



**Chair San Buenaventura**  
**Vice Chair McKelvey**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Chair Keohokalole**  
**Vice Chair Fukunaga**  
**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**Friday, March 20, 2026**  
**9:30 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

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’s Public Health legislative committee is in **strong support** of **HB1875 HD2**.

**HB1875 HD2** 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% nationally<sup>1</sup>. Nationally, approximately 39%<sup>2</sup> 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 outcomes<sup>3</sup>. A 2024 national survey<sup>4</sup> 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.

Hawaii 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 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup>

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

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

# 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: Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and on Health and Human Services

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: March 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1875, H.D. 2  
Relating to Health Care

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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

Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and on Health and Human Services

March 20, 2026

Page 2 of 2

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 (starting at page 14 line 20) 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 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

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org)

March 18, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members

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

RE: **HB 1875-HD2 -- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

HEARING: Friday, March 20, 2026 @ 09:30 am; Conference Room 229

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports HB1875-HD2, with comments.

This bill is intended to update Hawai'i's existing shield law so it clearly protects both reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care that are lawful in Hawai'i. The bill more clearly addresses requests for protected health information in light of federal rule changes, adds protections against abusive lawsuits or other legal actions tied to lawful care, and bars malpractice insurers and health plans from penalizing providers just because they provide this care. This bill also makes clear that it is not creating any new health insurance coverage mandate. Overall, the bill helps patients, providers, and people who assist them feel safer from out-of-state interference while preserving access to lawful care in Hawai'i.

This bill provides practical protections that help keep Hawai'i's health care system stable and responsive. It expands Hawai'i's existing shield law to cover both reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care that are lawful here, clarifies when protected health information may be disclosed under updated federal rules, creates remedies against abusive lawsuits or other legal actions tied to lawful care, and prevents malpractice insurers and health carriers from penalizing providers just because

*HB 1875-HD2: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued.*

they offer that care. This bill also makes clear that it does not create any new health insurance coverage mandate. Overall, these changes help protect patient privacy, reduce legal risk for providers, and support continued access to lawful care in Hawai'i.

In closing, HD2 strengthens the bill by filling gaps in Hawai'i's current law, including adding protections related to updated federal privacy rules, giving people a way to respond to abusive out-of-state lawsuits, and protecting providers from being dropped or penalized by malpractice insurers or health plans solely for providing lawful care. It also makes clear that the bill does not require any new health insurance benefit. These added protections help make the law more workable in practice and give greater certainty to the people and providers who rely on it.

Thank you for hearing HB1875-HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



# 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](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com)  
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March 16, 2026

Senate's Committees on Health and Human Services & Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM

RE: **Strong Support for House Bill 1875 HD 2**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1875 HD 2 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 2**, 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 mähū, 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 2

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 2** 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](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com).

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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

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### [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.



## HIPHI Board

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Hawaiian Research Office

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, MBA  
Retired, Hawai'i State Department of  
Health

## 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: March 16, 2026

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

RE: Support for HB 1875 HD2, Relating To Health Care

Hrg: March 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM, Conference Room 229

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute,<sup>1</sup> **supports HB 1875 HD2** 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

### 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."<sup>4</sup>

Moreover, the American Psychological Association's (APA) Policy Statement on Affirming Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender,

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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

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



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.”<sup>5</sup>

### **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.”<sup>6</sup>

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.<sup>7</sup> 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Policy and Advocacy Associate

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<sup>5</sup> [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.

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

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



**HEARING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)  
AND COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION (CPN)**

March 20, 2026 | 9:30 AM | Conference Room 229 / Via Videoconference

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875 HD2 – Relating to Health Care

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, and Esteemed Members of the Committees:

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Stonewall Caucus in **strong support of HB1875 HD2 and ask you the pass the bill out of committees as-is, without further amendments.**

HB1875 HD2 strengthens Hawai'i's existing protections by ensuring that patients, families, and providers are protected when engaging in lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care. At a time when other states are attempting to extend their laws beyond their borders, this measure reinforces Hawai'i's sovereignty and commitment to evidence-based care:

**Protecting Healthcare in Hawai'i**

This bill is fundamentally about protecting healthcare in Hawai'i. It ensures that medical decisions remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

**Protecting Families and Providers**

Families and providers should not face fear of harassment, litigation, or professional retaliation for engaging in lawful care. HB1875 HD2 provides critical safeguards so that providers can continue serving their patients without undue risk.

**Preventing Out-of-State Overreach**

This measure helps prevent other states from using legal mechanisms to interfere with healthcare that is lawful in Hawai'i. It affirms that Hawai'i will not participate in or enable such overreach.

In Conclusion, HB1875 HD2 reflects Hawai'i's values of care, dignity, and respect. It sends a clear message that our state will protect lawful healthcare and those who provide and receive it.

I respectfully urge the committees to pass HB1875 HD2 as-is, without further amendments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)  
Chair, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



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

Website: [www.hokupac.org](http://www.hokupac.org) ♦ Email: [info@hokupac.org](mailto:info@hokupac.org)

March 16, 2026

Senate’s Committees on Health and Human Services & Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawai‘i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1875 HD 2 – Relating to RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, 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 2**.

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 2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and  
Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2 Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
McKelvey, and the Members of Committees

The members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for hearing this measure. We strongly support HB1875 HD2 which would protect the providers of gender-affirming health care services in Hawai'i from abusive litigation and adverse actions.

This legislation is a necessary and compassionate response to the escalating attacks on gender affirming and reproductive health care across the country.

By passing this bill, Hawai'i will:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Uphold Hawaii's core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom

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.*



March 16, 2026

Senate's Committees on Health and Human Services & Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM

RE: **Strong Support for House Bill 1875 HD 2**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs, 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 2**.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i submits this testimony in **strong support of House Bill 1875 HD 2**, 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 māhū, 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 māhū, 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 2

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 2** and urges the Committee to pass this critical measure.

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

In Solidarity,

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



Committee: Senate Committees on Health and Human Services & Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM  
Place: Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2: Relating to Health Care**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura & Keohokalole, Vice-Chairs McKelvey & Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HB1875 HD2**, 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.<sup>1</sup> While the visibility of mähū individuals has recently increased, ongoing barriers to gender-affirming care remain.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> Denying them this support increases their likelihood of dropping out of school and increases their risk for substance use, depression, anxiety,

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<sup>1</sup> Papa Ola Lōkahi. *No Ka Mähū Toolkit*. [https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/No\\_Ka\\_Mahui\\_v3.pdf](https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/No_Ka_Mahui_v3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Regidor, I., Haituka, 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](https://www.papaolalokahi.org/wp-content/uploads/Digital_1Page_Version_Layout_Hapuu_Report_July25.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> 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>

and suicide.<sup>4</sup> In 2023, 63% of Kanaka ʻŌiwi high school transgender youth or youth questioning their gender reported signs of depression.<sup>5</sup> In 2024, more than 1 in 3 transgender/unsure of gender youth attempted suicide.<sup>6</sup> This measure is essential to ensuring the well-being of Hawaiʻi'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.<sup>7</sup> 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 Hawaiʻi, we support protections from abusive litigation to allow those who are targeted by hostile states to defend themselves and to stop legal harassment 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. Hawaiʻi courts should not enforce out-of-state actions punishing legal care. Hawaiʻi must ensure that families, providers, and patients are not harmed by outside laws.

By passing this legislation, Hawaiʻi would join many other states and Washington, D.C., who have passed shield laws protecting access to gender-affirming care.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 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>. See ACLU National: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights/transgender-rights/transgender-people-and-health-care>

<sup>5</sup> Hawaiʻi State Departments of Education and Health, Hawaiʻi Health Data Warehouse, Hawaiʻi School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey. [https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/\\_YRBSSelection.html](https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html)

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Movement Advancement Project. *Transgender Healthcare "Shield" Laws*. [https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare/trans\\_shield\\_laws](https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare/trans_shield_laws)

<sup>9</sup> 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 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*Donavan Kamakani Albano*

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Policy Fellow

ACLU of Hawai'i

[dalbano@acluhawaii.org](mailto: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.*

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**LATE**

To: Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection & Health & Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 20, 2026 at 9:30am  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 415 and videoconference  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of HB 1875 HD2

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") strongly supports HB 1875 HD 2, 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.

We would like to offer one amendment to the definition of gender affirming care to be changed to the following: "Gender affirming health care services" means a service or product – including but not limited to all supplies, care, and services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, diagnostic, preventive, rehabilitative or supportive nature, including medication, that is consistent with the standard of care – to support and affirm an individual's actual gender identity, as defined in HRS 432:1-607.3. Gender affirming health care services includes, but is not limited to, treatment for gender dysphoria and gender incongruence, and the services may be prescribed to two spirit, mahu, transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and other gender diverse individuals.

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 HD2 to protect our providers. Thank you for your consideration.

## TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI PARSONS ON BEHALF OF ESSENTIAL ACCESS HEALTH IN SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB1875 HD2. 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 HD2**.

Mahalo,

**Essential Access Health**



oahupflag@gmail.com  
(808) 729-8609

pflag.org

**TO:** Chair Keokokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection; Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**FROM:** PFLAG O'ahu  
Dr. Camaron Miyamoto and Ryna Yamada, Co-Presidents

**DATE:** March 18, 2026

**RE: Strong Support of HB1875**

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the committees,

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.



**March 20, 2026 at 9:30 am**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

To: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey

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

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1875 HD 2, 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.



## **IN OPPOSITION TO SB2868 & HB1875: Hawaii's Malpractice Sanctuary Bill**

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii submits this testimony in unwavering opposition to SB2868 and HB1875. This legislation does not protect patients. It turns Hawaii into a safe haven for botched care and unaccountable doctors.

While the rest of the country is finally pushing back against unchecked medical overreach, Hawaii's one-party legislature is sprinting in the opposite direction. These bills supercharge the 2023 reproductive shield law to create a full-blown malpractice sanctuary for gender-affirming procedures. Doctors who have been sued, investigated, or stripped of privileges in other states for substandard or harmful practices can simply set up shop here with zero fear of real accountability.

The measure explicitly handcuffs Hawaii's professional licensing boards. Physicians, nurses, therapists, psychologists, and counselors who provide gender-affirming care (defined as hormones, surgeries, suppression of secondary sex characteristics, and related mental health services) are immune from discipline based on out-of-state actions. Even if they harmed patients elsewhere, Hawaii's boards are barred from acting. The bill blocks state cooperation with other jurisdictions, denies extradition, and declares bypasses laws in other states that are "contrary to Hawaii public policy."

This is insane. We believe in personal responsibility, **including for doctors**. When a practitioner harms a patient, that doctor should face consequences. Hawaii is proposing that they instead receive a government-issued get-out-of-liability-free card. Those who suffer complications will find it nearly impossible to obtain justice.

The bills also force insurance companies to cover the risk. Medical malpractice insurers are prohibited from refusing policies, canceling coverage, or raising rates based on the provider offering gender-affirming care. Health carriers cannot drop participating providers either. Insurers would be legally coerced into underwriting high-risk practices. This is pure government-mandated risk socialization and state-sanctioned cronyism.

Additionally, the legislation creates new "protections against abusive litigation" and clamps down on protected health information disclosures, which would make it exponentially harder for harmed patients and families to sue successfully. These bills build a fortress around favored practitioners while leaving patients defenseless.



**BREAKING NEWS**



## Hawaii Introduces Malpractice Sanctuary Bill

**SHIELDING PROSECUTED PRACTITIONERS SO  
THEY CAN PRACTICE ON HAWAII PATIENTS**

The so-called "health care" bill, introduced in January has now passed its third hearing in House. Don't let the innocent title fool you. This legislation is about creating a malpractice sanctuary where doctors who deliver botched gender-affirming procedures and face lawsuits elsewhere can set up shop in Hawaii with zero fear of real accountability.

**OPPOSE [SB2868](#) & [HB1875](#)**

[LibertarianHawaii.com](http://LibertarianHawaii.com)

The real victims here are Hawaii's patients, families, and taxpayers. The same legislature that cannot fix our roads, homelessness crisis, or failing schools has decided to make Hawaii the mainland's dumping ground for malpractice refugees. This is authoritarian medicine dressed up as progress. Patients should not need to seek out-of-state background checks when vetting new doctors.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii stands for real medical freedom, informed consent, free speech, and genuine

accountability through both due process and market forces. We reject government-mandated shields for politically favored procedures. Freedom includes the freedom to be held accountable, and this bill strips that away.

Protect basic healthcare ethics. **Kill these dangerous bills immediately.** Hawaii deserves better than becoming a sanctuary for unaccountable practitioners who profit while patients pay the price.

For our safety and accountability,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | [LibertarianHawaii.com](http://LibertarianHawaii.com) | (808)824-LPHI



Hawaii State Legislature  
Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1875 HD1 - Relating to Health Care

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

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' exclusion of providers based on 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



## Hawaii Medical Association

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Date: March 20, 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 HD2 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>.

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### **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



## HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 597-1441 • Fax: (808) 593-2149

March 20, 2026

The Thirty-Third Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Committee on Health and Human Services

### **SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs, and members of the committees:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is in strong support of HB1875 HD2 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 affect 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 tied to reproductive health care or gender-affirming care undermines economic security and erodes trust in the systems that working people rely on every day.

The updates in this measure reinforce those protections by ensuring that workers and providers are not penalized for lawful care. Strengthening these safeguards helps maintain access, supports providers, and protects patients from external pressures that interfere with medical decisions.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committees to pass HB1875 HD2.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Perreira". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Perreira  
President  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO



March 18, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1875 HD2**, Relating to Health Care

**To:** Senators Jarrett Keohokalole and Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chairs  
Senators Carol Fukunaga and Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chairs  
Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services

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

**Re:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committees for hearing this important bill. I would like to express our **strong support of HB1875 HD2** as it directly advances the Commission's mission to promote equality, health, and safety for women and girls in Hawaii. **HB1875 HD2 enables vital protections for those seeking and providing reproductive and gender-affirming health care**, areas that are central to bodily autonomy. It addresses key concerns regarding privacy, by clarifying the permissible disclosure of protected health information given evolving federal regulations, and it proactively shields health care providers from adverse actions based solely on their provision of these lawful services.

This bill helps ensure that individuals can access and deliver necessary health services without fear of discrimination, harassment, or legal 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** and are aligned with best practices. Additionally, the measure's outlined protections help **prevent the chilling effect that insurer actions can have on a provider's willingness to offer essential services**, thereby safeguarding access for patients. Lastly, clarifying the permitted disclosures of protected health information is **important for maintaining patient privacy, safety, and trust**.

We respectfully urge these Committees to **pass HB1875 HD2**, in support of individuals seeking health care, local providers, and patient privacy. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:05:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Support for HB1875 HD2 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter (HAAP), representing over 200 board-certified pediatricians across our islands, writes in strong support of HB1875 HD2. This measure is vital to ensuring that Hawaii remains a safe and supportive environment for the delivery of evidence-based, life-saving medical care.

[HB1875 HD2](#) 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 Hawaii. 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 Hawaii.
- 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 HD2](#), the Legislature will ensure that Hawaii'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 HD2 to protect our providers and the vulnerable youth we serve. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

# Hawaii Women's Coalition

March 18, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1875 HD2**, Relating to Health Care

**To:** Senators Jarrett Keohokalole and Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chairs  
Senators Carol Fukunaga and Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chairs  
Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services

**From:** Llasmin Chaine, Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition

**Re:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii Women's Coalition, a catalyst coalition for progressive, social, economic, and political change regarding critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls, I would like to thank the Committees for hearing this important bill. The Women's Coalition **supports HB1875 HD2**, as it seeks to expand and strengthen protections for those seeking and providing reproductive and gender-affirming health care services. Ensuring access to these essential health services without fear of discrimination, retaliation, or legal harassment is fundamental to achieving gender justice and safeguarding bodily autonomy.

This bill addresses several key barriers that have historically hindered access to necessary health care. By prohibiting adverse actions from medical malpractice insurers and health carriers against providers of lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care, HB1875 HD2 **removes a significant disincentive for health professionals to offer comprehensive care**. Additionally, the bill's provisions to clarify permitted disclosures of protected health information reflect a thoughtful response to evolving federal regulations, **helping to ensure patient privacy**.

The **establishment of protections against abusive litigation is especially important in the current climate**, where providers and patients may face legal threats intended to intimidate or obstruct access to care. National best practices underscore the importance of legal safeguards to prevent such tactics, which can have a chilling effect on both providers and those in need of care.

We respectfully recommend that the Committees **pass HB1875 HD2**, advancing health equity, patient privacy, and provider protections. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:27:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Testifying for Leeward Republican Women's Club	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I continue to vehemently oppose HB 1875 H.D.2.**

**The medical practices “protected” by this bill are inhumane and abusive to human dignity. Your constituents object when “reproductive healthcare” means at least one or more patients die. Many Americans oppose “gender-affirming” care to minors since so many young people regret the decision to let a surgeon mutilate their bodies and possibly render them unable to have children. These surgeries do not affirm the person's gender. They deny and damage the patient's biological attributes. Parents want protect their minor children from this type of abuse/predatation but the “privacy” provisions of this bill would prevent them from carrying out their guardian duties.**

**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 “detransitioning”/accepting their God given biological sex.**

**Forcing companies to provide malpractice insurance to cover medical professionals and facilities who perform these interventions must not be allowed. People and companies**

**that provide insurance must be allowed to opt out for ethical and conscience protections reasons.**

**No lawsuits submitted by a parent of a minor who had these procedures done to them are trivial or abusive and must be honored by the courts. We know that individuals permanently injured by these procedures (abortions and gender mutilation) are suing their physicians and medical facilities where these procedures were performed and at least one victim has been awarded \$2M. This is only the beginning of the lawsuits that states will have to endure. Taxpayers must not be liable for any of these fines/reparations.**

**The concept of “born in the wrong body” is a recent phenomenon with a high percentage of the cases being in individuals under the age of 35. Abstinence sex education programs in schools were replaced with “Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) programs developed by the organization Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S., founded in 1964. At that time health science transitioned into an approach to sex education programs that included emotional, relational, and identity-based topics. The gender confusion has been rampant since CSE 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%).**

**The sex propaganda taught under the name of CSE is confusing and negatively affecting our young people. Both procedures (abortion and sex altering surgeries) are detrimental to the mental and physical life of patients. A high percentage of post-operative patients commit suicide. Doctors shouldn't mutilate minors nor intentionally terminate the life of their pre-born babies. If they do, medical personnel and their medical facilities should be held responsible in a court of law for the damage they cause.**

**Do not pass HB 1875 H.D.2.**



**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 Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 20th, 2026  
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

**Re: HB 1875\_HD2, Relating to Health Care**  
**Position: STRONG SUPPORT, with request for amendments**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members:

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 HD2**.

HB1875 HD2 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 from out of state.

Importantly, HB1875 HD2 does **not** alter standards of medical practice. It does not mandate care, lower professional standards, or shield unlawful or negligent conduct. HB 1875 DOES provide protections for Hawaii's healthcare providers that are critical for maintaining our healthcare workforce, especially now when 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.

In addition, HB1875 HD2 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.

We have some concerns with one of the changes made in the HD2 – specifically the description of gender-affirming care on page 7. In order to ensure that this bill not only supports the practice of full-scope, evidence-based gender affirming healthcare, but also aligns with medical societies and health organizations who are experts in this field, we propose the following amendment:

Page 7, line 10:

~~“Gender-affirming health care services” means any health care service deemed medically necessary under applicable law”~~

“Gender-affirming health care services” means all supplies, care and services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, diagnostic, preventive, rehabilitative or supportive nature, including medication, relating to the treatment of gender dysphoria and gender incongruence in accordance with the accepted standard of care as defined by major medical professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the field of gender-affirming health care.

ACOG Hawai‘i strongly supports HB1875 HD2 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 HD2, **with a requested amendment.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Submitted Online: March 19, 2026

**TO:** Senate Committee on Health & Human Services  
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**POSITION:** Opposition to HB 1875 HD2 Relating to Healthcare

My name is Eva Andrade, and I serve as President of Hawaii Family Forum, a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. We respectfully oppose HB 1875 HD2.

HB 1875 HD2 expands Hawai‘i’s existing “shield law” framework, originally enacted in 2023, by extending its protections to include gender-affirming health care services. The bill also allows Hawai‘i courts, agencies, and entities to decline cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions, and creates new legal protections related to litigation and insurance practices.

While we recognize the importance of protecting individuals from harassment and ensuring access to lawful medical care, this bill raises several serious concerns.

First, HB 1875 HD 2 expands legal protections around a category of medical interventions that remain the subject of ongoing medical, ethical, and public debate—particularly when minors are involved. Recent developments within the medical community itself reflect growing caution. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons<sup>i</sup> has stated that there is insufficient evidence demonstrating a favorable risk-benefit profile for surgical interventions in minors and recommends deferring such procedures. This underscores the need for humility and restraint, not expanded legal insulation.

Second, the bill creates a framework that limits cooperation with out-of-state legal proceedings. While intended to protect providers, this approach places Hawai‘i in the middle of emerging interstate legal conflicts that courts across the country are only beginning to address. Questions related to constitutional principles such as full faith and credit, interstate discovery, and jurisdiction remain unsettled and could result in prolonged litigation.



Third, although the bill does not explicitly alter Hawai'i's parental consent laws, it introduces complexity in situations where families span multiple states or where parents disagree about significant medical decisions. In those cases, custody disputes are typically handled by the child's home state, but access to evidence—such as medical records or provider testimony—may be complicated by shield law provisions. This creates the potential for multi-state legal conflicts that may take considerable time to resolve.

Finally, the bill includes provisions addressing so-called “abusive litigation,” which may allow for counterclaims and damages in certain circumstances. While intended to deter improper lawsuits, such provisions risk discouraging legitimate legal claims and may contribute to escalating legal disputes across state lines.

At its core, this bill raises an important policy question: how to balance access to care with accountability, transparency, and the protection of vulnerable individuals—especially children.

From a values perspective, many in our community believe that compassion must be accompanied by caution, particularly when medical decisions carry permanent consequences. Public policy should prioritize safeguards, uphold the role of parents, and ensure that medical practices remain subject to appropriate oversight.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committees to oppose HB 1875 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>i</sup>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>

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>

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>



**To: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 20th, 2026 9:30 AM**

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1875 HD2**

**Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committees:**

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports HB 1875 HD 2** 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. Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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



March 20, 2026

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

**Re: HB 1875 HD2– RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1875 HD2, 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 health care services.

HMSA appreciates legislators' efforts to expand and strengthen legal protections for individuals and providers, particularly considering the changing federal landscape. While we fully support the intent of this measure, we believe there are still a few areas where targeted amendments could help to fully achieve the bill's goals. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with the Legislature to refine the language in a manner that best advances that intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1875 HD2.

Sincerely,

Walden Au  
Director of Government Relations



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Mar 20, 2026

#### MISSION

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** HB1875 HD2 – Relating to Health Care

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) is a statewide Center for Independent Living (CIL) that serves people of all ages and all disabilities across Hawaii. We write in **strong support of HB1875 HD2.**

Independent Living is grounded in self-determination, privacy, and bodily autonomy. Disabled people, including youth and adults who are LGBTQIA+, face higher rates of discrimination, violence, and health disparities when trying to access reproductive and gender-affirming health care. Shielding patients, families, and providers from out-of-state interference and abusive litigation is essential so that disabled people can make their own health decisions and receive care where they live.

HB1875 HD2 expands Hawaii's existing protections under Act 2 (2023) to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies that protected health information cannot be disclosed for out-of-state attempts to criminalize or penalize lawful care in Hawaii. The bill creates remedies against "abusive litigation" targeting people who access, provide, or assist with lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care, and it makes clear that ordinary insurance disputes over coverage, medical necessity, fraud, waste, or abuse are not treated as abusive litigation. These provisions are critical



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

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to prevent harassment and intimidation of disabled consumers, families, and providers.

HB1875 HD2 also prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking adverse actions against providers solely because they provide lawful reproductive or gender-affirming health care services in Hawaii, so long as the care is consistent with generally accepted standards of practice and state law. When providers can practice without fear of targeted insurance or contract retaliation, disabled people in rural and underserved communities are more likely to retain access to the trusted providers they rely on for ongoing, community-based care.

For disabled people in Hawaii, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, or otherwise gender diverse, losing access to gender-affirming or reproductive health care can increase mental health crises, suicidality, and risk of institutionalization. Protecting this care within Hawaii's borders is consistent with our State constitutional commitments to equality, liberty, and privacy, and supports disabled residents to live in the community with control over their own bodies and health decisions.

For these reasons, AILH respectfully urges the Committees to **pass HB1875 HD2**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Roxanne Bolden  
Executive Director

Aloha Chairs, Vice chairs,

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 strongly support 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.**"

Mahalo,  
Dale VanderBrink

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:35:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sylvia Romm	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Sylvia Romm. I am a board-certified pediatrician, Chair of the Board of Directors of Project HEAL, and a nominee to the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission. I am writing in strong support of HB 1875 HD2.

This bill matters because the patients and families I serve are afraid. In my pediatric practice, I have cared for LGBTQ+ youth and their families, including young people who are transgender and gender expansive. I also have close family members who are gender expansive. What I see in clinical practice and experience personally is the same: families are frightened about what will happen if they seek the affirming care their children need. That fear is not abstract. It is grounded in a real and rapidly shifting federal landscape in which protections for gender-affirming care are being eroded, and in which providers who offer this care face increasing legal and professional risk.

HB 1875 HD2 addresses that fear directly and on multiple fronts:

- By extending the protections of Act 2, SLH 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services, this bill sends a clear message that Hawai'i will not leave its most vulnerable youth and their providers unprotected.
- By clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information in response to shifting federal regulations, it closes gaps that could otherwise be used to expose patients or providers.
- By prohibiting medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking adverse actions against providers solely because they offer gender-affirming care, it addresses one of the most powerful levers of chilling effect on clinical practice.

As a pediatrician, I know that when providers fear professional or legal consequences for delivering evidence-based, affirming care, they stop providing it. That is not a theoretical outcome. It is already happening in states that have moved in the opposite direction from Hawai'i. The result is that youth who need care cannot access it, families who are already navigating enormous challenges are left without support, and the health disparities that disproportionately affect LGBTQ+ youth, particularly those who are also BIPOC, deepen further.

As Chair of the Board of Project HEAL, a national nonprofit working at the intersection of mental health equity, eating disorders, and LGBTQ+ and BIPOC community advocacy, I have seen the compounding harm that comes when systemic barriers prevent people with multiple marginalized identities from accessing care. LGBTQ+ youth of color face elevated rates of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and suicidality. Affirming care, including gender-affirming care, is not optional for these young people. It is lifesaving. This bill protects the providers who deliver that care.

As a nominee to the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission, I am committed to ensuring that state policy reflects the real needs of Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ community. HB 1875 HD2 is exactly the kind of proactive, protective legislation that demonstrates Hawai'i's commitment to leading with aloha in a moment when federal leadership on these issues has faltered.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 1875 HD2.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Dr. Sylvia Romm, MD

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:46:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I APPOSE HB1875!

This bill is an open door for the mutilation of young girls and boys with irreparable damage!  
This also removes the parental consent and gives the state access to children under the age of consent! A'ole!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:29:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rick Ramirez	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

As a medical healthcare provider, this bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and us as medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's laws from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration

Dr. Rick Ramirez, DNP, APRN, AGACNP-BC, FNP-BC, ENP-C

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:33:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keoholole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukanaga and McKelvey, and all the members of the committee,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1875 HD2. 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:08:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Haylin Dennison	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hey folx! The news continues to be littered with disturbing anti-trans news and we have the opportunity to make impactful change here in Hawai'i, protecting trans and reproductive healthcare. Let's keep up the momentum as HB1875 makes its way to the Senate!!

Please submit testimony (yes, again, and hopefully not the last time either) NOW for a joint hearing this Friday.



**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:30:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D Dangaran	Individual	Support	In Person

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.

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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-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:11:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Johansen	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Scott Johansen. Individual in strong support of hb1875 hd2

Please support hb1875. Hd2. As we have heard from many medical providers here today gender affirming care in its many forms is health care. It saves lives.

Support of this bill will help allow our citizens of this state. Our neighbors and our ohana to get the health care that they need and deserve.

Please vote yes on hb1875 hd2

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:33:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committees,**

**I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. As a member of this community, I believe every person and 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:24:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Senator Keohokalole, CPN, and Senator San Buenaventura, HHS

Vice Chairs Senator Fukanaga, CPN, and Senator McKelvey, HHS

and Committee Members

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.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:29:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jill guillermo-togawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I write to request your support of HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.

I am proud that in Hawai‘i we most often support everyone’s wellbeing, and are not easily swayed by outside pressures.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Jill Guillermo-Togawa

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:49:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident, a registered voter, and a member of IndivisibleHawaii. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill will protect our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

Mahalo.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:49:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:37:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:11:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing in strong support of HB 1875, HD2, which expands protections for gender-affirming health care services and reinforces our state's commitment to equality, equity, and fairness in health care. This bill represents a critical step toward ensuring that all Hawai'i residents can access the care they need without fear of discrimination, legal retaliation, or professional consequences.

At its core, this bill embodies the fundamental principle of health care equity—that every person deserves access to medically necessary care regardless of their gender identity or expression. By extending the protections established in Act 2 (2023) to include gender-affirming health care services, the legislature affirms that transgender and gender-diverse individuals deserve the same rights to bodily autonomy and privacy that are already protected for reproductive health care.

The bill addresses three critical dimensions of fairness:

- 1. Protection from Abusive Litigation:** The bill establishes clear legal protections against "abusive litigation" targeting those who seek, provide, or assist with lawful gender-affirming care. This is essential equity, as it prevents wealthier jurisdictions from weaponizing their legal systems against vulnerable individuals who are simply accessing medically necessary care in accordance with Hawai'i law and medical best practices.
- 2. Professional Protection:** By prohibiting medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking adverse actions against providers solely for offering lawful gender-affirming care, the bill ensures that our healthcare workforce can serve all patients without fear of economic retaliation. This promotes fairness for both providers and patients who deserve access to qualified professionals.
- 3. Information Privacy:** The bill strengthens protections for sensitive health information, ensuring that patient privacy is maintained regardless of the political climate elsewhere. This is particularly crucial for gender-diverse individuals who often face disproportionate privacy violations and discrimination.

The legislation thoughtfully preserves necessary oversight mechanisms while preventing discrimination. It allows for legitimate disciplinary actions based on actual violations of medical standards rather than on the provision of legally protected care. This balanced approach maintains professional accountability while advancing equity.

I commend the legislature for recognizing that health care is not a political issue but a fundamental human right. By passing this bill, Hawai'i sends a clear message that we stand with our transgender and gender-diverse residents and will not allow external political pressures to undermine their access to essential care.

For the sake of equality, for the principle of fairness, and for the health and wellbeing of all Hawai'i residents, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1875, HD2.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:49:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

As someone who just had to leave Hawai'i for surgery, it is critical that medical decisions that literally save lives remain in the hands of patients and providers.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lisa Pollak, Kauai

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:04:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Committees,

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 a member of this community, a healthcare provider and family member of several transgender people, I see firsthand how important it is that Hawai‘i act now to shield health care decisions from out-of-state political interference.

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 leave the state 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 Hawaii. Passing HB1875 would send a powerful message that Hawai‘i will stand with them and defend their right to receive lawful medical care. It is unacceptable that they should not have access to the care that addresses their specific health needs - everyone deserves good healthcare.

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-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:22:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

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-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:35:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha HHS and CPN Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I write in strong support of HB1875 HD2. 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:55:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Dear** Chair Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey, Chair Keohokalole, and Vice-Chair Fukanaga,

I strongly **support** this measure.

As a community member with many years' experience advocating for the health of underserved members of our community, I know how hard it is for many individuals to access the care they need.

I strongly support HB 1875 HD2 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 this measure.

Mahalo

Tom Sheeran

Mo'ili'ili

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:00:15 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr Karen Parsell Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a pediatrician at Kapi'olani Medical Center and am asking for you to kindly strongly support this bill for the children of Hawai'i. This will help our children survive into a joyful life with the evidence based care provided to them by their doctors supporting their true selves.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:18:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, as a physician I am writing in support of protecting access to gender affirming care for our transgender community. I find it appalling that politicians with no medical training or understanding of the transgender community are making decisions involving medical care. In the case of the transgender community this appears to be based on ignorance and discrimination and the results could be devastating to an already vulnerable community. I ask that you help protect the members of the transgender community. Mahalo!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:50:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

As a Christian, I have to admit that a lot of the over-reach is originating from my religious community (and specific sections of it at that). As a result, the attempts to turn the beliefs of specific Christian denominations into laws both at the state and federal level are deeply rooted in their interpretation "how things should be." Their views do not reflect those of the broader state or country.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Re: **HB1875** RELATING TO HEALTH CARE- IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD and I am a pediatrician on Maui where I have been treating keiki for the last 12 years. My testimony is my own and not representative of others. I am writing to testify in strong 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 lifesaving care and Hawaii should be known as a safe place that shows ALOHA for this community. I encourage you to support HB1875 and let your voting record show you were on the right side of history.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns on this important issue for our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD  
Pediatrics Chair, CCM

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:39:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Linda Kim, APRN

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:46:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lisa Lee

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:50:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

Supporting HB1875 will ensure continued care for our patients by protecting the practice of those of us who care for them.

Hawai‘i should not be subject to loss of clinicians due to overreach from the continent.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:06:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:15:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 HB1875HD2 (companion bill SB2868). 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 HB1875HD2/SB2868 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 HB1875HD2/SB2868.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:23:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1895 HD2

Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB10

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:44:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I ask for your support of HB1875.

We must act to explicitly protect healthcare access for all Hawai'i citizens. This bill helps protect the ability for patients and healthcare providers to make medical decisions in accordance with Hawai'i law and established standards of care, without outside interference.

Mahalo

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:09:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB 1875 HD 2 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT DANIELLE GOREN**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875, as an individual and resident of Lahaina, and a member of Indivisible Hawai'i, and the ACLU.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:17:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:55:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing today in strong support of HB 1875. With federal protections for healthcare, and civil rights for LGBTQ folks, we are in dire need for the state to protect this community from further discrimination. Expanding gender-affirming care for folks, will be lifesaving and keep our communities safer. Mahalo, Mariana

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:01:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Options to gender affirming care saved my life as a Mahu and transgender person. Hawaii is one of the few places I feel safe. I support HB1875 to continue making Hawaii a safe place to be your authentic self.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:14:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB 1875 HD 2 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875, as an individual and resident of Lahaina, and a member of Indivisible Hawai'i, and the ACLU.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, HI

March 15, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Kathleen A. O'Dell, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of this measure relating to health care that expands Hawai'i's protections for **reproductive health care services and gender-affirming health care services**, safeguards **protected health information**, and establishes remedies against **abusive litigation**.

Hawai'i has long affirmed that people deserve to make personal health care decisions with dignity, privacy, and access to qualified providers. This bill is an important—and timely—step to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where patients can receive lawful care and where providers can practice evidence-informed, ethical care **without fear of harassment, retaliation, or out-of-state legal intimidation**.

### **1) Protecting patients' privacy and safety**

This measure strengthens the existing framework in Chapter 323J by clarifying that **covered entities may not use or disclose protected health information** to facilitate investigations or proceedings that would punish people for seeking, obtaining, providing, or supporting lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care. In practice, this protects patients from having their most sensitive medical information weaponized across jurisdictions.

Privacy is not a political concept—it is a foundational condition for effective health care. When individuals fear exposure, stigma, or legal consequences, they delay or avoid care. That harms physical health, mental well-being, and family stability. By reinforcing confidentiality and requiring an attestation for certain types of disclosures, this bill supports patient trust and helps ensure that clinical settings remain safe places to seek help.

### **2) Deterring “abusive litigation” and protecting Hawai'i providers**

The bill wisely creates a civil remedy for people harmed by **abusive litigation**—legal actions brought to punish lawful care. Even when ultimately unsuccessful, these actions impose severe burdens: legal costs, professional disruption, reputational harm, and stress that can drive providers out of practice or out of state.

Hawai'i cannot control what other jurisdictions may attempt, but Hawai'i can—and should—ensure that our residents and providers have clear protections and meaningful remedies when out-of-state litigation is used as a tool of intimidation. The bill's injunctive relief, damages, fee shifting, and punitive damages provisions are appropriate deterrents to prevent this kind of harassment.

### **3) Preventing insurance and network retaliation**

This bill also protects the health care infrastructure by prohibiting **medical malpractice insurers** and **health carriers** from taking adverse actions against providers solely because they provide lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care consistent with generally accepted standards in Hawai'i.

These protections matter. Even subtle insurance penalties or contract terminations can have a chilling effect on provider participation, reduce access, and create “care deserts,” especially for rural communities and neighbor islands. Hawai'i should not allow a backdoor erosion of access through insurance or network decisions that punish lawful, medically appropriate care.

#### **4) Ensuring licensed professionals are not punished for lawful care**

The conforming updates across professional licensing statutes help ensure that Hawai'i does not automatically mirror out-of-state disciplinary actions when those actions are based on conduct that is lawful here. This is essential for maintaining a stable and adequate workforce, including physicians, nurses, counselors, psychologists, and marriage and family therapists—professionals who are urgently needed across our islands.

### **Closing**

At its core, this bill is about **protecting patient privacy, preserving access to lawful care, and safeguarding Hawai'i's health care workforce from intimidation and retaliation**. It affirms Hawai'i's public policy: health care decisions belong in the exam room—guided by patients, families, and qualified professionals—not in out-of-state courtrooms designed to punish people for seeking care that is lawful here.

For these reasons, I urge you to **pass this measure**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Dr. Kathleen A. O'Dell**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:52:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

please support this bill, it is very important to maintain a safety. net of needed healthcare for our ohana

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:59:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,**

**I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.**

**This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.**

**Mahalo for your consideration.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:16:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta Morolt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

## Why We Should Oppose HB 1875 HD2

### 1. Expands Hawai‘i’s shield law to a new category of medical care

**Top Line:** HB 1875 HD2 extends Hawai‘i’s existing shield law to include gender-affirming health care services.

While Hawai‘i’s shield law was originally limited to reproductive services, this bill expands those same legal protections to a broader and more debated category of care. This raises concerns about extending legal insulation to medical interventions that continue to be the subject of ongoing medical, ethical, and public discussion.

### 2. Limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions

**Top Line:** The bill allows Hawai‘i to decline cooperation with certain legal actions from other states.

HB 1875 HD2 permits courts and state entities to refuse participation in certain investigations or legal proceedings originating from other states. While intended to protect providers, this approach may reduce transparency and create legal conflicts between states with different laws and policies.

### 3. Expands legal protections that may reduce accountability

**Top Line:** The bill creates additional legal barriers to reviewing or challenging certain medical decisions.

By expanding shield law protections, the bill may make it more difficult in some cases for legal claims or disputes to be fully examined—particularly when they involve multiple states or complex circumstances. Medical care should remain subject to appropriate oversight and review.

#### **4. Alters how insurers can respond to provider risk**

**Top Line:** The bill restricts how malpractice insurers can take action related to certain services.

**The bill still puts limits on how insurers can respond to potential risks, even if those concerns are based on data and experience.**

#### **5. Confirms broad application without limiting scope**

**Top Line:** The bill applies broadly to “gender-affirming health care services” without distinguishing between types of patients.

Although the bill does not change who may receive care under Hawai‘i law, its protections apply to the category of care itself. This means the legal effects of the bill may extend to a wide range of situations, including those involving complex family or multi-state legal circumstances.

#### **6. Raises important questions about balance and policy direction**

**Top Line:** The bill shifts the balance toward legal protection over oversight.

At its core, HB 1875 HD2 reflects a policy choice to prioritize protection from out-of-state legal actions. However, this shift raises important questions about accountability, transparency, and how best to safeguard patients—especially when medical decisions may have long-term consequences.

#### **7. May create complications in multi-state family situations**

**Top Line:** The bill could make certain family disputes more complex when parents live in different states.

In situations where parents share custody but live in different states, disagreements over medical decisions can already be difficult to resolve. Because this bill limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions, it may add complexity to how those disputes are handled—particularly when courts need access to information across state lines.



**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:56:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because:

**1. Expands Hawai‘i’s shield law to a new category of medical care**

**Top Line:** HB 1875 HD2 extends Hawai‘i’s existing shield law to include gender-affirming health care services.

While Hawai‘i’s shield law was originally limited to reproductive services, this bill expands those same legal protections to a broader and more debated category of care. This raises concerns about extending legal insulation to medical interventions that continue to be the subject of ongoing medical, ethical, and public discussion.

**2. Limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions**

**Top Line:** The bill allows Hawai‘i to decline cooperation with certain legal actions from other states.

HB 1875 HD2 permits courts and state entities to refuse participation in certain investigations or legal proceedings originating from other states. While intended to protect providers, this approach may reduce transparency and create legal conflicts between states with different laws and policies.

**3. Expands legal protections that may reduce accountability**

**Top Line:** The bill creates additional legal barriers to reviewing or challenging certain medical decisions.

By expanding shield law protections, the bill may make it more difficult in some cases for legal claims or disputes to be fully examined—particularly when they involve multiple states or complex circumstances. Medical care should remain subject to appropriate oversight and review.

#### **4. Alters how insurers can respond to provider risk**

**Top Line:** The bill restricts how malpractice insurers can take action related to certain services.

**The bill still puts limits on how insurers can respond to potential risks, even if those concerns are based on data and experience.**

#### **5. Confirms broad application without limiting scope**

**Top Line:** The bill applies broadly to “gender-affirming health care services” without distinguishing between types of patients.

Although the bill does not change who may receive care under Hawai‘i law, its protections apply to the category of care itself. This means the legal effects of the bill may extend to a wide range of situations, including those involving complex family or multi-state legal circumstances.

#### **6. Raises important questions about balance and policy direction**

**Top Line:** The bill shifts the balance toward legal protection over oversight.

At its core, HB 1875 HD2 reflects a policy choice to prioritize protection from out-of-state legal actions. However, this shift raises important questions about accountability, transparency, and how best to safeguard patients—especially when medical decisions may have long-term consequences.

#### **7. May create complications in multi-state family situations**

**Top Line:** The bill could make certain family disputes more complex when parents live in different states.

In situations where parents share custody but live in different states, disagreements over medical decisions can already be difficult to resolve. Because this bill limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions, it may add complexity to how those disputes are handled—particularly when courts need access to information across state lines.

I respectfully ask you to vote no.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:11:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:20:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Please approve the Bill

Mahalo

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:35:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Micaela Hines, and I am writing in strong support of HB1875.

Hawai‘i has long been a leader in protecting access to health care and safeguarding the rights and well-being of its communities. HB1875 continues that legacy by ensuring that patients and providers involved in gender-affirming care are protected from out-of-state interference, legal threats, and attempts to criminalize care that is lawful in our state.

Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary care that supports the health and well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. Patients seeking this care deserve privacy, dignity, and protection, not the threat of legal action from jurisdictions with different laws and values.

HB1875 establishes clear protections that prevent state resources from being used to enforce out-of-state laws that penalize lawful care provided in Hawai‘i. It also helps ensure that providers can continue offering care without the risk of being targeted for doing their jobs in accordance with Hawai‘i law.

Without these protections, both patients and providers may face significant barriers, including fear of legal repercussions, disruptions in care, and reduced access to essential services. This would have a disproportionate impact on already marginalized communities.

Protecting access to gender-affirming care is a matter of health equity, privacy, and basic human rights. I respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s commitment to being a safe and supportive place for all people.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Micaela Hines

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:39:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill so trans and mahu youth and adults plus their providers can be sheilded from malicious out of state attacks.

Mahalo,

Skyler Riela

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:47:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and all Members of the Committees.

My name is Carla Allison and I **strongly support HB1875**. I am a Hawai'i resident and voter, deeply concerned for the care, treatment and civil liberties of all the people of Hawai'i.

As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. **HB1875** helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i by protecting families and medical providers following our laws and preserves Hawai'i's sovereignty from out-of-state overreach.

Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

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

**Dear Senators,**

**I strongly oppose HB 1875 HD2 based on the following points:**

**1. Expands Hawai‘i’s shield law to a new category of medical care**

**Top Line:** HB 1875 HD2 extends Hawai‘i’s existing shield law to include gender-affirming health care services.

While Hawai‘i’s shield law was originally limited to reproductive services, this bill expands those same legal protections to a broader and more debated category of care. This raises concerns about extending legal insulation to medical interventions that continue to be the subject of ongoing medical, ethical, and public discussion.

**2. Limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions**

**Top Line:** The bill allows Hawai‘i to decline cooperation with certain legal actions from other states.

HB 1875 HD2 permits courts and state entities to refuse participation in certain investigations or legal proceedings originating from other states. While intended to protect providers, this approach may reduce transparency and create legal conflicts between states with different laws and policies.

**3. Expands legal protections that may reduce accountability**

**Top Line:** The bill creates additional legal barriers to reviewing or challenging certain medical decisions.

By expanding shield law protections, the bill may make it more difficult in some cases for legal claims or disputes to be fully examined—particularly when they involve multiple states or complex circumstances. Medical care should remain subject to appropriate oversight and review.

**4. Alters how insurers can respond to provider risk**

**Top Line:** The bill restricts how malpractice insurers can take action related to certain services.

The bill still puts limits on how insurers can respond to potential risks, even if those concerns are based on data and experience.

**5. Confirms broad application without limiting scope**

**Top Line:** The bill applies broadly to “gender-affirming health care services” without distinguishing between types of patients.

Although the bill does not change who may receive care under Hawai‘i law, its protections apply to the category of care itself. This means the legal effects of the bill may extend to a wide range of situations, including those involving complex family or multi-state legal circumstances.

## **6. Raises important questions about balance and policy direction**

**Top Line:** The bill shifts the balance toward legal protection over oversight.

At its core, HB 1875 HD2 reflects a policy choice to prioritize protection from out-of-state legal actions. However, this shift raises important questions about accountability, transparency, and how best to safeguard patients—especially when medical decisions may have long-term consequences.

## **7. May create complications in multi-state family situations**

**Top Line:** The bill could make certain family disputes more complex when parents live in different states.

In situations where parents share custody but live in different states, disagreements over medical decisions can already be difficult to resolve. Because this bill limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions, it may add complexity to how those disputes are handled—particularly when courts need access to information across state lines.

Cynthia A Dorflinger

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:52:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Crissi Doyle. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of this measure to expand protections for gender-affirming and reproductive health care services in Hawai'i.

Access to lawful, medically necessary care is essential to the health, safety, and dignity of many residents. This measure strengthens protections for both patients and providers, safeguards sensitive health information, and helps ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where individuals can live with security and respect.

As a transgender woman, I know personally how important access to gender-affirming care can be to overall well-being and quality of life.

I respectfully urge passage of this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,

Crissi Doyle

Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:54:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sara Harris, 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,  
Sara C Harris MD

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:20:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1875 and I urge you to oppose this bill and stand for the protection of Hawai'i's keiki, the role of parents, and the importance of ethical and accountable medical care.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:20:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:33:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Buenaventura, Keohokalole & Rhoads, Vice Chairs McKelvey, Fukunaga & Gabbard and Committee Members,

I strongly and respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

Given the current trend in some states to punish patients and providers for seeking and providing gender-affirming care and reproductive healthcare, a shield law such as HB1875 is necessary.

Practitioners providing legal services in Hawai‘i should be protected from lawsuits, loss of medical license, increases in insurance rates, etc. regardless of laws established in other states.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ebata

Kauai

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:37:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kapa'au,

Thank you for your service to the people of our state. I am the pastor of Kalahikiola Church writing as a concerned citizen to express my opposition to HB 1875 HD2.

Bottom line, there is a good reason why acknowledging God's beautiful and wise distinction between male and female is so widely supported all over the world.

The language of gender affirming is used --- but never clearly defined – in this bill.

This proposed expansion of Hawaii's shield law raises concerns about extending legal insulation to medical interventions that continue to be the subject of ongoing medical, ethical, and public discussion.

Declining cooperation with out of state legal actions can backfire by reducing transparency and create legal conflicts between states with different laws and policies.

The bill also will make it harder for legal claims when medical care is wrongly delivered.

The bill restricts how malpractice insurers can act related to certain services.

The bill still puts limits on how insurers can respond to potential risks, even if those concerns are based on data and experience.

In summary, this bill takes Hawaii away from the wake up call that is going in Europe and across the mainland that messing with God's design for male and female for life causes a lifetime of pain and confusion for children, families, and society.

I urge you to listen to some of the many who have de-transitioned – if you can access their often-suppressed testimonies!

Praying the Lord will give you much wisdom and understanding for your challenging work!

Respectfully, Mark Blair

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:20:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Elizabeth Weltin, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2868 / HB1875.

I am a former provider of women’s health care, and I know firsthand how vulnerable providers and patients can be when offering necessary, evidence-based medical care in a hostile or uncertain legal environment. If protections like those proposed in this bill had existed when I was practicing, they would have provided meaningful reassurance—both for me as a provider and for the patients who depended on me.

This bill matters because it protects people—not politics. It ensures that families, patients, and health care providers in Hawai‘i are not punished or intimidated for providing or receiving medical care that is legal, ethical, and guided by professional standards in our state.

Across the country, we are seeing an alarming increase in efforts to criminalize gender-affirming health care and to reach across state lines to interfere with private medical decisions. These actions create fear for families, place providers at legal risk, and undermine trust in the health care system. Hawai‘i should not—and must not—be complicit in that harm.

SB2868 / HB1875 builds on the protections Hawai‘i already enacted under Act 2 (SLH 2023) by explicitly extending shield protections to gender-affirming health care. It also provides much-needed clarity around child-custody jurisdiction, helping to prevent families from being dragged into unjust legal battles simply for seeking appropriate care for their children.

Gender-affirming care is health care. Decisions about medical treatment belong between patients, families, and qualified providers—not politicians in other states. Shield laws ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where medical professionals can practice without fear of out-of-state retaliation and where families can make deeply personal decisions with privacy and dignity.

As of now, 18 states and Washington, DC have enacted shield laws for gender-affirming care. Hawai‘i has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to stand clearly among them and affirm our values of inclusion, compassion, and personal freedom.

Passing this bill will:

- Protect patients and families from unjust legal actions
- Safeguard medical providers from out-of-state prosecution or discipline
- Preserve patient privacy and medical autonomy
- Reaffirm Hawai‘i’s commitment to equity, safety, and human dignity

I respectfully urge you to pass SB2868 / HB1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your commitment to the people of Hawai‘i.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Weltin

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:35:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In supprt

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:22:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill to protect the healthcare of some of our most vulnerable. This is lifesaving and life-improving work.

Mahalo nui!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:47:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,*

*I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.*

*This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.*

*Mahalo for your consideration.*

Kate Mouery

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:04:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please protect our trans ohana. Show aloha.

Mahalo, Maile from Honolulu

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:39:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

“Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

As a pediatrician in the Maui community, I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

Providers, patients and their families should feel safe in providing or obtaining medical care in accordance to Hawai'i laws, without fear of out-of-state overreach.

Mahalo for your consideration.”

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:40:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Schmidt	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. Every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Andrea

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:57:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB1875. As a primary care physician on Maui, I feel strongly that we need to protect providers, and the families they serve, from out of state overreach over provider-patient relationships. Decisions about care should be made between providers and patients, consistent with Hawai'i state law.

Mahalo,

Dr Kearns

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:01:11 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Amanda Martinez, MPH

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:02:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. Having studied HB 1875 in detail I submit my testimony in strong support of it. Every person in Hawai'i deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. Hawai'i must be free to do what's best for Hawai'i. My viewpoint is "Hands off Hawai'i."

David Cuthbert, Pahoa

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:29:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,*

*I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.*

*This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.*

*Mahalo for your consideration.*

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:01:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a Primary Care Physician with Preventive Health Care training. My goal is to maximize public and individual health and quality of life. I have cared for multiple adults whose mental health has improved after receiving appropriate transgender care-surgery, hormones, appropriate preventive screening. I have seen, and the literature shows, that people become abstinent from substances of abuse, have decreased suicidal ideation, and have improved quality of life with appropriate care. A recent article in JAMA Surgery showed that people receiving gender affirming surgery had lower odds of smoking, suicidal ideation and endorsed better mental health. Other studies show that hormone therapy reduced depression and suicidality in a meaningful way, even eliminating suicidality for many people. Since transgender people experience a higher amount of suicidality, this is an effective public health intervention to improve outcomes.

Thank you for considering this bill.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:05:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Sue Shepherd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PROTECT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS!!

MAHALO

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:49:29 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support health care for ALL people , most especially our transgender youth, of whom I have known MANY well . These bright young human beings deserve all the support they can get. Please Hawaii legislators... show you care and vote to support HB1875 , yours sincerely  
Amanda McCullough

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Friday, March 20, 2026 at 9:30 am  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 1875, HD2 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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, HD2**, 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 Summary<sup>1</sup>,

- 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, HD2**.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD  
Wailuku, Maui

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<sup>1</sup> 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:43:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jean Adair-Leland Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875 HD2.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.

Respectfully,

JeanAdair-Leland,Ph.D.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:26:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:18:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Medical decisions really must remain between patients and doctors. The idea of people not involved in direct care feeling they can intrude and even prevent medical care that they don't approve of should terrify us all. Please support this bill which I am seeing described as a shield law to protect patients, providers, and all of our rights, since who knows what procedure will be next if they get their way with this.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:22:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I support this HB 1875!

Doctors should not be prosecuted and healthcare is important for all!

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:24:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please protect our federally marginalized community members. We must step in and protect our Ohana from harm from the federal government and from other states who like to pick on marginalized groups. We are different here in Hawai'i! We see our maha community as a beneficial, intrigal part of who we are. Please protect this community.

Denize Machit

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:26:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. My testimony is in strong support of HB1875. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Especially for a reason that heavily segregates our vulnerable fellow citizens. Please protect our trans community and others in need and pass HB1875. It is pono. Mahalo.

DeWaine Tollefsrud, Kea'au, HI

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:53:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are all citizens and have rights no matter who we are.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 1:55:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear.

Patients and health care providers should not have to worry about being investigated, sued, or punished for providing or receiving legal health care.

Protect local healthcare providers in Hawaii!!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 2:19:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1875. 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 2:55:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimi Murphy Ide-Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, as well as Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, and Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair, and the members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am testifying in **in strong support of H.B. 1875 HD2**, 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. Specifically, legislating against "abusive litigation" as it is contemplated in this bill is a crucial piece in the fight to preserve an individual’s bodily autonomy in an era where the justice system is being abused for ill gains.

This bill is necessary to uphold and strengthen Hawaii's commitment to bodily autonomy for all people, as well as to protect our medical professionals - something that is 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.

**I appreciate the legislature's hard work in reviewing this measure and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:29:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Mahalo,

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:36:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection; and Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair; Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

I am a retired physician, a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawai`i Statewide Network. I am writing to provide testimony in strong support of HB1875. As background, after approximately ten years of clinical practice, I accepted a job at the FDA. Before I retired from the FDA at the end of 2014, I was a Division Director in one of the oncology divisions and retired as Associate Director for Clinical Science in the Office of Oncology Drug Products. While practicing medicine before joining the FDA, I did not work with transgender patients. However, based on my experience and perspective as a clinical scientist, I believe that there is a genetic basis for sexual orientation. I do not believe that it is a choice. Therefore, I believe there is a need for compassionate gender-affirming care and that it is evidence-based, medically necessary, and potentially lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows them to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support for this important bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 3:53:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in to testify in support of HB 1875. The passage of this bill is essential, as attacks against gender affirming care continue to increase across the country.

Hawai'i has long supported access to gender affirming care. We must ensure lawmakers hear strong support to protect access to this essential health care service.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Uehara

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:36:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, 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 HD2.

I've worn the uniform and swore an oath to defend our Constitution and the freedoms we hold dear. One of those core freedoms is the right and responsibility of parents to raise, guide, and protect their children. HB-1875 HD2 undermines that by elevating "privacy" and "autonomy," even for minors, over a parent's God-given and constitutional role in major medical decisions. As someone who knows what it means to accept responsibility for others, I find it wrong that the State would push parents to the sidelines while life-altering choices are made for their children.

On abortion, this bill treats the taking of unborn life as ordinary health care and builds legal shields around it. In the military, we are trained to protect the innocent and the vulnerable. The unborn child is the most vulnerable of all. A law that insulates abortion from scrutiny and cooperation with pro-life states turns our legal system against the very lives many of us would gladly risk our own to defend.

On gender-affirming care, HB-1875 HD2 gives special protection to controversial and often irreversible interventions, especially dangerous for young people who are still developing and may later regret these choices. Veterans know the cost of long-term consequences all too well, physical, mental, and moral. We should be cautious, not reckless, with our children's bodies and futures, and parents must be fully involved in every step, not cut out by a system that hides behind "privacy."

Those of us who have served understand duty, sacrifice, and the importance of protecting those who cannot protect themselves. For the sake of parents' rights, the lives of the unborn, and the safety of children being steered toward harmful gender-affirming procedures, I respectfully but firmly ask you to honor these values and vote NO or defer indefinitely HB-1875 HD2.

Mahalo,

Brett Kulbis  
U.S. Navy Retired

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:58:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:17:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Steinbacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**As the Kaua‘i representative to the Hawai‘i LGBTQ+ Advisory Commission, I am writing in strong support of HB1875, which 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. Hawai‘i must stand up against abusive litigation and prohibit medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking action against health care providers solely on the basis that a health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services. Across the country, we are witnessing a disturbing trend of legislative attacks on gender-affirming care, leaving transgender and nonbinary youth and their families vulnerable. Hawai‘i has the opportunity to reaffirm its stance as a beacon of inclusivity, dignity, and human rights. I am grateful for your leadership and commitment to upholding the rights of all Hawai‘i residents and respectfully urge your support on HB1875.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:47:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill. It is the pono thing to do. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers.

Thank you,

Tracy Murakami

Kauai

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:50:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

One of my sister's children received life-saving gender affirming care. This is a real issue that touches real families. The state should vote to do what is best for families. Mahalo!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:59:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Jessica Lynn 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:18:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Senators,

Please vote for this bill, HB1875. This bill protects the right of everyone in our community to receive medical care as needed.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,

Honolulu

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:21:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I am testifying in **strong support** of HB1875. Many of my friends are trans and gender-affirming care has been key in allowing them to live full, content lives. However, the attacks on gender-affirming care on the continent which has driven by misinformation and ignorance has had me worried about their ability to continue to access this essential care.

HB1875 protects families, patients, and the doctors who are following Hawai'i law and established standards of care from out-of-state overreach. Transitioning is a deeply personal journey and one that individuals should be allowed to navigate with dignity. Please support HB1875.

Mahalo.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:25:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:**

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2. Please vote NO.**

**I am very concerned about these issues that the bill would allow.**

- **This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.**
- **Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.**
- **This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.**

**Mahalo.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:41:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Collado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:**

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2. Please vote NO.**

**I am very concerned about these issues that the bill would allow.**

- This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.**
- Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.**
- This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.**

**Mahalo.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:49:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a constituent living in Kailua, HI and I support this bill. I believe that everyone deserves access to healthcare safely, with dignity and without fear. Patients and health care providers should not have to worry about being investigated or punished for providing or receiving legal health care. Decisions about health care in Hawai'i should be made in Hawai'i.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:03:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Mailo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1875 HD2. Please vote NO.

I am very concerned about these issues that the bill would allow.

This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.

Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.

This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.

Mahalo.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:36:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 HD 2, with the recommended amendments put forward by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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 HD2 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. When these safeguards are jeopardized for reasons unrelated to quality or safety of care, entire communities can lose access to essential health services. HB1875 HD2 helps ensure that qualified, ethical providers are not pushed out of practice simply for serving patients whose care has become politically contentious.

As it stands, I fear that the language that is currently used in HD2 to define gender-affirming healthcare is not inclusive enough to be protective of the full-scope of gender-affirming healthcare services. Each patient we meet has individual health needs; what is “medically necessary” for one person may not be for another individual. Providers of gender-affirming care must be allowed to practice medicine in a way that maximizes the health, in all aspects, of their patients. 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 HD2, with recommended amendments, reinforces Hawai‘i’s longstanding commitment to equity, dignity, and good health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Olivia Manayan, MD MPH  
University of Hawai‘i Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Honolulu, HI

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:38:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2. Please vote NO.**

**I am very concerned about these issues that the bill would allow.**

- **This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.**
- **Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.**
- **This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.**

**Mahalo.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 11:05:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barilyne Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:**

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2.**

**This bill will result in the following issues that I am very concerned about:**

- **This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.**
- **Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.**
- **This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.**

**Please vote NO to this bill.**

**Mahalo,**

**Barilyne Sakamoto**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:13:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Muth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:**

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2. Please vote NO.**

**I am very concerned about these issues that the bill would allow.**

- **This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.**
- **Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.**
- **This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:15:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support for HB1875 HD2.

Mahalo,

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:21:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am OPPOSED to this bill.

The "prohibited actions" in this bill are very troubling to say the least. That the legislature can force an insurance company to not: refuse to insure, cancel or renew a medical malpractice policy IS A RED FLAG.

The addition of gender affirming care to this bill is also egregious. This has nothing to do with reproductive health care and is proving that this issue is being tacked on to get this very controversial issue quietly protected. The grave concerns of many, including the medical community about reserving these decisions to adults and not minors, are being ignored.

Please vote NO.

Mahalo for considering these concerns,

Lora Burbage

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:23:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Schauben	Individual	Comments	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-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:33:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:34:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully request that you oppose HB 1875 HD2.

Here are some concerns I've read as outlined by Hawaii Family Forum, that I'd like to share with you:

- "While Hawai'i's shield law was originally limited to reproductive services, this bill expands those same legal protections to a broader and more debated category of care. This raises concerns about extending legal insulation to medical interventions that continue to be the subject of ongoing medical, ethical, and public discussion.

- HB 1875 HD2 permits courts and state entities to refuse participation in certain investigations or legal proceedings originating from other states. While intended to protect providers, this approach may reduce transparency and create legal conflicts between states with different laws and policies.

- By expanding shield law protections, the bill may make it more difficult in some cases for legal claims or disputes to be fully examined—particularly when they involve multiple states or complex circumstances. Medical care should remain subject to appropriate oversight and review.

**- The bill still puts limits on how insurers can respond to potential risks, even if those concerns are based on data and experience.**

- Although the bill does not change who may receive care under Hawai'i law, its protections apply to the category of care itself. This means the legal effects of the bill may extend to a wide range of situations, including those involving complex family or multi-state legal circumstances.

- At its core, HB 1875 HD2 reflects a policy choice to prioritize protection from out-of-state legal actions. However, this shift raises important questions about accountability, transparency, and how best to safeguard patients—especially when medical decisions may have long-term consequences.

- In situations where parents share custody but live in different states, disagreements over medical decisions can already be difficult to resolve. Because this bill limits cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions, it may add complexity to how those disputes are handled—particularly when courts need access to information across state lines."

Thank you,

Amanda: Kapolei

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:40:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Jane Aquino, Indivisible

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:42:11 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine G Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:43:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1875. As a parent of a trans youth, I fear for their safety and the safety of their friends. They were failing school because they were so upset when they were misgendered or misnamed. Once we had their name legally changed and the active support of their school counselor and some teachers, they started to do well in school. Our child is only willing to talk to a doctor that provides gender affirming care. Otherwise they don't feel safe enough to be honest and the appointment causes harm rather than healing. One of their friends self-harmed for years until they received gender affirming care. Other people don't have a right to tell my child who they are, to tell me how to parent, or to tell doctors how to provide care. Please support the wellbeing of children and the expertise of medical providers.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:49:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rita Takizawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1875 HD2. PLEASE VOTE NO.

I am concerned that this bill would extend legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing MEDICAL and ETHICAL debate, ESPECIALLY WHEN MINORS ARE INVOLVED. I believe sex trafficking laws protect minors because their minds are not mature enough to consent to sex acts and the mental/physical trauma caused by it. Likewise, I think minors should be protected from life altering surgeries because their minds are not mature enough to recognize the future impacts of their decision, and the mental/physical trauma associated with it.

This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care and create potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:54:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vicki Kaufmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY oppose!!

Be warned, God will not be mocked!

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:08:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Keala Fung and I SUPPORT HB 1875. Gender affirming care is under attack and we need all the protection and support we can for it, and for the providers and all entities involved .

Thank You.

Keala Fung

Honolulu Oahu

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:13:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arielle Adenew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:**

**I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2. Please vote NO.**

**I am very concerned about these issues that the bill would allow.**

- **At this time, 27 other states have passed laws restricting or banning gender-affirming care for minors, and these laws typically include some sort of legal penalties for providers. This certainly isn't a popular decision in the current culture, but these laws are being passed because the long-term effects of the "gender affirming care" received is causing irreparable harm as these kids grow into adulthood. I recognize this bill includes gender-affirming care for all people, not just minors, but I believe we have a responsibility to care for our keiki.**
- **This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved.**
- **Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states.**
- **This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions, such as gender affirming care.**

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:16:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1875 HD2. We must protect healthcare rights for all.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:22:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Misako Hudson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB1875 HD2.

This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of significant medical, ethical, and societal debate—especially when minors are involved. Decisions of this magnitude should never bypass or diminish the authority of parents. Parents must have full involvement and final say over any surgery or medical intervention performed on their child.

In a world where parents already struggle with how best to raise and protect our children, the idea of placing minors on gender-blocking medications or performing surgeries that remove healthy, God-created body parts is deeply troubling. These are not procedures parents like me would ever consider for a perfectly healthy child. Surgeries and repeated exposure to anesthesia carry real risks, including complications that can be life-altering or even life-threatening.

Let us reflect on how far society has drifted from simply accepting people as they are—just as they were created. Gender, like the color of our skin or our cultural background, is part of the unique identity we are given. These are aspects of ourselves that we learn to understand, embrace, and appreciate. Protecting children means giving them time to grow, mature, and discover who they are without enduring irreversible medical procedures.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1875 HD2.

Anna Hudson

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:26:44 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa A. Aiona	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1875 HD2. This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved. Creates potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states. This bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about medical decisions, such as gender affirming care. Please say NO to this bill. Thank you

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:29:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larissa Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Larissa Gonzalez and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of HB 1875, which establishes critical protections for reproductive and gender-affirming care in Hawai‘i.

Healthcare decisions belong between patients and their licensed medical providers, not dictated by politicians in other states. As malicious efforts across the country target LGBTQ+ individuals and abortion access, it is imperative that Hawaii reaffirms its commitment to privacy, safety, and bodily autonomy.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:31:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice-Chairs Fukunaga and McKelvey, and Committee Members:

As a pediatrician and parent, I strongly support HB1875 HD2, which provides important protections for both patients and healthcare workers who are providing evidence-based, compassionate, and often life-saving care. In a time of such multi-pronged attacks on reproductive freedom and access to gender-affirming care, it is essential that all who seek out or provide such care be protected from out-of-state litigation. I strongly believe that our communities are strengthened and enriched by keeping all of us safe, and this bill helps to do just that. I strongly urge you to support this bill and thank you in advance for your support.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:35:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1785

We have lived without transgender surgeries for years and now healthcare hospitals and doctors support this as it is only about making MONEY for them! It should not be paid for by insurance companies as we will be supporting it through our policies! Transgender surgery is risky and has negative psychological effects on the person! I've heard many testimonies resulting in depression and often suicide!

I oppose this bill

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:48:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support protecting reproductive and gender, affirming care

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:00:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erika K Aresta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Erika Aresta from Honolulu, Hawaii

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875. HD2 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:03:15 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 1875

A child can be taken from Oklahoma...or out of state, brought to Hawai'i, have their (reproductive) body part removed and another (reproductive) body part sewed on and then flown back to their state without their parent knowing (or permission from the parent)."

**"Kidnapping for Transgender Operations Bill."** There would be no legal actions available for the parents to take against the person who took their child out of state and into Hawai'i for a medical procedure (abortion services or transgender services), as listed in the bill.

Please vote NO for HB1875

Mahalo,

Linda

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1875

**TO:** Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs McKelvey and Fukunaga, HHS and CPN Committee Members

**FROM:** Michael Paul

**DATE:** March 20, 2026 (9:30 AM)

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1875 HD2, 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:04:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support with proposed amendments from the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists Hawaii section.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:13:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1875. I respectfully urge you to support HB1875 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit.

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:15:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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. HD2 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

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:30:29 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE HB1875 HD2

Medical providers should NOT be exempt from liability, especially if performing abortion or gender-related procedures on minors!

This measure offers NO protection for minors--a minor could be brought from another state & forced to have an abortion, or manipulated into having life-altering surgery--all without parental knowledge or consent!!!

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:30:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Toyofuku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1875 HD2 that creates expansive legal immunity and protection to often irreversible procedures. This leads to a reduction of accountability and limits transparency, ethical review or normal regulatory oversight. Please oppose.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:32:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice chair, Committed,

I am in strong opposition of HB1875 for these reasons:

This bill includes gender care for children. Children's minds are not developed enough to make life changing decisions such as gender transitioning according to many professional reports stating so. Children should be left out of this bill.

For this big reason, I oppose this bill strongly.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:38:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Mejia	Testifying for Hawai'i Christian Coalition	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Hawai'i Christian Coalition

Re: Testimony to **OPPOSE HB1875**, Relating to Health Care

To Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey & Members of the HHS Committee,

I am writing this testimony to **OPPOSE HB1875**, Relating to Health Care. This bill is not about the bodily autonomy of adults. It's about the protection of keiki and the protection of parental rights. More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minor children, and Hawai'i should not join the states that encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently. These gender-transition procedures are often permanent and life-changing. They block natural puberty, drastically change hormone levels, and can even involve the removal of healthy body parts and organs.

Hawai'i lawmakers should establish laws that safeguard minors from adults who may influence them toward **irreversible sterilizing procedures** that could result in lasting harm. Please look up Chloe Cole on the internet and read her story of irreversible damage and mental issues that she experienced and testified about.

Hawai'i legislators have a duty to uphold the well-being of the children they are entrusted to protect. Current medical research shows that so-called "gender-affirming" treatments for adolescents, including social affirmation, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries, provide little to no long term mental health benefits.

Despite the arguments by Representative Adrian Tam in the last House Committee Hearing (and members of the Equality Caucus) that suicide is the driving force for these laws, studies do not support the claim that these interventions lower suicide risk in adolescents with Gender Dysphoria. Instead, long-term outcomes remain unclear, raising serious concerns about the irreversible impact of these treatments.

These are keiki and some of these treatments are irreversible. Please protect the keiki and vote NO on HB1875.

Mahalo for your time,

Margaret Mejia, Vice President

Hawai'i Christian Coalition

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

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

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2026, 9:30am, Conference Room 229

RE: **HB1875 HD2 Relating to Health Care**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of **HB1875 HD2**. 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 HD2**.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 9:48:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inola Cross	Testifying for Na Pua Ilima	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity.

This Bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own decisions AND strengthens protection 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.

Ms Inola Cross

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:01:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimberly Ha'upu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1875

I Respectfully urge you in Support of HB1875 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kimberly Ha'upu

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:23:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1875 HD1. As someone who believes deeply in treating people with dignity and compassion, I feel everyone deserves equal access to safe legal health care without being afraid. This bill reflects those values.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:25:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support!

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 11:04:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine T. Kupukaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose this bill to protect our youth from this abusive act that will have lasting damage to their physical, mental health. Do not pass this bill.

Katherine T. Kupukaa



**LATE**

*Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane, and effective drug policies since 1993*

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1875, HD 2**

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and HHS Committee  
Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and CPN Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, DPFH Board President

DATE: March 20, 2026 (9:30 A.M.)

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Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFH) **strongly supports** HB 1875, HD 2, 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.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 12:21:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I strongly support HB1875. This bill is critical to protecting access to essential healthcare in Hawai‘i, including reproductive and gender-affirming care. Patients deserve to make decisions about their health in consultation with their providers, without fear of interference or punishment.

At a time when access to care is under threat in many places, Hawai‘i has the opportunity to lead with compassion, respect, and a commitment to protecting both patients and providers. HB1875 helps ensure that our communities remain safe, supported, and able to receive the care they need.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:01:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support of HB1875, relating to health care. I'm Renee Rabb and I live in District 4. Our District Council of the Hawaii Democratic Party voted in support of this bill. 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

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 1:45:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 3:13:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shalani Placencia	Individual	Support	In Person

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.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 3:25:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**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

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 3:28:39 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs and Members:

I would like to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1875 HD 2 which would provide protection for children and youth receiving gender-affirming care (GAC) in Hawaii, as well as for their parents/guardians and the Hawaii health care professionals providing that care. Specifically, this legislation will assure that providers of GAC in Hawaii would not release GAC-related health information to entities outside Hawaii, including in response to requests such as subpoenas from other jurisdictions.

I am a Hawaii pediatrician and for decades have been privileged to provide supportive gender-affirming care to our state's gender-diverse children and their families. In fact, it has been a special focus of my professional life ever since completing my pediatric residency training at UH JABSOM in 1986. Since that time, I have been gratified that my practice of evidence-based state-of-the-art GAC has come to be supported by affirming policies and position statements of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine and many other respected professional health organizations. It is clear to me that any request for medical information related to life-enhancing and even life-saving gender-affirming care provided within our State, information requested without parental permission, is motivated solely for the purposes of intimidation and persecution of gender-diverse children and youth and their families who might seek care in our state, as well as the Hawaii health professionals who have the knowledge, skills and compassion to provide such care. HB 1875 HD2 will assure that this cannot happen in our islands.

I hope that through the passage of this Bill we will join the many other states that have already passed similar shield laws. I respectfully encourage you to support HB 1875 HD2 with your vote.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of my testimony.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 3:55:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorraine Steinhilber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill H

B 1875 HD2. Please vote no. I am very concerned about what this bill would allow. This bill extends legal protection to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical and ethical debate especially when minors are involved it created potential interstate legal conflicts by limiting cooperation with other states. this bill could complicate custody disputes by limiting cooperation with other states. this bill could complicate custody disputes when parents disagree about major medical decisions such as gender affirming care.

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 7:08:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair McKelvy, and Members of the Committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this critical measure.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Chevelle Davis

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 8:05:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorraine Hinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members:

I am writing to **STRONGLY** oppose HB 1875 HD2.

This bill extends legal protections to medical procedures that remain the subject of ongoing medical, moral, and ethical debate, especially when minors are involved. Children should have the highest protections provided to them legally, not the medical professionals.

Also I believe in the biblical world view, of the rights and responsibility of parents for their children, that government should not be over reaching into.

Please vote NO and oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Lorraine Hinaga

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:26:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Matijasevic, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve Hawai‘i’s sovereignty from out-of-state overreach. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Dr. Maria Matijasevic, MD

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 1:27:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn M Golojuch	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Board Members,

**Since 2013, Rainbow Family 808 has stood up for Civil Rights and Social Justice! It is imparitive that we provide Health Care for all citizens. Please pass HB1875 ASAP. Hawai'i is bound by our US Constitution to provide equal Health Care for We the People.**

**Thank you,**

**Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW**

**Semi-Retired Social Worker**

**President/Founder Rainbow Family 808**

**LATE**

**HB-1875-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:25:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose HB1875. We should not fund or support barbaric acts on human beings like the nazis.