications like hormone blockers. These children, almost all under 18, spoke of how hopeless their lives felt without the prospect of being able to be seen for who they were beyond the gender they were forced to present as. In 2019, [The Trevor Project](#) did a survey that found "54% of transgender and non-binary youth reported seriously considering suicide in the last year, and 29% made a suicide attempt."

When the topic of gender affirming care is mentioned, those who are uneducated point to the idea that surgery and high-risk medication are the most common forms of treatment that targets children; in reality, that is not the case. A study supported by the [National Institutes of Health](#) cites that "the rate of undergoing a gender-affirming surgery with a TGD-related diagnosis was 5.3 per 100,000 total adults compared with 2.1 per 100,000 minors aged 15 to 17 years, 0.1 per 100,000 minors aged 13 to 14 years, and 0 procedures among minors aged 12 years or younger." Surgery is not being offered, much less forced upon, minors and require diagnoses and other forms of treatment.

What this bill will protect is the cornerstone of gender-affirming care known as hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Generally considered a low-risk treatment, HRT's results can take upwards of 2 to 3 years to showcase its full results. Blood clots and cardiovascular concerns are legitimate but widely uncommon, and other similar variations of hormone therapy are offered to cisgender people struggling with other dysfunctions such as puberty disorders or menopause. More information on this can be found [here](#).

Please think about our kamaaina who are struggling with gender dysphoria. Everyone should have access to the lifesaving medication that they need, and transgender individuals do not deserve to be excluded from care. A cisgender person not needing this care is not grounds for saying that a transgender person is not deserving of it. Mahalo for your time.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1875

TO: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, & JHA Committee Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Resident of House District 27

DATE: February 24, 2026 (2:00pm)

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1875, and I humbly and urgently request that you pass this bill.

Reproductive health care and gender affirming care are under attack in many parts of our country, even by the federal government. It is important that we do what we can to safeguard people's access to both, here in Hawai'i. This bill will have the effect of guaranteeing everyone's right to make their own medical decisions and strengthen protections for reproductive health care. This bill ensures privacy in access to medical care and prohibits state officials from complying with out-of-state investigations or subpoenas. This bill, if passed, keeps medical decision making where it belongs, between the patient and their medical provider, as well as guardian when applicable.

All other states in the West Coast Health Alliance have passed similar legislation. In all, 14 states and Washington, DC have similar protections. We should join them. Please pass HB 1875, the lives and well-being of the most important people in my life depend on it.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:49:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alessandria Leleo-Akana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As as mahu wahine who has benefitted from gender-affirming care, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill not only protects myself, but our neighbors, family, and friends. Please stand with our community and support HB1875 so that we can continue to thrive and be contributing members of our community. Mahalo

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:53:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender-affirming care is essential providing crucial medical, social, and psychological support that validates their third-gender identities and strengthens cultural identity. This care is vital for reducing gender dysphoria, improving mental health outcomes, and fostering well-being by providing a respectful environment that respects their unique, non-binary cultural roles.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:54:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB1875 to protect reproductive health and gender-affirming services.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:56:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Gefroh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

I oppose this bill because the proposed bill will interfere with those opposed to the legalized killing of infants, their civil rights to peacefully stand in front of such "health care facilities".

Although the proposed bill only mentions health care facilities, it is clear it is referring to facilities such as Planned Parenthood as only those opposed to abortions stand in front of "health care facilities" that provide and perform abortions.

Sincerely yours,

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:58:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haylin Dennison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support of HB1875 HD1, Hawai‘i’s Gender Affirming & Reproductive Health Care Shield Bill, as it comes before the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

HB1875 HD1 is, at its core, a measured and legally sound policy. It does three key things:

- * Protects Hawai‘i’s sovereignty by ensuring that other states cannot penalize providers delivering lawful care within our state.
- * Preserves patient–provider decision-making in complex medical matters.
- * Provides clarity and stability for healthcare professionals practicing according to established medical standards.

This bill does not create new medical standards. It simply protects providers who are already operating under Hawai‘i law and established professional guidelines.

I know members of JHA must carefully consider legal implications and precedent. From my review and from conversations with stakeholders, HB1875 HD1 is narrowly tailored to prevent out-of-state interference while maintaining full compliance with existing Hawai‘i law.

It also has practical implications. Hawai‘i already faces healthcare workforce shortages. Providers need legal certainty in order to practice here without fear of politically motivated litigation originating from other jurisdictions. Stability in our healthcare system benefits all patients.

Mahalo for your leadership and for your service to our Hawai‘i.

Respectfully,

Haylin Dennison

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:59:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Freynik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony as an individual in strong support of HB1875. Several of my close friends and loved ones are trans, and access to gender affirming care has made a huge difference in their wellbeing. One dear friend in particular is a musician, and while I've always loved watching her perform, it's been a joy and privilege to see how she's gotten more sure of herself and more comfortable in her own skin as her journey's progressed. Another friend is a therapist. We used to live together, and I saw firsthand how challenging it already was to manage all the appointments and paperwork it took for him to get his healthcare covered, but once he did, I also got to witness him becoming more himself, more confident and easygoing now that the world could see him the way he saw himself. Sometimes when I see him I can't help but grin; I'm so proud of him and happy for him in all the things he's accomplished. Those are just two of them, but several members of my community are trans. I feel really lucky to have them in my life, and sharing my support for protecting their access to care is the least I can do.

As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:02:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valor Grimm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Valor Grimm. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference.

This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones, and especially the mahu and MVPFFF+ community. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Valor Grimm
3185 Kalihi Street
Honolulu HI 96819
(808) 358-9473

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:13:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaynah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jaynah Alapai and I am calling to ask Representative to support HB 1875 which is being heard on Tuesday HB 1875 would provide life-saving protections for people accessing Gender Affirming Care and the clinicians who provide it. This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthen protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack. Please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear.

Thank you

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:19:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alanna Brissette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Alanna Brissette

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:21:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathalie Champion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this, both providers and patients need this protection, thank you.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:25:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakoa Wilbur	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Natalie Wilbur

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:35:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Treasure Iulio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Treasure Iulio

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:43:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1875 as an individual who believes access to lawful health care should be protected in Hawai‘i.

HB1875 helps ensure that patients and providers are not placed at risk for seeking or delivering gender-affirming and reproductive health care that is already legal in our state. Across the country, policies and lawsuits are being used to intimidate providers and create barriers to care. Even when those efforts come from outside Hawai‘i, they create uncertainty and fear for people here who rely on these services.

Health care decisions should remain between patients and their medical providers. This bill reinforces that principle by protecting patient privacy and preventing discriminatory actions by insurers or others based solely on the type of care being provided.

For transgender and gender-diverse people in particular, access to gender-affirming care is essential to health and stability. When care is delayed or denied, the impacts are real and long-lasting. Clear protections help ensure that people can access care without fear of retaliation or interference.

HB1875 reflects Hawai‘i’s values of fairness, compassion, and respect for personal dignity. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:44:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Earle Satoru Matsuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We (Valerie Y. Matsuda-wife) and I totally oppose of HB1875.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:46:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Y. Matsuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill as a Christian who believes God created us as man and woman.

Surgery cannot change who you were born to be XX - XY .

I am not proud of our State government who leans liberal and was the first to pass the abortion bill.

May God open your hearts to the truth of who God created us to be.



HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:47:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa M Vallin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lisa M. Vallin, and I am an instructional faculty member in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong support of HB 1875, the Gender Affirming Care Shield Law.

HB 1875 is essential to protecting patients, families, and healthcare providers in Hawai‘i who seek or provide lawful gender-affirming care. At a time when many states are restricting access to medically necessary, evidence-based care for transgender and gender-diverse people, Hawai‘i has the opportunity to affirm its commitment to health equity, bodily autonomy, and privacy. Shield protections are critical to ensure that individuals who access care here, and the providers who serve them, are not subjected to out-of-state investigations, penalties, or intimidation.

Gender-affirming care is recognized by major medical and psychological associations as appropriate, evidence-based treatment. Denying or criminalizing such care places vulnerable youth and adults at increased risk for mental health crises, including depression and suicide. Hawai‘i has long positioned itself as a place of care, compassion, and respect for diversity. HB 1875 aligns with those values.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote YES on HB 1875.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

–Lisa M. Vallin | PhD, MA

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:09:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geena Thielen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Geena Thielen and I am writing in support of HB1875 Related to Health Care. I am a transgender woman and I have experienced first hand the discrimination in accessing care. HMSA blatantly ignores Act 39 from the 2022 session and throws up rejections and road blocks to people like myself. Please support HB1875 to help our already marginalized community.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:17:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

As a community member with many years experience advocating for health care for underserved members of our community, I know how hard it is for individuals to access the care they need.

I strongly support HB1875 HD1 to assure that mahu, transgender, and gender diverse people can continue to access medically necessary, evidence based care without political interference.

I urge you to vote **YES** on HB1875 HD1.

Mahalo

Tom Sheeran

Mo'ili'ili

To: Chairs Takayama, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Health Committee members
Chairs Matayoshi, Grandinetti, and Consumer Protection Committee members
From: CJ B. – community member with lived experience of gender transition, working in non-profit public health services on O’ahu

Aloha,

I write in strong support of HB 1875. Mahalo for your attention and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

We are lucky to have decades of research and evidence to support the medical necessity of gender-affirming care, including how it reduces rates of common mental illnesses including anxiety and depression, decreases rates of substance use, and greatly reduces the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors within the trans community. But rather than make a case for gender-affirming care itself (which has been framed as a “bad word,” but in reality only refers to medical interventions such as hormone replacement therapy, widely used by our aging cisgender community for decades, laser hair removal/hair growth treatments, chest and breast reconstruction, and in some relatively rare cases can extend to bottom surgery for consenting adults), it appears that what is in question by the potential passing of this bill is not whether gender affirming care is medically sound, but rather whether the federal government ought to have the right to punish and disenfranchise medical providers for providing the care that they, with their extensive, notoriously intense schooling and experience that is prerequisite to their job, determine to be medically necessary and appropriate for their patients.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1875, in the spirit of protecting trusted medical providers from undue interference from the federal government. As the priorities and goals of the federal government has seen significant tumult in past years (and as is foreshadowed for the several years ahead of us), it is more important now than ever to set boundaries such as would be put into place by HB 1875, to keep the whims of the federal government out of medical practice that is founded in research and evidence.

In passing HB 1875, Hawai’i would continue to establish itself as a state that not only prioritizes the health and safety of all of its residents, including those most vulnerable and targeted by hate movements elsewhere in the country, but also as a safe place for doctors and physicians to practice their craft in ways that their years of training supports by providing gender affirming care, and reproductive health care, to patients as they deem fit.

Hawai’i should take a stand in support of doctors, not the federal government, as the rightful authority on their patients’ health by supporting HB 1875.

Mahalo for your time, and best of health to you all in the year ahead.

CJ B.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:31:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1875. Nothing good can come from removing patient rights. The medical profession has been using these people as guinea pigs since AIDS raised it's ugly head. This bill is discriminatory to a specific sector of our community. It removes their legal rights and it will grant doctors total freedom from responsibility or consequence. The moral character of doctors is no different than the rest of our population. This bill is legalizing genocide. Please protect and support patient rights and vote NO on this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:31:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Fraser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Zachary Fraser and I am writing in support of HB1875. Access to Gender Affirming Healthcare is fundamentally a human rights issue, and it is imperative that the Hawai'i State Legislature vote to approve this bill. A failure to do so will not eliminate the need for gender affirming care, but will increase the risk and danger facing the gender-diverse citizens of Hawai'i.

Without easy access to gender affirming care, transgender people and women of every class and background will be forced to seek unregulated care. This is an unneccessary risk in a place as wealthy and progressive as the United States.

In addition, a refusal to pass this bill is a slippery slope to even more restrive and oppressive measures. What began as an attack on transgender, mahu, and gender diverse populations will grow into an assault on women.

Please, I urge you to vote YES on HB 1875.

Mahalo for your service

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:31:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Tarnas; Vice Chair Poepoe; and Members of the Committee won Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Cheryl Ogawa Ho. I live in Nu‘uanu.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1875.

I have personally accompanied a close family member through a daunting journey to obtain the affirmation of that member’s

My name is Cheryl Ogawa Ho. I live in Nu‘uanu.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1875.

I have personally accompanied a close family member through a long, daunting journey to obtain the affirmation of their true sexual identity. Had she been unable to obtain the psychological and medical services and social support that were so crucial to her wellbeing, I don’t want to imagine how our family’s life would be, today.

The work of agencies like Hawai’i Health and Harm Reduction is absolutely crucial. Prior to retirement, my work for a private non-profit agency serving youths in need of alternative homes, I became aware of national organizations and hotlines which facilitate gender-affirming care. These local and national resources enabled me to establish trust and work effectively with the youth on my social work caseload. Today, I try to continue to be a support and advocate for non-binary youth and adults in my church and community, in the hope that they will be able to lead satisfying lives, and contribute meaningfully to society.

I urge you to vote YES on HB1875, please!!

Mahalo nui,

Cheryl O. Ho, Nu‘uanu

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:33:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Over the past several years, many states, and most recently, the federal government, have begun targeting access to gender-affirming care. Many patients, providers, and those who help people access care are having to contend with hostile states and bad actors seeking to criminalize them, for the basic function of seeking evidence-based health care.

We are asking the legislature to pass a shield law that would protect patients who seek, professionals who provide, and people who help patients obtain gender-affirming care.

Sexual health is a personal matter and should be between a physician and patient. Nobody had the right to block any individual in obtaining personal healthcare.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:39:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the passing of HB1875. Hawaii must preserve and protect access to comprehensive healthcare and protect those who provide such care. Gender affirming care in particular is life-saving and a vital resource for our community. No one should be afraid to get adequate medical care. Thank you for helping to maintain respect and equality in Hawaii.

To: Hawaii Legislature COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Re: HB 1875

February 23, 2026

I am a physician who served Hawaii for many years as the medical expert in child abuse. I am strongly opposed to HB1875.

Recent evidence has emerged that gender affirming care has not been adequately researched to evaluate the benefits versus harm to the child. In other words research has not showed that the safety or health of the child is improved, but there are clear short and long term risks to the child. It is clear that more research is needed before continuing to provide such care to minors. On February 23, 2026 the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) published a position statement recommending that ***“surgeons delay gender-related breast/chest, genital, and facial surgery until a patient is at least 19 years old.”(1)***

Similarly, the American Medical Association just went on record calling the evidence for surgery on minors “insufficient” and says that, “in the absence of clear evidence, the AMA agrees with ASPS that surgical interventions in minors should be generally deferred to adulthood.” (2)

Research out of Europe has failed to show that gender affirming care decreases the risk of harm, suicide or mortality when followed over time. (3,4)

I urge you to defer this measure until more evidence is available that clearly shows that gender affirming care benefits the child and do not cause long term harm.

Victoria Schneider M.D.

1. www.plasticsurgery.org/documents/health-policy/positions/2026-gender-surgery-children-adolescents.pdf
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/04/health/gender-surgery-minors-ama.html>
3. Council for Choices in Health Care Finland. Recommendation of the Council for Choices in Health Care in Fin-land 2020. Available from: https://segm.org/sites/default/files/Finnish_Guidelines_2020_Minors_Unofficial%20Translation.pdf
4. Cass H. Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people: final report. 2024. Available from: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20250310143933/https://cass.independent-review.uk/home/publications/final-report/>

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:56:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nora Pollard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou and thank you for your attention to this bill.

My name is Nora Pollard, and as an educator and a transgender person myself, I know two-fold the importance of this bill to the health, safety, and well-being of transgender children and their families. We as a whole society need to uplift and protect these children who are the targets of harassment and malicious attention.

Their families and health care providers are doing their best to keep these children safe and supported. With this bill we can stand alongside them and help prevent the danger of children being without the life-saving medical help they need, which has been approved by every major medical association in the United States.

Transgender students succeed better when they are supported and trusted on their identity. They are meaningful parts of every community, and deserve to grow up without being targets of national media attack cycles. While we can't prevent the media coverage, we can firmly show these children that it has no power over them and their families.

Mahalo for your time and attention.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 4:06:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing to strongly urge the Legislature to vote yes to support Gender Affirming Care. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with nearly 20 years of experience in the field. Please hear me and my colleagues when we say that Gender Affirming Care is lifesaving suicide prevention. When people are stigmatized, rejected and discriminated against they are set up to be dangerously vulnerable to despair, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. All people benefit from Gender Affirming Care, regardless of gender. It increases mental health outcomes because everyone has a chance to thrive when they are accepted, respected, treated with care, and are able to have their basic medical needs met.

The loudest transphobic critics in the states lack medical and mental health expertise and many of them have been exposed for corruption, inappropriate and abusive behavior, as well as, for being pedophiles and pedophile protectors. Do not align our state with the views of those with poor character who use their power platforms to benefit themselves and cause serious harm to others.

Please listen to the experts in the field and those with lived experience and vote to support Gender Affirming Care.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 4:10:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Karen Stovall. I am a clinical psychologist licensed in the state of Hawai'i. I strongly support HB1875 and I urge the committee to vote YES.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 4:25:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Jennifer Wood, and I am asking for your support of HB1875 to protect patients, families, and medical providers who provide or receive legally prescribed gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare in Hawai'i.

This is important to me as my son is a trans man who suffered depression and suicide attempts prior to receiving gender affirming care. This care is absolutely life saving, and decisions around it should be left to the family and doctors, the same as all other healthcare. Politics should not play a role in access to necessary care. Please help to protect those who need it, and those who provide the care. Do not let biased people make uninformed decisions for others.

Thank you,

Jennifer

808-221-7229
Kalaheo, HI 96741

February 23, 2026

Dear Representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I respectfully submit this personal testimony in opposition to “HB1875 Relating to Health Care.”

As written, HB1875 creates expansive legal shields to reduce accountability and oversight. The bill effectively insulates a category of medical services from certain legal and professional oversight and consequences. No medical care should be placed in a category that limits transparency, ethical review, or normal regulatory oversight — especially when irreversible procedures may be involved.

Please vote NO to HB 1875.

Sincerely,

Agnes T. Tauyan

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:18:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faythe apo Niihau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:41:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Committee,

I am writing in support of HB1875 which protects gender affirming health care services.

Mahalo for your time,

Kaleiheana Stormcrow, Mountain View

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:55:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony on this bill. Apologies for submitting late.

I'm in support of HB 1875. Let's send a clear message about our support for gender affirming care. It's our kuleana to provide clear support for the values of aloha, inclusion and compassion. No one should be denied basic access to healthcare. People in our community, people I love and care about have relied on gender affirming care. Let's continue our support through HB1875.

Mahalo, Deborah

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:05:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight T. Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a registered Hawai‘i voter living in Honolulu and a member of IndivisibleHawai‘i. I strongly support this measure to protect care givers and families who are providing/seeking care as allowed by law. We need to ensure access to gender-affirming care for all who need it; protect families from unjust legal actions and custody disputes; shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions and disciplinary actions; and uphold Hawai‘i’s core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:22:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richmond H. D. Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on **HB 1875, the Gender-Affirming Care Shield Law**.

My name is Richmond H.D. Brack, and I respectfully submit testimony in support of HB 1875.

HB 1875 expands existing shield law protections previously established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include **gender-affirming health care services** and related protected health information, bringing these protections into alignment with current federal regulations. Under the bill’s provisions, gender-affirming care that is lawful in Hawai‘i would be protected against abusive litigation, out-of-state legal actions, and adverse actions by medical malpractice insurers or health carriers based solely on the provision of such care.

These protections would apply to health care providers and patients accessing or delivering gender-affirming services that are already lawful in Hawai‘i, clarifying that providers cannot face professional discipline, loss of insurance coverage, or civil liability in Hawai‘i for providing care that is consistent with prevailing standards of practice and state law.

Shield laws similar to the one proposed in HB 1875 have been enacted in other states to protect access to legal health care services, preventing out-of-state investigations, subpoenas, or enforcement of judgments that conflict with state law. In Hawai‘i, existing reproductive health shield law protections already bar cooperation with out-of-state actions involving lawful care; this bill extends that approach to include gender-affirming care.

Supporters of HB 1875, including medical organizations and public health groups, have testified that gender-affirming care is evidence-based and medically necessary, and protections against retaliatory legal and insurance actions help ensure continued access for patients and providers. Committee testimony also reflects broad community engagement, with substantially more submitted in support of the bill than in opposition.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 1875 and safeguard Hawai‘i’s ability to provide medically necessary, evidence-based care for all residents without fear of legal or administrative retaliation.

Mahalo for your time -

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:23:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb1875

Doctors who perform abortions and gender affirming care should not receive any extraordinary protections for the results of the surgery above that of regular procedures by other doctor. All are deemed to certain standards and must be judged accordingly.

Oppose this bill

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:40:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. Establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Stone T.P. Matautia

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:48:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives,

As a healthcare provider, I urge you to support HB 1875 HD1. The decisions about healthcare should be between a patient and provider. Too many times, government entities attempt to legislate healthcare decisions. It is time to reaffirm the importance and confidentiality of grner affirming health care.

Please support this important protection.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my thought and position.

Dr. Parsons

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:35:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Kulaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Emily and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and also president of Planned Parenthood Generation Action. We are a student group that fights for reproductive justice and access to healthcare.

I am in strong support of HB1875 HD1. I believe every should have access to the healthcare that they need. Access to gender affirming is life saving care, as nearly half of all nonbinary/transgender youth seriously consider suicide, with access to trustworthy care greatly reducing this risk.

As a lifesaving public health measure, I strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB1875 HD1 to create a better future for the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

- Emily Kulaga

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:35:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of H.B. 1875, H.D. 1. I am a Hawai'i resident, and I am writing as someone whose life has been directly impacted by the kind of health care this bill seeks to protect.

I have had an ectopic pregnancy. This is a life-threatening condition - there is no version of it that ends in a healthy birth. The care I received was not a choice made lightly; it was emergency medical treatment that saved my life. I am grateful that my doctor was able to act without hesitation. In a political climate where reproductive health care is increasingly targeted, I worry about a future where that hesitation exists, where a physician pauses, afraid of legal consequences from another state, while a patient's life is at risk.

H.B. 1875 recognizes something fundamental: that the relationship between a patient and their doctor must be protected from political interference, whether that interference targets reproductive care or gender-affirming care. These are not separate issues. They are the same issue; who gets to control our bodies, and who gets to intimidate the doctors who care for us.

I urge the committee to pass this bill. Hawai'i should be a place where patients are safe, and where doctors can provide lawful, medically sound care without fear.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lisa L. Williams, MA, PMP

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

Fr: Ms. Janel Fujinaka, Makiki Resident / At-Large Board Member
Neighborhood Board Makiki – Tantalus – Papakōlea – Punchbowl

Re: Testimony on H.B. 1875 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE (Strong Support)

Committee: JHA
Date/Time: February 24, 2026, 2:00 PM
Location: Conference Room 325

February 23, 2026

Aloha Chair David Tarnas, Vice-Chair Mahina Poepoe, and Committee Members,

My name is Janel S. Fujinaka, and I currently serve as a Neighborhood Board Member representing Makiki, Tantalus, Punchbowl, and Papakōlea; however, I submit this testimony today as a private citizen in **strong support** of **HB 1875** this measure to expand the protections established under Act 2 to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services, strengthen safeguards against abusive litigation, clarify lawful disclosures of protected health information, and prohibit discriminatory actions by medical malpractice insurers and health carriers against providers who deliver lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care.

Access to comprehensive health care is not political; it is lifesaving. According to the Trevor Project, more than 40% of transgender and nonbinary young people have seriously considered suicide in recent years, with significantly lower rates among those who are able to access gender-affirming care and supportive environments. Peer-reviewed research published in the American Medical Association journals and other leading medical bodies consistently finds that gender-affirming care is associated with improved mental health outcomes, including reduced depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Association, recognize gender-affirming care as medically necessary and evidence-based treatment.

As a transgender woman who has been on hormone therapy since 2003, I know personally what is at stake. Hormone therapy is not cosmetic or elective; it is medically necessary care that has allowed me to live authentically, maintain my mental health, and fully participate in my community. As a young adult, I faced confusion, stigma, and uncertainty about whether I could safely access treatment. I worried about whether seeking care would expose me to discrimination, whether my private medical information would remain protected, and whether providers would feel secure enough to

continue treating patients like me. No one should have to navigate medically necessary care through fear.

This measure draws a clear and compassionate line. It respects the diversity of religious beliefs in our community while affirming that public health policy must rely on established medical standards, constitutional protections, and evidence-based care. Hawai'i can honor faith traditions while ensuring that individual theology does not determine whether another person may access lawful medical treatment. This bill reinforces that licensed providers must follow recognized clinical guidelines and ethical standards, and it protects their ability to do so without fear of retaliation. In this way, it safeguards both patients and providers while maintaining professional accountability.

This bill ensures that Hawai'i remains a safe harbor for lawful health care. It clarifies permissible disclosures of protected health information in response to evolving federal regulations, so providers clearly understand their legal duties and patients can trust that their privacy will be protected. It establishes safeguards against abusive out-of-state litigation, so Hawai'i clinicians are not exposed to civil liability for lawful care provided under Hawai'i law. It also prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking adverse action solely because a provider offers reproductive or gender-affirming services that comply with state law and accepted standards of care. These provisions keep medical decision-making grounded in the patient-provider relationship while preserving regulatory oversight and ethical obligations.

The scientific consensus supporting gender-affirming care is well established. Major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Psychological Association, recognize gender-affirming care as evidence-based and medically necessary for appropriately evaluated patients. Peer-reviewed studies have shown that access to gender-affirming care is associated with lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality among transgender individuals. For example, research published in medical journals and supported by data from organizations such as The Trevor Project has consistently found improved mental health outcomes among transgender youth who receive affirming care and family or community support.

Medical workforce research also indicates that restrictive health care environments can contribute to provider relocation and recruitment challenges, particularly in specialties related to reproductive and gender-affirming services. Hawai'i already faces physician shortages in several areas of care. Maintaining clear legal protections helps promote workforce stability and ensures continuity of care for residents across our islands.

This measure affirms Hawai'i's long-standing commitment to privacy, dignity, equal protection, and the rule of law. It protects patient autonomy while ensuring that providers practice within established clinical standards and remain accountable under state regulation.

For me, this bill is not abstract policy. It represents safety supported by science. It represents dignity protected by law. It represents the assurance that a young transgender person in Hawai'i can seek medically necessary care without fear, while knowing that their provider operates within clear legal and professional standards.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure, **HB 1875**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janel S. Fujinaka', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Janel S. Fujinaka, Makiki Resident
At-Large Makiki Neighborhood Board Member
Former City Bus Operator, Oahu Transit Services

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:57:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1875!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:05:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Julie Uyeno-Pidot and I'm testifying in strong support of HB 1875 HD 1: Relating to Health Care. As an LGBTQIA+ ally, I understand how important it is for individuals to have access to gender-affirming health care services. At a time when the federal administration is seeking increasing control over people's lives, I'm glad that our state is seeking to protect the rights of our citizens and their private health care decisions.

This bill provides crucial protections to individuals and their health care providers. Sharing people's private health care information is intrusive, egregious, and a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The decision to receive gender-affirming care lies with each person and their health care providers, not with the federal government. As such, I humbly request that you vote in favor of HB 1875 HD 1.

Mahalo,
Julie Uyeno-Pidot

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:07:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill because I support Trans Youth. I continue to be humbled and deeply concerned by Trans youth stories, and I feel strongly that we need to support them.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:57:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eka Reid	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1875 HD1

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:34:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lorraine Hinaga. I am from district 49, and I oppose this bill. I believe that changing peoples genders is wrong to begin with. You can't really change a persons gender it really is male or female as God created. A person will still have the XX chromosome or the XY chromosome, after these drugs and surgeries. I've heard many stories of youth who are already going through a confusing time in their life, changing their minds after the surgery but it's too late. They should have the full protection of the law for malpractice.

Mahalo, Lorraine Hinaga

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:35:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristie Matsumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristie Matsumoto and I am writing to ask that you vote YES for HB1875HD1. As a parent of a young adult who identifies as non-binary I am intimately aware of the struggles, both physical and emotional, of someone who experiences a disconnect between the sex they were assigned at birth and the sex they know they truly are. Passage of HB1875HD1 will mean so much to them and others who are in need of this life-saving gender-affirming care.

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony in support of HB1875HD1.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:40:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roque Olmos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Know that I am in favor. I recalled my niece from the mainland because of these uncertain times.

1. It Protects Medical Privacy and Freedom

In recent years, several states have passed laws that not only ban gender-affirming care but also attempt to punish people who travel elsewhere to receive it. HB 1875 ensures that Hawaii's courts and law enforcement cannot be used by other states to investigate, subpoena, or prosecute patients and doctors for providing care that is perfectly legal in Hawaii.

2. It Secures the Doctor-Patient Relationship

The bill prevents out-of-state "political attacks" from affecting a provider's ability to work. Without this shield, a doctor in Hawaii could potentially lose their medical license or face skyrocketing malpractice insurance rates simply because they provided legal care to a patient who originally came from a state where that care is restricted. HB 1875 prohibits insurance companies and licensing boards from penalizing providers for these reasons.

3. It Ensures Healthcare Stability

By removing the fear of legal "bounty" lawsuits or criminal charges from outside the state, the bill ensures that Hawaii remains a safe place for healthcare professionals to practice. This stability is vital for ensuring that residents—and those seeking refuge from restrictive laws—have uninterrupted access to medically necessary, evidence-based care.

In short: HB 1875 ensures that what happens in a Hawaii doctor's office is governed by Hawaii law and medical expertise, not by the shifting political landscape of the mainland.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:41:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesika H.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:30:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I Appose HB1875 HD1 this bill moves way beyond protecting access and instead creates expansive legal shields that may reduce accontability and oversight. No type of medical care should be placed in a protected category that limits transparency, ethical review, or normal regulatory oversight, especially when irreversible procedures may be involved.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:33:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

As an ObGyn, I provide evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access **lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i** without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

This bill does **not** create new standards of care. Instead, it affirms that when clinicians practice **within accepted medical standards and Hawai‘i law**, they should not be punished by out-of-state legal actions, insurers, or licensing consequences. These protections are essential to maintaining a stable health care workforce and preserving access to care—particularly for patients who already face barriers.

HB1875 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Sara C Harris, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:45:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB1875.

This bill is essential to protecting the health care work force here in Hawai'i. As a state, Hawai'i has a right to exercise state sovereignty, which means protecting our health care providers from retaliatory, abusive litigation other states may want to bring to our health care workforce. Hawai'i is not governed by the laws of other states and, as such, should not be subject to the laws they inflict on their respective constituencies.

We have seen a strong, litigious response from states pushing ideological agendas that have killed some patients and put countless others at risk. As other states redefine who deserves to live and die in their jurisdictions, we must not allow our providers to fall victim to these inhumane laws.

Thankfully, Hawai'i does not have the same belligerent laws on the books as others. This has allowed us to both promote the best possible patient care outcomes and has reinforced a commitment to our health care workforce. Passing this bill will ensure that our providers can confidently offer the life-saving care their patients deserve. When providers are criminalized for offering basic care, it profoundly impacts provider retention and patient outcomes.

Gender-affirming care has lately come under fire from states and ideologues who have vilified providers, trans people, and their allies. However, the data shows us how effective, safe, and necessary this care is, and the loudest voices are often not the people who need this care the most because they've been shamed in silence. I implore you to make your decision based on evidence and a desire to protect patients and health care providers. **I strongly urge you to vote YES on HB1875.**

Mahalo Piha,
Kekoa Kealoha

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:45:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:10:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonia Blackiston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in strong support of HB 1875 and urge you all to do so as well. It is crucial to ensure protections for gender affirming care and for the providers that provide these vital healthcare services. Please ensure that Hawaii continues to lead with inclusivity and do the right thing by supporting this important measure.

Mahalo,

Sonia Blackiston

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:16:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the federal government and hostile states increase attacks on gender-affirming care, this bill would protect patients, providers, and those who help people access gender-affirming care from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions.

Hawai‘i has long supported access to gender-affirming care. We must protect access to this essential health care service. Mahalo for supporting HB1875.

Jennifer

Aloha Chair, Vice chair,

My name is Dale VanderBrink. I am the 2nd vice chair of the Ala-Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board. This is my personal testimony.

I stand in strong support of HB1875.

The last several years have been a painful and frightening experience for many in our community. **Our federal Supreme Court and our federal government have failed us.** As a result, **out-of-state entities and individuals** have the means to **interfere in healthcare decisions here**, either by **blocking medical treatment outright**, or via **fear and intimidation** by suing to request **private medical records**.

Living in a **blue state** is not enough when our **laws do not meet the moment**. Our state, our **legislature**, needs to **step up** to meet that moment. **HB1875** helps to meet that moment by cementing protections for **reproductive rights** and **gender-affirming care**.

It gives our state the means to **shield our residents** seeking medical treatment from **out-of-state entities or individuals** who file **frivolous lawsuits**.

It prevents our state from being **puppeted** to enforce the **lawsuits and penalties of others**.

It also helps protect our **medical community** who simply wish to provide **necessary care** to those who need it, and more.

While this bill will not help **me**, I fight for this because it will help **my friends and family**, and those within **my neighborhood and community**. So I ask you on this committee: when you **vote**, remember those in your districts who **need this protection**. **Please pass HB1875.**"

Thankyou
Dale VanderBrink

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:58:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kapono Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnes, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

My name is Jordan Kapono Nakamura and I strongly support HB1875. This bill expands the protections detailed in Act 2, SLH 2023, ensuring access to gender-affirming care for everyone who relies on it. This bill will reduce unneeded and abusive litigation prompted by rising incursions brought on by intentionally misleading political attacks prompted by the current Trump administration. It will also shield this vital care from being denied to patients who rely on it for their mental and physical health. This includes our mahu, genderqueer, and trans ohana, but also adult self-identified cisgender patients who comprise the majority of regular recipients of this category of medical care. I hope that my trans ohana who I've personally seen benefit immensely from easy access to this care will continue to receive it, as well as their medical information and privacy protected, and I also believe that any reduction of bureaucratic meddling in our healthcare system prompted by a federal administration that has both expressed targeted prejudice and willingness to use the healthcare system as a political weapon against its own citizens. I urge you to protect the residents of Hawai'i by shielding our patients from these attacks through the passage and support of HB1875. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify! Mahalo nui.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:53:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair and Members of the **House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee**,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1875, the Gender Affirming Care Shield Law.

HB 1875 is a critical measure that protects access to life-saving, medically necessary, and evidence-based gender-affirming care in Hawai‘i. This bill ensures that patients, families, and health care providers in our state are shielded from out-of-state political interference that has no place in Hawai‘i’s health care system.

Gender-affirming care is supported by leading medical professionals and organizations and is essential to the health, safety, and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. Attempts by other states to criminalize or intimidate providers threaten patient safety and undermine the integrity of medical decision-making. HB 1875 sends a clear message that Hawai‘i will not allow these harmful efforts to reach our communities.

Hawai‘i has long been a place that values compassion, dignity, and the right for individuals to make personal health care decisions in consultation with qualified medical professionals. This bill upholds those values by ensuring that our residents can continue to access care without fear, and that providers can practice medicine based on science and ethics—not politics.

Even though this testimony is submitted late, I urge you to recognize the strong and visible community support for this measure. Our voices matter, and we are paying close attention.

Please pass HB 1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s commitment to protecting health care access, patient autonomy, and human dignity.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:53:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Knouf	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee, I respectfully submit testimony in opposition to HB1875. While I understand the intent to address complex health care issues, I am deeply concerned that this measure could weaken parental rights, reduce transparency in important medical decisions involving minors, and create tension between state policy and the deeply held moral and religious convictions of many Hawai'i families. Strong families depend on trust, parental involvement, and the freedom to live according to conscience without fear of legal or professional consequences. I believe legislation in our state should protect both access to care and the foundational role of parents in guiding their children, while also safeguarding constitutional freedoms. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to not allow this bill to pass and instead pursue solutions that better protect families and fundamental liberties in Hawai'i.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:56:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Perkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE (Expanding Shield Protections to Gender-Affirming Services)

To: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA) Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

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

My name is Tammy Perkins, and I am a concerned resident of Makawao on the island of Maui. As a mother and community member who has seen the devastating long-term impacts of rushed medical decisions in vulnerable populations—especially our keiki—I strongly oppose HB1875 HD1.

This bill expands the 2023 “shield law” (Act 2) from reproductive health care to “gender-affirming health care services,” creating sweeping immunities for providers who administer puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, surgeries, and related mental health interventions. It turns Hawaii into a sanctuary state for experimental procedures that multiple European nations and recent federal guidance have severely restricted or defunded due to weak evidence and documented harms. I urge you to vote **NO** and reject this dangerous expansion.

1. This Bill Shields Experimental and Irreversible Treatments on Children Despite Overwhelming Evidence of Harm

HB1875 HD1 defines “gender-affirming health care services” broadly to include interventions that suppress natural puberty, administer opposite-sex hormones, and perform surgeries—all for the purpose of aligning a minor’s body with their perceived gender identity. These treatments are **not** settled science.

The landmark 2024 Cass Review in the United Kingdom— an independent, comprehensive analysis of the evidence—concluded that the evidence base for puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones in minors is “remarkably weak.” It led the UK’s National Health Service to ban routine use of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria. Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark have similarly restricted or ended these practices for minors, citing risks of infertility, sexual dysfunction, bone density loss, cognitive impacts, and unknown long-term effects.

Recent federal action confirms this: In December 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services proposed (and is advancing) rules prohibiting federal Medicaid and CHIP funding for these “sex-rejecting procedures” on children, citing the same Cass Review findings and the lack of proven benefits versus clear harms. Hawaii should follow the science, not race ahead of it.

2. The Bill Undermines Parental Rights and Informed Consent

By shielding providers from out-of-state subpoenas, extradition, foreign judgments, and disciplinary actions (§323J-3, §323J-6, §836-2, etc.), the bill effectively allows minors—potentially from other states—to receive these life-altering treatments in Hawaii with minimal parental oversight from their home jurisdictions. It prohibits state agencies from cooperating with legitimate investigations and bars insurers and licensing boards from taking any adverse action against providers who offer these services.

Parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing and medical care of their children. This bill erodes that right, placing ideology above family autonomy. In Maui, where families are still healing from the 2023 wildfires and value community, cultural, and parental decision-making, this is unacceptable.

3. It Creates Unaccountable “Abusive Litigation” Protections and Forces Insurance Coverage

The bill defines virtually any lawsuit challenging these procedures as “abusive litigation” and allows providers (and even their employers) to countersue for damages, attorney fees, and punitive awards. This chills legitimate malpractice claims from detransitioners—young people who later regret irreversible sterility, loss of sexual function, or surgical complications.

Simultaneously, it prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from refusing coverage or taking adverse actions against providers solely for offering these services. Hawaii already mandates coverage via Act 39 (2022). This bill doubles down, forcing every Hawaii family’s insurance premiums to subsidize experimental care with no proven long-term benefit.

4. Constitutional and Practical Concerns

This legislation risks violating:

- Hawaii Constitution Article I, Section 6 (right to privacy and family autonomy) and parental rights protections.
- Due process and equal protection under the U.S. and Hawaii Constitutions by shielding one category of medical practice from normal accountability.
- Emerging federal policy under current HHS guidance protecting minors from these interventions.

Hawaii should protect vulnerable children, not create a safe harbor for procedures that countries with socialized medicine have rejected after rigorous review.

Recommendation

Vote **NO** on HB1875 HD1. Instead, direct the Department of Health to conduct its own independent evidence review modeled on the Cass Review, strengthen informed consent and parental involvement requirements, and prioritize mental health support that addresses underlying causes of gender dysphoria without irreversible medicalization.

Our keiki deserve evidence-based medicine, not political protection for controversial treatments. Mahalo for considering my testimony and for protecting Hawaii's children.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Perkins, Makawao, Maui, Hawaii

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

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am Gene Corpuz, and I live in Honolulu near Punahou School. I strongly support HB 1875 which protects providers of those receiving gender affirming care. As a gay man, I understand individuals who want to live an authentic life, and that includes transgender people seeking gender affirming care. With the support of their parents and doctors, they deserve the medical care needed to live a fulfilling life.

I urge you to support HB 1875 to protect people from out of state attacks to needed gender affirming care. Mahalo for your consideration

Gene Corpuz
1624 Dole St. Apt 1503, Honolulu, HI 96822
808-779-1965
gcorpuz15@aol.com

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:31:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm in support of this bill. Please hear our community. It is most important to ensure that individuals are free to make decisions about their body and medical care without dictation from strangers about what is and is not okay. Please protect all of Hawaii with this bill, do not set a precedent.

Thank you.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:01:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Kariya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose this bill that defies all logic. Why work so hard to promote more taking of life by increasing protections for those who abort babies and provide gender-affirming services. Please stop all of this focus on "caring" for doctors and physician assistants instead of caring for their troubled, distressed patients. Doesn't it make sense to lean on the side of the patients more than the doctors who are performing questionable and absolute life-changing procedures on our younger population. It makes no logical sense to work so hard to protect doctors who are doing such extreme and dramatic procedures. Err on the side of slowing down and acting conservatively in such delicate and controversial areas of health. Why must you be on the "cutting edge" of such practices?!? Thank you for considering my concern and consternation.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:30:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jonathan pudiquet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill is not the answer. It doesn't sound right. If it's wrong in other states it should be wrong in hawaii also.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:36:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Vaituulala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support House Bill 1875. I agree with previous testimonies that with increasing attacks on bodily autonomy, patient privacy, and evidence-based medical care across the country, it is imperative that Hawai'i ensures that our residents, providers, and families remain protected.

Mahalo nui loa,

Jacqueline Vaitu'ulala

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:08:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mardi Jaskot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1875, the Gender Affirming Care Shield Law

My name is Mardi Jaskot and I vote. I strongly support HB 1875. Protecting Health Care Providers from undue litigation protects patients and our communities here in Hawai'i. Making our state protections stronger is essential for a thriving Hawai'i. Please vote yes!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mardi Jaskot

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:01:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Vink	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1875
Relating to Gender-Affirming Health Care and Reproductive Health Care**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joy Vink, MD, and I am an obstetrician-gynecologist (OBGYN) practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

OBGYNs provide evidence-based, patient-centered care across the reproductive lifespan. HB1875 is critical because it ensures that patients can continue to access **lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i** without fear, and that health care professionals can provide that care without threat of abusive litigation, loss of licensure, or insurance retaliation.

This bill does **not** create new standards of care. Instead, it affirms that when clinicians practice **within accepted medical standards and Hawai‘i law**, they should not be punished by out-of-state legal actions, insurers, or licensing consequences. These protections are essential to maintaining a stable health care workforce and preserving access to care—particularly for patients who already face barriers.

HB1875 also appropriately strengthens patient privacy protections and limits the misuse of medical records in investigations unrelated to patient safety or professional misconduct.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Joy Vink, MD

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:03:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthone Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anthone Sanchez, and I am a proud queer man writing in strong support of HB1875.

I am a healthcare worker and a leader within our LGBTQ+ community here in Hawai‘i. I am speaking up and standing up for those who are unable to do so themselves due to the constant and growing threats facing the queer community. From my lived experience and my work within our community, I can say with certainty that members of our transgender community continue to face barriers when it comes to accessing gender-affirming healthcare.

Trained medical professionals should not be burdened by the political climate, rhetoric, or fear of current or future administrations, nor by the threat of litigation, when providing evidence-based, lifesaving medical care. This principle applies equally to reproductive healthcare and the rights of women to access that care.

HB1875 ensures that critical gaps in existing protections are filled so that healthcare professionals can focus on what they are trained to do: provide care. This bill helps prevent Hawai‘i from following the dangerous path seen in other states, where extreme abortion bans and political interference in medicine have created real healthcare crises and put lives at risk.

By passing HB1875, Hawai‘i reaffirms its commitment to protecting patients, supporting healthcare workers, and ensuring that medical decisions remain between patients and their providers. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:04:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abram Moreno	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB 1875 because it is unconstitutional and removed moral and legal rights of parents. God affirms a child's gender with X & Y Chromosome. Parents must have the right to make final decision on minor children and not the state.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:36:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Keona Sale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose HB1875 because it violates the citizens rights over their own children. a parent should have the right over their child not the state. A minor is not yet mature enough to make their own sound decisions. So I Oppose this bill for the safety of our children.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:42:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Doctors or others performing medical or other procedures should not be exempted from legal oversight. To my knowledge this has always been the law. This is the main reason for malpractice insurance. The proposed legislation would exempt doctors or others from legal oversight when performing gender or abortion related procedures. Such an exemption cannot be justified, particularly when minors are the subject procedure. Moreover, under all such circumstances, parents should be notified in advance and give authorization to irreversible, life changing procedure.

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:31:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Wailana Kukila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Please pass this legislation for the benefit of all our island's 'ohana. I fully support safe healthcare access for anyone in need of it, regardless of their race, color, or gender. We are one 'ohana, and we all deserve to thrive.

Mahalo,

Shana W. Kukila

Hilo, Hawai'i

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:45:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose HB 1875

HB-1875-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:21:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875.

Patients and health care providers should not have to worry about being investigated, sued, or punished for providing or receiving legal health care.

HB 1875 protects local providers from losing their licenses or facing out-of-state investigations simply for doing their jobs. It also ensures patients and the people who support them can access care without fear of being targeted by hostile states.

Please pass this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita